

Medical Sociology Group Report for BSA, June 2024

Co-convenors

Hilllary Collins (FHSI book prize)

Simon Carter (Social programme)

Committee

Jo Hope (Programme committee, FSHI book prize)

Hazel Marzetti (ECR, Phil Strong Memorial Prize, Communications, Wellcome Sandpit Networking)

Victoria Cluley (Programme Committee, Communications, Wellcome Sandpit Networking)

Sonali Shah

Julia Swallow (Mentoring)

Amelia Talbot (ECR, Phil Strong Memorial Prize)

Maria Jesus Vega Salas (Programme Committee, Social programme)

Rose Watson (FSHI Book Prize Lead, EDI)

Chris Elsey (Wellcome Sandpit Networking)

Kylie Baldwin (Programme Committee Lead, FSHI Book Prize Panel)

Raquel Boso Perez (Social Programme, ECR Representative, Phil Strong Prize, Wellcome Sandpit Networking)

Priya Davda (EDI, FSHI book prize)

Jaime Garcia Iglesias (FSHI Book Prize Panel, Mentoring)

Ex-Officio Committee Members:

Catherine Coveney

Sarah Hoare

55th Annual Conference

The 55th conference took place at the University of Sussex in Brighton on 13th-15th September 2023. 296 abstract submissions were received. 162 were offered Oral presentations, 11 Posters, 4 Special events and 2 Committee Events. There were 274 confirmed delegates (189 full conference, 45 Day delegates). There were 24 Free places awarded, 19 to students and 5 to unwaged or delegates outside of academia. 37 delegates were registered for the ECR event which was held on Friday 8th September via Zoom. The conference was attended by people from 23 different countries. Professor Alison Pilnick of the University of Nottingham was our opening plenary and Dr Ros Williams, University of Sheffield gave the closing plenary.

Phil Strong Memorial Award

Sabrina Keating was awarded the prize of £1200

FHSI Book Prize

Awarded to Alison Pilnick for the book: *Reconsidering Patient Centred Care: Between Autonomy and Abandonment*

56th Annual Conference

The 56th conference is due to be held at the University of Warwick, 11-13 September 2024. It had originally been planned to hold the conference at Glasgow Caledonian University and this had been provisionally booked but we were informed in Autumn 2023 that due to movements in terms dates, they could no longer host us. The abstract submission period has now closed, abstracts scored, and a draft programme drawn up. Applicants have been made aware whether their abstracts have been accepted or not. After removing duplicates, we received 180 abstract submissions, 171 for oral presentations, 5 for poster presentations and 3 special events. We have committed to funding 15 places for students and unwaged/ people working outside academia and a further 10 places will be funded by FSHI. Professor Nicky Hudson of De Montfort University and Dr LaTonya Trotter of University of Washington, USA are confirmed to give plenary presentations.

Future plans

Considerably fewer abstracts were submitted for review for the 2024 conference than the 2023 conference (296 in 2023 and 180 in 2024). It is likely this may mean fewer attendees at the conference (conference booking is currently open). If this is the case, this would have financial implications for the Medical Sociology Group budget and may mean that a loss is made on the 2024 conference. We will try to investigate the reasons for lower submissions, but anecdotal evidence suggests this is due to financial constraints across the sector causing difficulties in accessing institutional funding to attend conferences. After the 2024 conference, when delegate

numbers, and the financial implications of those numbers are known, we will discuss and assess as a committee how to try to mitigate financial losses of this type.

There was an award of £25000 from the Wellcome Trust to run sandpit networking events over 5 years. The exact funding arrangements of this are currently being clarified but it is likely that there remains around £7000 of this which will be added to the Medical Sociology Group budget.

Medicine, health and illness stream at BSA Annual Conference 2024 (online)

58 abstract submissions plus 1 special event. Of those, 54 submissions and the special event were accepted. This meant that there were 11 paper sessions with 43 presenters + 1 special event.

Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness

The following awards were made during 2022-2023.

- (a) Post Graduate / Early Career International Conference Travel Grants. 16 available and 8 awarded
- (b) Mildred Blaxter Post-Doctoral Fellowships. 5 available and 5 awarded
- (c) Symposia & Workshops Support Awards. 6 available and 5 awarded
- (d) Research Grant Development Awards. 6 available and 6 awarded

Regional Medsoc Groups

London

No report received

East Midlands

No report received

West Midlands

No report received

North West

Study Group Aims:

The substantive aim of the North West Regional Medical Sociology Group is to regularly bring together like minded medical sociologists or academics from related disciplines to provide opportunities for:

-Networking

-Collaboration

-Discussion and participation in speaker events on relevant topics.

Current Membership:

We have a mailing list of 36 members. Numbers of BSA members are not known at this stage.

Events are open to all and are publicised via the mailing list and MedSoc News jiscmail.

Currently meetings are held virtually, usually once a month and attract a regular number of attendees from across the region.

The organising committee consists of:

Donna Bramwell (Convenor) – Research Associate, University of Manchester

Louise Laverty (Co-convenor) – Research Associate, University of Manchester

Mhorag Goff – Research Associate, University of Manchester

Expenditure

We have not incurred any expenditure during this period and our account balance is £394.

Past Activities:

The group was dormant until June 2020 when we decided to re-start meetings online, mainly to connect medical sociologists during difficult times at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Given the size of our region, it is difficult to have in person meetings and therefore online meeting platforms have proved beneficial, and popular, in bringing us together.

2023 was a quiet year and no events were organised. Two meetings were held with a potential co-convenor (Dr Louise Laverty) in the latter part of the year and suggestions for 2024 events were discussed.

The Coming Year:

We will be re-starting monthly online seminars in May 2024 with the aim of connecting and building a community of medical sociology researchers across the North West. It is envisaged that a different University from the region will host the meeting each month. We would also like to continue to provide a broad and varied programme of speaker meetings, covering a range of methodological, theoretical and related general topics. We will also ensure there is opportunity for social meetings and networking and to this end, are planning for a festive in person meeting during December 2024.

South Coast

Currently seeking new convenors for this group.

South West

Yorkshire

No convenors for this group listed.

Scotland

Currently seeking new convenors for this group.

North East

No convenors for this group listed.

Study groups

Mental Health

'The group's mailing list has increased up to 144, including academics based in the UK but also in Europe and the US. The annual, online seminar has taken place on a monthly basis with an attendance of 15-20 per session, and will likely continued in the next academic year. No special session has been planned for the next BSA conference, either general or medsoc, however this idea will be envisioned in 2026'.

Deconstructing Donation

No report received, however, there was an event held by this group on Friday 8th December 2023 at City, University of London

Applied Qualitative Health Research Group

No convenors for this group listed.