

## **Medical Sociology Group Report for BSA, August 2025**

### **Co-convenors**

Hilllary Collins

Simon Carter

Victoria Cluley (Programme Committee, Communications)

### **Committee**

Hazel Marzetti (ECR, Phil Strong Memorial Prize, Communications, Wellcome Sandpit Networking)

Julia Swallow (Mentoring)

Amelia Talbot (ECR, Phil Strong Memorial Prize)

Maria Jesus Vega Salas (Maternity leave)

Rose Watson (FSHI Book Prize Lead, EDI)

Chris Elsey (Wellcome Sandpit Networking)

Raquel Boso Perez (Social Programme, ECR Representative, Phil Strong Prize,

Priya Davda

Jaime Garcia Iglesias (FSHI Book Prize Panel, Mentoring)

### **Ex-Officio Committee Members:**

Catherine Coveney

Sarah Hoare

### **56th Annual Conference**

The 56th conference took place at the University of Warwick on 11th-13th September 2024. 182 abstract submissions were received. 168 were offered Oral presentations, 4 Posters, 4 Special events and 3 Committee Events. There were 211 confirmed delegates (166 full conference, 45 Day delegates). There were 26 Free places awarded, 16 were postgrads, 4 were Unwaged and 4 were outside of academia. One answered 'any' as she

was on a short-term contract which was finishing before the conference. The last one was the carer of an attendee, so not applied through the regular Funded Places process.

The conference was attended by people from 16 different countries. Professor Nicky Hudson of De Montfort University was our opening plenary and Dr LaTonya Trotter of University of Washington, USA gave the closing plenary.

### **Strong Memorial Award**

Merissa Elizabeth Hickman was awarded the prize of £1200

### **FHSI Book Prize**

Awarded to Kate Reed for the book: Understanding Baby Loss: The Sociology of Life, Death and Postmortem

### **57th Annual Conference**

The venue for the 57th conference is Northumbria University.

### **Future plans**

Venues for the 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> are currently being investigated. University of Nottingham and University of Leicester are possibilities. University of York cannot accommodate the dates due to a clash with their term time.

### **Medicine, health and illness stream at BSA Annual Conference 2025**

116 abstract submissions plus 4 posters. There were no special events proposed this year. Of those, 64 submissions and 4 posters were accepted. There were 15 paper sessions with 50 presenters + 4 posters.

### **Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness**

The following awards were made:

(a) Post Graduate / Early Career International Conference Travel Grants. 10 available and 3 awarded

(b) Mildred Blaxter Post-Doctoral Fellowships. 4 available and 4 awarded plus 1 deferred to next year.

(c) Symposia & Workshops Support Awards. 6 available and 5 awarded

(d) Research Grant Development Awards. 6 available and 6 awarded

### **Regional Medsoc Groups**

**London** (no report shared)

**East Midlands** (no report shared)

**West Midlands** (no report shared)

**North West** (no report shared)

**South Coast** (no report shared)

***Bristol and South West Regional Medical Sociology Group Convenors:*** Gayle Letherby and Tracey Collett, University of Plymouth

### **Study Group Aims:**

- to bring together sociologists and others interested in the sociology of health and illness/medical sociology (including post-graduates and early career researchers)
- to reflect on substantive, theoretical and methodology issues in the area of the sociology of health and illness/medical sociology
- to run events – including seminars and conferences – focusing on the sociology of health/medical sociology for colleagues in the South West region and beyond

### **Current Membership:**

Approximately 50

### **Expenditure:**

No expenditure this year.

Current balance £247.51

### **Past Activities:**

In February 2022 we held an online day conference ***Health and Illness Interactions*** (already reported). Following this we were approached by the journal *Frontiers in Sociology* and subsequently we (Collett and Letherby) with Louise Owusu-Kwarteng (Greenwich) and Tanisha Spratt (Kings College) edited a Special Edition. This was published in February 2025 (plus an online book) and included nine articles (by researchers across the career spectrum) with an international focus, and an editorial by the editors <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/44668/health-and-illness-interactions/magazine>

In April 2023 we held a day conference ***Health and Illness Action and Agency: substantive, methodological and pedagogic concerns*** at the University of Plymouth. Ten papers were delivered and 17 delegates attended. This event helped to galvanise the local post-graduate student community; leading to them raising money for their own one day event.

