

BSA STS Study Group Annual Report 2024-2025

Number of members: Members increased from 230 to 294 in 2024-2025 (based on jiscmail subscriptions; numbers of BSA members/associate members unknown)

Income, expenditure and balance: As of 31st December 2024, the account balance for the Science and Technology Studies (STS) study group was £119.03

Aims of the group: The aim of this Study Group is to explore the intersections of sociology and Science and Technology Studies. It aims to promote STS as one of the major sites of conceptual and methodological innovation for sociology, and to maintain a space for STS at the heart for contemporary sociology in the UK.

A summary of activities undertaken in the past year (October 2024 – June 2025)

The BSA STS Study Group continued its seminar series this year. In October we were joined by Coleen Carrigan (University of Virginia) to discuss her new book 'Cracking the Bro Code' (MIT Press 2024) - an ethnographic study of sexism and racism in contemporary computing cultures.

In November, Joy Y. Zhang (University of Kent) gave a talk on 'Decolonising STS in the Context of Asia's Rise' which outlined the challenges that decolonization presents not just to Western countries but also to Global South authorities.

In December, we held our second professionalization event with The Sociological Review editors Karen Throsby & Silke Roth who led a session on 'Publishing Journal Articles', mainly targeted at PhD students and early career researchers.

In January, Dr Stephen Hughes (University College London) gave a talk entitled 'Disruptive feelings: saying, "no" to innovators', which explored how engineers manage uncomfortable feelings when being asked to consider stopping an innovation for the purposes of ethical responsibility.

Dr Astrid Schrade (University of Exeter) gave a talk in February titled "Caring with Haunted Marine Microbes", which explored how attention to the temporalities of microbes allows for new modes of caring in the practice of science.

This year, we received a record number of abstract submissions for the STS/Digital Sociology stream at the BSA conference which took place in April 2025 at the University of Manchester. Together with the Digital Sociology study group, we organised 12 panels on STS-related topics at the event. Submissions show a growing interest in AI and digital platform-related topics. Panel discussions at the conference included concerns related to robotics, care, apps and inequality in the digital world as well as the implications of AI in various areas such as finance and environmental policy.

In June, we co-organised an event with the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice at the University of Kent titled "STS for Epistemic Justice: Strategies and Practices." This session brought together scholars to reflect on how Science and Technology Studies (STS) can be harnessed to drive meaningful and lasting change in the pursuit of epistemic justice. Speakers included: Clarissa Reche (State University of Campinas, Brazil), Marta Bertolaso (University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome, Italy), Jill Shepherd (University of Kent) and Tara Mahfoud (University of Essex). The session discussant was Jana Bacevic (University of Durham) and the chair was Joy Y. Zhang (University of Kent).

We also maintain an active Jiscmail list, which sees regular postings of STS-related events, jobs and other opportunities.

A summary of activities planned for the coming year (September 2024 to August 2025);

The BSA STS study group is in the early stages of organising events for the next academic year. We plan to continue our seminar series with more talks in 2025-26. We also plan to organise at least one more professionalisation seminar.

We plan to run another successful set of streams at the 2026 BSA conference. We also hope to further build on the study group's relationship to other STS-related networks in the UK including Science in Public and UK-AsSIST (the UK's STS association).

We continue to advertise the conference and the benefits of BSA membership through the mailing list. We will always encourage jiscmail signups to register as BSA members when we circulate study group-related material.

Convenor details

Julia Swallow stepped down from her role as co-convenor in June 2024. The following members co-convene the STS study group:

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