

BSA New Materialisms Study Group Annual Report 2023/2024

Name: New Materialisms Study Group

Established: September 2018

Convenors:

- Professor Pam Alldred (Nottingham Trent University);
- Dr Fay Dennis (Goldsmiths, University of London);
- Professor Nick J Fox (University of Huddersfield).
- Professor Debbie Watson (University of Bristol)

Professor Watson joined the convenor team in August 2023 following an open call to group members for a 4th convenor. This appointment is a part of a succession planning exercise.

Number of members: 152 (from 123 in June 2023). We have a Twitter feed (@bsanewmat) with 823 followers.

Finances: Balance at 31/12//23 is £100.11.

Aims

- To supply a forum within the BSA for the discussion of new materialist and posthuman theories and their application to sociological research.
- To host scholarly activities, including seminars and workshops, around new materialist sociology, research methodologies and the development of new materialist social theory.
- To provide a supportive environment and resources for PGR and ECR members of the Association who wish to use these approaches in their research.
- To plan contributions to future BSA annual conferences, regional BSA meetings and free-standing events, and to collaborate and engage with other relevant BSA study groups (e.g. Animal/Human; Disability; Theory).

Review of past year

Online Seminar series

Following successful international seminar series in 2021 and 2022, we ran a third series in autumn 2023, again using Zoom.

Seminar 1 (12 October 2023) **Space emerging, life ‘taking place’: contributions of non-representational theory to new materialisms/posthumanism.** Professor Gavin J Andrews (McMaster University, Canada)

Seminar 2 (13 November 2023) **Becoming with Care in drug treatment services: the Recovery Assemblage.** Dr Lena Theodoropoulou (University of Liverpool, UK).

Seminar 3 (14 December 2023) **How we fuck and unfuck the world: Intimacy as method in trans sex research.** Dr H Howitt (University of Brighton).

In-person Day Conference

We were delighted to run a one-day conference on 24 March 2024 at Goldsmith’s University of London on the theme *Sociology and the New materialisms*. This was our first face-to-face

event since the Sars-Cov-2 pandemic. The keynote speaker was Professor EJ Renold (Cardiff University). This was followed by a programme of nine member presentations, selected from 18 responses to an open call for abstracts. These included early career academics, current PhD students and overseas scholars.

There were approximately 30 delegates in attendance.

BSA conference

It was the group' turn to convene the Theory stream at the 2023 BSA Annual Conference. The stream was very buoyant with papers presented in all nine of the paper sessions.

In addition, we organised the Theory stream plenary, with invited speaker Professor Gabrielle Ivinson (Manchester Metropolitan University), who spoke on the topic: '*Rethinking the sociology of horizontal knowledge: Basil Bernstein meets Gilbert Simondon*'.

Future plans

We are now discussing an online seminar series for autumn 2024, a day conference for Spring 2025, and a stream plenary at BSA annual conference 2025.

Concluding remarks:

The group is very healthy and active, and we were delighted to return to face-to-face meetings in spring 2024. In April 2025, we will once again be responsible for convening the Theory stream at BSA annual conference.

8 May 2024