In June 2024 we held a one and a half day ***Developing Creative Research Practices*** event. In addition to four invited speaker papers/performances we led round table discussions and activities. Across the two days there were 12 delegates.

### **The Coming Year:**

We are currently planning two future events :

***Mental Health and Wellbeing:*** ONLINE SEMINAR with three invited speakers/papers plus discussion. Planning and advertising to take place in Autumn 2025 and event to take place in Spring 2026.

***Communities of Practice and Care:*** One Day Conference to be held at the University of Plymouth. Planning and advertising to take place in Spring-Summer 2026 and event to take place in October 2026.

**Yorkshire** (no report shared)

**Scotland** (no report shared)

**North East** (no report shared)

### **Study groups**

#### **Donation group**

#### **Study Group Aims:**

- To foster sociological exploration of the notion of 'donation'.
- To initiate inter- and multi- disciplinary dialogue between researchers and practitioners in the field of donation.

### **Current Membership:**

I'm 100% sure but can find out if needed.

### **Expenditure**

£1685 approx. for the past financial year

### **Past Activities:**

In June 2025, we were delighted to host the *Deconstructing Donation* group meeting at the Pontio Arts and Media Centre, Bangor University. The conference, themed *Transforming the Boundaries of Donation*, brought together an exceptional programme of keynote lectures, oral presentations, posters, and invited talks spanning ethical, clinical, policy, and societal perspectives. Highlights included keynote contributions from Rommel Ravanan (NHS Blood and Transplant) on xenotransplantation policy and future directions, and Mustafa Al-Haboubi (LSHTM) presenting the first UK survey on public attitudes to xenotransplantation. Other presentations explored diverse issues from parental decision-making in paediatric donation, to inequalities in access, decolonial perspectives, and new insights from clinical practice and education. The meeting showcased the strength of sociological scholarship in this field, while also fostering dialogue across disciplines and with practitioners. Since taking over the group in March 2023, we have also begun the process of gathering feedback from members about communication preferences and group priorities, to ensure that our aims remain fit for purpose and sustainable into the future.

### **The Coming Year:**

Looking immediately ahead, we are preparing for the next *Deconstructing Donation* group meeting, and are actively seeking expressions of interest from potential hosts. In the meantime, we will continue to build on the momentum of the 2025 meeting by publishing the online *Book of Abstracts* as a freely accessible resource, further enhancing the visibility of sociological contributions to the study of donation. Over the next year, we will continue to consult with members on how best to communicate, engage, and collaborate, while revisiting and updating our objectives in line with feedback. This will provide an important opportunity to consolidate the network, strengthen interdisciplinary ties, and broaden participation, ensuring that when we come together again in 2027 the group will be even more vibrant, connected, and impactful.

## **Mental Health**

**Sociology of Mental Health Study Group Convenors:** Baptiste Brossard (Univ of York) and Ewen Speed, Univ of Essex

### **Current Membership:**

Approximately 166 on jiscmail list, an increase of 24 on previous year

**Expenditure:** No expenditure this year. We secured £1900 funding from the Foundation for Sociology of Health and Illness, to host a workshop at University of York in Sept 2025.

**Past Activities:**

In past year we have continued with series of monthly online seminars. In the past year, we have had 8 sessions from a range of early career, mid career and senior researchers, on a range of topics. Typically these events have had an audience between 10-30 online attendees.

**The Coming Year:**

We are currently planning a future workshop event in Sept 2025 :

Advances in the sociology of mental health. We have 15 speakers over two days and additional 10 attendees, including support for PGR bursaries and ECR researchers. This workshop has been framed to provide a working agenda for the Soc MH group in coming 2-3 years. It is the first in-person event for the study group for 5 years.

We are also planning to coordinate another series of online seminars (using same model as previous years)

Signed

Baptiste and Ewen

**Applied Qualitative Health Research Group** (no report shared)