

BSA Theory Study Group Annual Report (2025)

Name: Theory Study Group (THE)

Appointment of convenors:

- **July 2025** (Birgan Gokmenoglu, Maria Volkova, Neal Harris, Sarah Bufkin, Zheng Liu)
- **July 2022 (departing convenors):** Joe Davidson (July 2022 - October 2025); Ioana Cerasella Chis (July 2022 - June 2026), Sebastian Raza (July 2022 - June 2026)

Number of members: 530 on JISCmail, out of whom 82 are BSA members and 488 are non-members; as of the 10th of July 2026: 6,792 followers on X and 884 followers on BlueSky.

Income: closing balance as of 31st December 2025: £522.50.

Aims:

Key aims of THE include:

- provide a forum for those interested in sociological and social theory
- host events on current debates in the field of sociological theory
- coordinate the organisation of the Theory stream at the annual BSA conference
- facilitate research on and about sociological theory and its history

Review of 2025:

- Organised and co-hosted an event with the Childhood Study Group - [Meaningful Silences: Possibilities of a New Theoretical and Methodological Agenda](#) (11th February 2025)
- Organised and hosted a One-Day symposium at the University of Cambridge with BSA ECF Funding - [The Process and Implications of Doing Social Theory](#) (23rd May 2025)
- Organised and hosted a book launch - [Book Launch: Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence and Beyond: Theorising Society and Culture of the 21st Century](#) (21st November 2025)

Events of 2026 (as of the 10th June 2026):

- Organised and hosted a roundtable event - [Theorizing from Lived Experience: A Roundtable on Phenomenological Approaches](#) (27th February 2026)
- Reviewed abstracts and organised the Theory Stream of the BSA Annual Conference

- Co-organised and co-hosted a roundtable event - [Hope and Refusal in an Era of Criminalised Care: Responses to Pirate Care](#) (3rd March 2026)
- Organised and hosted the launch of a Special Issue - [Racial Capitalism in Post\(Imperial\) Europe: A Roundtable](#) (26th March 2026)
- Organised and hosted a roundtable event - [Theorizing from Lived Experience: A Roundtable on Feminist and Queer Theory](#) (21st April 2026)
- Co-organised and co-hosted a roundtable event with the Activism, Social Movements, and Revolutions Study Group - [Theorizing from Lived Experience: A Roundtable on Activist Scholarship](#) (12th May 2026)
- Secured funding via the BSA ECR Fund and shared a call for papers for a two-day hybrid symposium which we are organising for the 23rd and 24th September 2026: [Theorising from Lived Experience: An Interdisciplinary Workshop for Early Career Researchers](#)

Review of the year:

The end of the 2025/2026 academic year marks the departure of the convenors whose role started in July 2022. From July 2026, the committee will include the remaining 5 convenors whose roles started in July 2025.

We continue to uphold the arrangement made with the New Materialisms Study Group so that each Study Group coordinates the Conference's Theory Stream every two years. This arrangement should be revisited with the new convenors and updated when/as needed.

Concluding remarks:

Following a successful series of online roundtables on Theorising from Lived Experience, we have secured funding from the BSA Regional Fund to host an ECR workshop at the University of Birmingham and online in September 2026. The call for papers attracted over 60 abstracts, and the co-organizers have recently extended invitations to participate to 10+ early career researchers. We will be organising other seminar series, a series of online workshops, and other activities for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Convenors:

Sarah Bufkin (s.m.bufkin@bham.ac.uk), Birgan Gokmenoglu (birgan.gokmenoglu@bcu.ac.uk), Neal Harris (nharris@brookes.ac.uk),

Zheng Liu (zheng.liu@bristol.ac.uk), and Maria Volkova (m.volkova@exeter.ac.uk).