



Sociology for all?

Newsletter

of the

BSA's **Sociologists Outside Academia** group (SOAg)

No.3. February 2007

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Note: Any views or opinions expressed in 'Sociology for All?' are those of the contributors only and are not endorsed by the BSA.

A warm welcome to the third edition of 'Sociology for all?'

2006 was a very exciting and eventful first year for SOAg. We have grown from being an 'embryonic' entity to an established (albeit relatively small) group who have already made some valuable contributions to the development of the BSA as an inclusive organisation, and to the recognition of the diversity of the sociological community at large. This issue we highlight some of the impacts the group has made in recent months, and demonstrate examples of how members' sociological expertise can be applied 'in the real world' to contribute to social (and potentially global) change.

We hope that membership will continue to grow throughout 2007 and that all members will be able to contribute to its continued success and to benefit from it. There is still much to do, so if you are not a member of SOAg and / or would like to join our mail list, please complete and return the registration form available on the website: <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/OutsideAcademia.htm>.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Julie & Annika

(SOAg convenors and BSA Executive Committee co-reps)

News

Should old acquaintants be forgot!

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Lynda Nicholson, co-founder of SOAg and former co-editor of 'Sociology for All?' who has stepped down from her co-rep role on the BSA Executive Committee in order to focus on completing her PhD thesis. Lynda has contributed enormously to the group's development, including co-organising SOAg's launch at the 2006 BSA Annual Conference, developing group publicity, liaising with the editors of 'Sociology' to develop more appropriate designation categories for sociologists outside academia etc., and much more besides. Lynda will remain a SOAg member and hopefully we will not have heard the last of her just yet! We wish Lynda good luck with her thesis and send her our gratitude for all her hard work and our very best wishes for her future.



Challenge Annika!

Welcome on board Annika Coughlin who has bravely taken on the mantle of co-rep on the BSA Executive Committee, ably filling the gaping hole left in the wake of Lynda's departure! As you may have seen from her biography in Issue 2 (October 2006) Annika has an MA in Social Research from Goldsmiths' College and is currently working as an Information Assistant. Annika has already thrown herself into SOAg work, moderating the group's forum on the BSA website and contributing to facilitating communications between SOAg members, the Executive Committee and the BSA office. We wish Annika success in her new role and thank her for her contributions and achievements to-date.



Website developments

a) Web-forum

The BSA web-forum launched in November 2006 with sub-sections devoted to different study groups and areas of interest as well as for general discussions. The Sociologists Outside Academia group's forum began functioning very swiftly from the outset, and we have been congratulated by the BSA Executive Committee for generating the greatest amount of forum traffic to-date! Topics have included: Funding independent research; Why do we work outside academia?; Public sociology; Representing diversity, plus observations and first-hand accounts from contributors of working in

organisations during the current period of industrial decline and change (see topic heading 'Potential topic for discussion'). Add your voice to the forum by logging on to:

<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/phpbb/index.php>

b) Sociologists Outside Academia web-page

The SOAg web-page on the BSA website has now been updated to better reflect its standing as an established group with a steadily growing membership. A link to the web-forum has been added and the registration form has been amended to gather information on BSA membership, which will enable the convenors to monitor the number of new SOAg members who belong to the BSA (happily, by far the majority at present) and the various occupations and sociological backgrounds members have. This will help us to better inform the BSA of the diversity of sociologists out there so that that we can be supported appropriately and our interests served.

<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/OutsideAcademia.htm>

BSA and Diversity

Email discussions between many SOAg members on the lack of representation in BSA publications prompted Julie to contact the publications manager, Libby Marks, and the Network editorial board, with a view to resolving some of the issues raised. We are very happy to report that in response, Network are proposing to produce a 'special issue' on BSA diversity some time during 2008. SOAg members will be encouraged to submit articles, letters, contributions to features etc. Further information will be published in 'Sociology for All?' once Julie has received more details. In recognition that some SOAg members may be a little reluctant or daunted at the thought of contributing to Network and other BSA journals, Libby Marks has offered some information, advice and guidance which she hopes may encourage you take the plunge! Please see **Page 12** in this issue.

