BSA Social Work Study Group Annual Report: 2023-24

Name: Social Work Study Group

Established: 2019

Number of members: We currently have 68 people subscribed to the study group's JISC list, of whom 3 are BSA members

Income: Closing balance on 31st December was £0

Aims of the group:
- To provide a space for social workers, service users and academics within sociology and social work to consider social work as a sociological activity.
- To support the production of knowledge arising from within social work practice and research.
- To support and promote better links between sociological social work research and social work practice, with a view to supporting initiatives that improve people's lives and critiquing harmful policy and practice.

Review of the year:
The study group has not been active during the years 2020-23. In 2023, we began work to re-establish the group with the support of the BSA team. This included: setting up the study group web pages, establishing a JISC mail list and surveying interested members/non-members about what they would like the group to do/how they might like to contribute. In February 2024, we held an online seminar on the topic: *'What is the (ongoing) value of the 'sociological imagination' in social work practice and research?'*. Two colleagues, Rob Lomaz and Jeremey Dixon, presented their work at the seminar and there was time for discussion amongst attendees. The event was attended by 37 people. We are planning to hold a second event in July 2024 on the role of supervision (and sociological understandings of supervision). At this phase of the group's re-establishment, we are seeking to proactively welcome students, practitioners and people with lived experience of social work/related services (as well as people involved in teaching and research) to group events and for this reason online, free, seminars help us to retain an inclusive approach.

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