



Annual Conference Streams 2026

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The overarching conference streams are broad representations of the themes and areas of research within Sociology. For logistical and operational reasons we have to limit the number of streams at present. All of the current BSA study groups are included within the listings under the overarching streams. The streams are organic in nature, allowing suggestions for development of the existing streams.

At the 2026 Annual Conference, there will be 15 streams. A summary of these streams identifying where each study group currently sits within the existing streams is included below and now on the BSA website.

Prospective paper givers can indicate which group they would like their abstract to be considered for. If you would like your abstract to be considered for one of the specific subject areas listed under the overarching streams, it is *essential* to write the subject area in CAPITAL letters at the top of your abstract e.g. I would like this abstract to be submitted to the SOCIOLOGY OF RIGHTS grouping within the RIGHTS, VIOLENCE AND CRIME stream."

List of Conference Streams and Study Groups

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

Culture, Media, Sport and Food

Consumption
Food/SCOFF
Leisure and Recreation
Media
Sociology of the Arts
Sport

Environment & Society

Climate Change

Families and Relationships

Animal/Human
Auto/biography
Care & Social Reproduction
Families and Relationships

Lifecourse

Ageing, Body and Society
Childhood
Death, Dying and Bereavement
Youth

Medicine, Health and Illness

Alcohol
Deconstructing Donation
Happiness
Human Reproduction
Medical Sociology
Mental Health

Methodological Innovations

Social Network Analysis Group (SNAG)
Social Statistics
Visual Sociology

Race, Ethnicity and Migration

Diaspora, Migration and Transnationalism
Postcolonial and Decolonial Transformations
Race and Ethnicity
Slavery and Modern Slavery

Rights, Violence and Crime

Sociology of Rights
Violence against Women

Science, Technology and Digital Studies

Digital Sociology
Science and Technology Studies

Social Divisions/Social Identities

Disability
Elites
Gender and Feminism
Scottish Sociology
Social Class
Sociology of Religion

Sociology of Education

Bourdieu
Sociology of Education

Theory

Global Histories and Sociology
New Materialisms
Theory

Work, Employment & Economic Life

Social Work
Work, Employment and Economic Life

Emerging Themes and Special Events (formerly Frontiers)

This stream provides a forum for new, innovative, multi and interdisciplinary work. Frontiers provides a footing for emerging sociologists, new and/or pioneering study groups, sociologists working outside academia and new ways of presenting / engaging sociologically.

- Activism in Sociology Forum
- Emotions
- Sociology, Psychoanalysis and the Psychosocial



Roles and responsibilities

The **BSA Board of Trustees** is normally responsible for the conference theme and for inviting **stream coordinators and study group convenors** to submit proposals for special sessions which might take the form of, for example, a stream plenary, symposium, panel, or workshop. The **BSA Conference Committee** will invite keynote plenaries which will address the conference theme. This should include British Sociologists. The **BSA President** will be responsible for organising presidential sessions.

All abstracts will be submitted directly to the BSA office, using the standard online submission form. Direct contact from the Events Team at the BSA Office with all presenters will ensure that all important information for presenters is standardized.

Stream co-ordinators will receive notification of allocated space within the programme from the BSA office. This allocation will be based on the percentage of abstracts submitted. **Stream co-ordinators** will review and accept abstracts submitted to their stream and group similar papers together to fit into the conference programme, liaising closely with the relevant **study group convenors** where appropriate. To assist with this, the BSA will provide a contact list of all stream coordinators and study group convenors.

The **stream coordinators** will notify the BSA office of all decisions about abstracts submitted. The BSA office will inform presenters of their acceptance or rejection in the programme. Further correspondence with presenters will be with the BSA office who will liaise with stream coordinators and/or BSA Board of Trustees as appropriate.

Changes to stream structure

The BSA Conference Committee is responsible for reviewing the stream structure every three years. The BSA Office holds a list of current stream coordinators, please contact the BSA Events Team for contact details if required.

Proposals for changes or additions should be submitted to the BSA Conference Committee via the BSA Events Team at events@britsoc.org.uk

The conference committee will respond to proposals as soon as possible.

Abstract Review and Selection Process

The review selection process will involve two main elements.

1. All abstracts will be reviewed independently for their relevance to sociology. Abstracts must therefore demonstrate that the presentation relates to developments or applications of sociology and/or contributes to theoretical or methodological debates in this area.

2. Where the number of abstracts submitted which meet this criterion exceed the number of programme slots available, then the following criteria will be used:

- Clarity
- Rigour
- Potential to promote discussion

Clarity refers to abstracts being written in clear and intelligible English. **Rigour** relates either to demonstrating evidence of rigorous research design with the context of the chosen methodology or to the consistent development of a theoretical argument/position. **Promoting discussion** relates to the significance, originality and timeliness of the presentation.