

## **BSA Families and Relationships (FAR) Study Group Report 2024/2025.**

### **Conveners:**

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### **Study Group Aims**

The aims of the FAR study group are to provide a space which enables critical discussion and development of sociology of family and relationships (broadly conceived) and also to promote the value of sociology of family/relationships within the discipline and in relation to other disciplines and society more broadly.

### **Study Group Membership**

- Our active JISMail list currently has 449 subscribers (increased from 440 last year), of whom 71 are BSA members.
- Our FAR Twitter/X account has 650 followers (down from 710 last year). We are currently posting infrequently on this platform, reflecting the decline in X usage by academics (and others) in the last year.

### **Study Group Activities in the last Year:**

#### ***Webinar with Dr Jo Britton (October 2024)***

We hosted a webinar with Dr Jo Britton (University of Sheffield) on the topic of 'Muslim family life as a site of struggle discrimination, inequality and poverty.' Jo's talk was based on her recently published book *Muslim Family Life: Changing Relationships, Personal Life and Inequality* (2024, Bristol University Press). The seminar was attended by approximately 30 people and there was a lively discussion following Jo's talk.

#### ***Early Career Meet Up (online, November 2024)***

We hosted an online session for early career researchers to discuss their experiences as researchers of family and relationships. This was attended by a small group of colleagues -primarily based in UK institutions and many of whom had attended the reading groups we ran last year. Challenges discussed included precarity, the economic context to HE in the UK as well as the pros and cons of doing Sociology whilst being based in departments other than Sociology or Social Science.

### ***Reading Group (online, December 2024)***

Responding to a growing number of digital media-focussed papers in the FAR stream of our previous annual conference, we selected a paper which reflected this theme for discussion at our reading group:

Erstad, O. et al. (2024). 'How digital technologies become embedded in family life across generations: scoping the agenda for researching 'platformised relationality'. *Families, Relationships and Societies* 13, 2, 164-180.

We were fortunate to be joined by two of the authors (Sonia Livingstone and Mariya Stoilova) for the discussion.

### ***Webinar with Professor Katherine Twamley (Jan 2025)***

Our second webinar of the semester was given by Professor Katherine Twamley (UCL) on her latest book: *Caring is Sharing? Couples navigating parental leave at the transition to parenthood*. The talk explored men and women's visions and practices of family life and the ways these are embedded in broader UK structures, as well as ideals of appropriate intimate relations and negotiations with real and imagined reactions from those around them. The aim is to highlight the intersections of intimacy and equality, and to contribute to debates around the 'stalled' gender revolution and what is needed if UK parental leave policy is to become an effective driver of change in gender relations and family life.

### ***BSA Annual Conference: Families and Relationships Stream Plenary***

This year's FAR stream plenary was given by Professor Mary Holmes (University of Edinburgh) and entitled 'Are We More Emotionally Reflexive about Intimate Life and Why?'. Although scheduled for the final session of the conference, Mary's talk was well attended (approx. 20-30 delegates) and we ran out of time for all the questions and comments which it inspired.

### ***One Day Workshop (University of West of England, June 2025):***

Our final event of the academic year; we hosted a one-day workshop entitled: 'Doing Research Differently: Methodological Creativity and Innovation in the Sociology of Families and Relationships.' This was an in-person event at The University of West of England. Our keynote speaker was Professor Debbie Watson at The University of Bristol who presented on 'Creative Methods in Caring Research'. The event also included parallel panels of short papers and three creative workshops (on 'Methods for Queer Kinship, Zine Making and 'Creative Processes, Sensitive Topics, Migrant Care workers'. In total, 28 people attended the event.

### **Finances**

At end December 2024, we had £362.13 in our account (a decrease from £504.63 last year).