

BSA Social Class Annual Report

July 2024

Convenors: Dr Carli Rowell and Dr Hannah Walters. During 2024, Dr Laura Bentley left Academica and thus the study group. Dr Walters has recently returned from maternity leave.

Record of Events (last 12 months):

1. EVENT: Studying the relationality of inequality and power: linking the divide'

When Monday 26th February 2024 3.30-5pm UK time.

Where: online

Description: There was an event with the Sociology of Elites for Fed 2024; it was online and included external contributors. The event included the following:

Sam Burgum

I'll be talking about 'How the other half lives' an edited collection that contributes detailed, multidisciplinary, and qualitative explorations of the everyday social and spatial realities of inequality. The book is structured as a series of oppositions between peaks and troughs. I'll share some examples from the chapters, which focus on housing, urban design, place-making, the state, cultures of inequality, and transnational mobility.

Dinah Hannaford

Privilege and inequality recreate and entrench themselves, at times with force and violence, but often in ways that are maddeningly subtle, rendering them more difficult to name and critique. My study of the international development industry takes a "sidelong" approach to studying its foundations of gendered, class, and racial inequities of power. Putting the spotlight on the domestic lives of aid workers and the outsourcing of reproductive labor—the hiring of domestic laborers—that occurs so regularly in the practice of international development work creates a sly prism for looking at the multiple ways that power and privilege are upheld in an industry that claims to be working to mitigate them.

Johnny Miller

I'll be speaking about how aerial photography specifically can help researchers, policy makers and people in general, make sense of systemic divides in society. I'll talk about my photo project Unequal Scenes and also my work with africanDRONE.

Katja Hujo

In my presentation I will present the UNRISD work related to inequalities and power that has informed a project on Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization (unrisd.org), the edited volume Between Fault Lines and Front Lines—Shifting Power in an Unequal World (unrisd.org), and the 2022

Flagship report Crises of Inequality: Shifting Power for a New Eco-Social Contract (unrisd.org).

Turnout/comments: The event attracted a high turnout online.

Future events/plans

- 1) EVENT: Studying the relationality of inequality and power: Reflections on Methods and Methodology.

Description: This event is in the idea stage, and not firm details have been decided upon. The event will consider approaches to studying issues of social class.

- 2) Working-Class ECR online workshop: Being w.c in academia.