

BSA Human Reproduction Study Group Annual Report 2024

Name: Human Reproduction Study Group (HRSG)

Established: 2003

Number of members: 234 subscribers on JISCMail list

Closing balance: £709.97? (pending - £137.56)

Aims:

The Human Reproduction Study Group brings together academics who are interested in the social aspects of human reproduction. The group also encourages networking (particularly between ECRs and senior academics), and collaboration activities between a wide range of academics, activists, and practitioners interested in the social aspects of human reproduction.

Review of the year:

This year, Dr. Amarpreet Kaur (University of Birmingham) has convened the study group. Dr. Christina Weis (De Montfort University) went on maternity leave in February 2025. At the start of the academic year (October 2024) Dr. Zeynep Gürtin (UCL) had returned from maternity leave and I was under the impression that Dr Gürtin was also a convenor for the group. I was only told in June in 2024 that Dr Gürtin is not a registered member of the BSA and therefore not a convenor. Due to this perception, I spent the first several months of the academic year liaising with both Dr Weis and Dr Gürtin about the possibility of several events. Both of my colleagues were keen to be involved in event planning and to host events that were in discussion, but none came to fruition.

As Spring started approaching and Dr Weis was preparing for maternity leave I proposed organising a webinar series in lieu of the Study Group's usual annual conference, and that we host a book launch in collaboration with another research group. Both co-convenors approved my proposal. Subsequently, I organised the webinar series – details listed as follows – and co-organised the book launch with an external collaborator. All events were promoted on LinkedIn with the BSA tagged in, and sent out via the JISCMailing list.

This year the Study Group hosted the following events:

- Webinar on Reproductive Donors - Wednesday 21st May, 1-2pm
 - Both speakers are currently Research Fellows
- Book Launch at KCL – Friday 30th May, 4-6pm
 - Speakers ranged from Professors to Lecturers and Postdoctoral Fellows.
 - Several speakers were international.
- Webinar on Reproductive Minorities - Wednesday 4th June, 12-1pm
 - Speakers were a PGR and an ECR
- Webinar on Reproductive Politics and Pregnancy Loss - Friday 20th June, 12-1pm

- Speakers were an ECR, a Senior Lecturer, and a Research Associate.

The webinars accrued no costs and were free to attend. The book launch was also free to attend, however, the Study Group contributed £1,200 towards catering costs for approx. 220 attendees at the event.

The BSA's requirement for convenors to be registered members of the BSA's means that convening the group causes me a financial deficit. I will not be renewing my membership in December, and therefore accept that I will no longer be able to convene the group; I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of its legacy.

I am unable to facilitate the recruitment of new convenors at this time, but if anyone comes forward before December 2025, I am happy to handover and assist them in thinking through future events.

Concluding remarks:

This year we really wanted to encourage networking and introducing new forms of events. We also wanted to present new topics and speakers to our members. We feel that we achieved this. The JISC membership had some turnover, and in closing (as of July 2025) has 84 additional members.

Convenors Names:

Dr. Amarpreet Kaur, a.kaur.11@bham.ac.uk

Dr. Christina Weis, christina.weis@dmu.ac.uk (on maternity leave)

Date of Report – 7th July 2025