

**British Sociological Association's**  
**Sociology of Religion Study Group (SocRel) Annual Report (2024/25)**

**Name:** SocRel (Sociology of Religion Study Group)

**Established:** 1975

**Number of members:** as of 19 June 2025, we have 231 members, of which 116 are BSA members, 54 are standard SocRel members, and 61 are PG/Low Income/Retired members.

**Income:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the account balance for the Sociology of Religion study group was £27,487.57.

**Aims:** SocRel is the primary professional group for UK-based academics and postgraduate researchers in the social scientific study of religion. Whilst primarily sociological in orientation, the group also welcomes involvement from members from a range of academic disciplines who share an interest in the empirical study of religion and the analysis of religion in contemporary society.

The group aims both to provide a forum for the sharing of current work in the field, as well as shaping theoretical and methodological debates in the field through its meetings and related publications. It also seeks to support the development of emerging researchers in this field through its postgraduate study days and through the active support of postgraduate presenters at other study group events (both intellectually and through the provision of limited postgraduate bursaries).

The group also aims to provide support to women in academia, through its Mentoring Scheme.

**Review of the year:**

- As part of efforts to address equality, diversity and inclusion within the discipline, SocRel's EDI Officers, a shared role between Krysia Waldock and Renasha Khan, organised the Response Day on 'Religion, Disability and Neurodiversity.' This event was held at King's College London on the 29 March 2025. The day featured a keynote talk from Dr Naomi Lawson Jacobs, author of the groundbreaking book 'At the Gates: Disability, Justice and the Churches'. The day was well-attended and the presentations offered opportunities for rich and lively discussion. As a result, this has contributed to the Study Group generating forms of good practice to implement in the planning of future events.
- Lucy Potter in the role of Postgraduate and Early Career Scholar Liaison Officer has started a group on Discord to reach out to peers and colleagues doing research in the discipline.
- Morgana Loze-Doyle and Ellie Atayee-Bennett who share the role of Publications and Communications Officer have updated the SocRel newsletter format making it more appealing and accessible. This goes out to members quarterly via email. They have also raised SocRel's presence on social media.
- In July 2024, Rob Barward-Symmons (former Events Officer) and Jennie Riley organised the Study Group's annual conference held at Northumbria University. The theme was *Religion, Justice, and Social Action*. The conference was held over three days, and included presentations and panels from over 100 delegates. Keynotes were given by Professor Nandini Deo and Professor Peter Hopkins. Contributors to our keynote panel were Dr Val

Barron, Revd Dr Chris Howson, Taj Khan and Jaswinder Singh who discussed 'Religious Communities and Social Action'.

- In late 2024, we were pleased to have Alex Arthur-Hastie join Jennie Riley to share the role of Events Officer. This has been especially welcome in organising the annual conference.
- The Seed Corn competition took place this year. We had a small number of very good applications. The recipient was Dr Sharon Jagger to fund her study on 'A connection of witches: Exploring the social benefits of the spiritualities and practices of witchcraft'.
- SocRel has renewed its subscription with Wild Apricot in which membership accounts and renewals are managed.

**Concluding remarks:**

SocRel looks forward to the forthcoming year and more opportunities to connect with old and new members, colleagues and friends.

**Website**

<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/study-groups/sociology-of-religion-study-group/>

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