

BSA Social Statistics Study Group 2025 Report

Account balance as at the end of 2025

£200

Membership/JISC subscriber numbers and the split between BSA members and non-members

Total: 119

BSA Members: 7

Non-Members: 112

Convenor details

Chao-yo Cheng, Lecturer in Quantitative Social Research. Birkbeck, University of London

(c.cheng@bbk.ac.uk)

Barry Maydom, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Birkbeck, University of London (b.maydom@bbk.ac.uk)

Aims of the group

Statistical methods have been essential to many fields of sociology for decades. The critical study of social inequalities, of populations, and the study of social change across space and time would be unthinkable without the help of quantitative methods and statistics. There has been an increasing interest in statistical methods by employers and students of other social sciences in recent years and large funding bodies have acknowledged this by major successful initiatives such as Q-step. The BSA annual conference has also seen an increase in quantitative papers by colleagues. Yet, until recently, statistics has played a somewhat marginal role in British Sociology and there has not been a dedicated space for quantitatively-oriented sociologists to meet, exchange and critique work and develop new ideas. The social statistics study group offers a forum to do just that. The group aims to bring sociologists with a shared interest in statistical (or mixed) methods together and to offer a shared space to meet, develop ideas and present work. We would like to invite everybody with an interest in statistical (or other quantitative) methods along to the study group.

Activities from 2025 and any future plans

The new convenors took over management of the study group for the 2025-26 academic year. We fielded a survey to members of the mailing list to learn about what would be most helpful for the study group to focus on in terms of events and other activities. We have also held discussions with the convenors of the Human Rights study group about organising joint events. We are planning to launch an online seminar series in the 2026-27 academic year.