

**British Sociological Association's  
Sociology of Religion Study Group (SocRel) Annual Report (2023/24)**

**Name:** SocRel (Sociology of Religion Study Group)

**Established:** 1975

**Number of members:** as of 31 May 2024, we have 214 members, of which 108 are BSA members, 50 are standard SocRel members, and 56 are PG/Low Income/Retired members.

**Income:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the account balance for the Sociology of Religion study group was £29,933.32.

**Aims:** SocRel is the primary professional group for UK-based academics and postgraduate researchers in the social scientific study of religion. Whilst primarily sociological in orientation, the group also welcomes involvement from members from a range of academic disciplines who share an interest in the empirical study of religion and the analysis of religion in contemporary society.

The group aims both to provide a forum for the sharing of current work in the field, as well as shaping theoretical and methodological debates in the field through its meetings and related publications. It also seeks to support the development of emerging researchers in this field through its postgraduate study days and through the active support of postgraduate presenters at other study group events (both intellectually and through the provision of limited postgraduate bursaries).

The group also aims to provide support to women in academia, through its Mentoring Scheme.

**Review of the year:**

- In efforts to address equality, diversity and inclusion within the discipline, SocRel formed a new EDI Role. This being shared between Ruth Sheldon, Krysia Waldock, Renasha Khan, and Lois Lee. This role will involve organising related forums and events and reviewing the remit and management of the Mentoring Scheme.
- Lucy Potter has taken up the role of Postgraduate and Early Career Scholar Liaison Officer.
- Morgana Loze-Doyle and Ellie Atayee-Bennett will take on the shared role of Publications and Communications Officer. We look forward to working with them. This joint role replaces Kim Harding who stepped down as Internet Officer and Isabella Kasselstrand who will be stepping down as Publications Officer. We thank Kim and Isabella for all their incredible work and contribution to these roles.
- Rob Barward-Symmons will be stepping down as Events Officer. We thank him for his excellent work in organising the annual conference and one-day events over the past few years.
- We express our gratitude to Jennie Riley who has been helping Rob with the organisation of the conference this year. She will be taking up the Events Officer role in a shared capacity. We aim to invite Expressions of Interest to share this role with Jennie.
- The study group held its first in person annual conference after the pandemic at the University of Bristol (July 2023). The theme was *Religion and Power*. The conference was held over three days, and included presentations and panels from over 100 delegates.

Keynotes were given by Professors Tariq Modood, Anthea Butler and Lisa Oakley. There was also a lively panel on religion, power and British politics organised by Dan DeHanas, an engaging Postgraduate and Early Career workshop facilitated by Liam Harrison and a brilliant spoken word performance by Muneera Pilgrim.

- The Bible in Contemporary Britain Day Conference was also held this year in collaboration with The Bible Society. The event saw researchers explore what role and influence the Bible continues to hold within modern British society.
- The Seed Corn competition took place this year. We had a small number of very good applications. The recipient was Professor Ben Pink Dandelion to fund his world survey on Quakers.
- The study group continues to publish its newsletter (SocRelNews) twice a year. Each edition includes news from the study group and features 2-3 interviews with colleagues. A new feature of the newsletter lists recent publications by members. Past editions can be accessed on our website (see link below).
- SocRel has renewed its subscription with Wild Apricot in which membership accounts and renewals are managed.

**Concluding remarks:**

SocRel looks forward to the forthcoming year and more opportunities to connect with old and new members, colleagues and friends.

**Website**

<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/study-groups/sociology-of-religion-study-group/>

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