Journal article submissions: Professional and personal designation categories

On a related note, former co-rep Lynda Nicholson was, earlier in 2006, in communication with the editors of Sociology and highlighted the need for BSA publications to be inclusive of all types of sociologists and to be aware of the marginalisation felt by those wishing to contribute to publications who could not, from the options provided, ascribe themselves an appropriate official title nor designate themselves as affiliated to academic institutions. As a consequence, Sociology editor Cathy Pope consulted with SOAg members on the possible range of terms agreeable to those submitting articles, book reviews etc. The resulting 14 responses generated the following suggestions, which will be forwarded to the next publications meeting for discussion:

- Independent scholar /researcher/ consultant
- Community thinker/ researcher /activist
- Social researcher / scientist
- BSA member
- Freelance sociologist

The issue of appropriate author address was also raised, as some respondents felt uncomfortable about disclosing their home addresses, while others suggested that workplace addresses were not always appropriate either. The editors will therefore also be discussing possible alternatives. Examples might include not offering a work or home address but instead stating an email contact, or a PO Box type address – possibly care of BSA office – to enable communication between authors and readers if required. The editors will be reporting their decision to SOAg in a month or two, so watch this space!

Online survey on Sociology journal: Add your voice!

The editors of Sociology would also like to encourage SOAg members to submit papers and to let them know what we like/dislike about the journal. Over the next few months Sage are running an online survey <http://soc.sagepub.com> for this purpose, while Sociology are to conduct some focus groups in order to gather more in-depth information. Julie and Annika will forward on, by email, more information and calls for participants when further details are received.

Library access update

At December's Executive Committee meeting Annika and Julie asked whether any progress had yet been made on the issue of access to academic libraries for sociologists without institutional affiliations. Several EC members commented on the availability to *anyone* of publications and materials via the British Library and that various universities have schemes that enable members of the public to borrow materials. Through our discussions it was however acknowledged that the following two issues had arisen which require further action:

- a) Lack of access to electronic resources such as online journals is a major problem for independent scholars and researchers
- b) Membership of academic libraries (including electronic services) might be considered for inclusion as a possible future BSA membership benefit.

The BSA will be considering these issues in the coming months, assisted by Annika who is researching the availability of different library schemes around the country. We will of course keep you informed of any developments.

Conference 2007 Meet and Greet

Julie and Annika will be co-hosting a 'meet and greet' session at lunchtime on Saturday 14th April at the 2007 BSA Annual Conference <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/Conference.htm> which this year is to take place at the University of East London. If you are attending, please do come along and introduce yourself. It will be wonderful to meet you.

SOAg member publications

Congratulations to SOAg co-founder Keith Khan-Harris whose new book '*Extreme Metal: Music and Culture on the Edge*' has just been published by Berg. Keith uses first-hand research, including interviews with band members and fans of Extreme Metal (from countries ranging from the UK and US to Israel and Sweden), to show how the scene not only provides



a space in which members creatively explore destructive themes such as death, war and the occult, but how it also provides an opportunity to share commonalities and friendship. Berg publishers state that "*Extreme Metal: Music and Culture on the Edge*' demonstrates the power and subtlety of an often surprising and misunderstood musical form". For further information visit Keith's website: www.kahn-harris.org. We wish Keith great success with his publication.

Biographies

More 'people like us'!

Our biographies this issue illustrate how the twists and turns of the political climate, and consequently of social policy, can impact on our decisions to enter and / or leave academic life. Both contributions suggest, nevertheless, that '*once a sociologist, always a sociologist*'!

The first contribution, from Frances Short, demonstrates how a chance meeting transmuted this career-chef into a food sociologist and part-time academic, while our second contributor Steve Cook explains how, despite the decline of career sociology brought about in the wake of governmental change, sociology nonetheless has a significant, if not vital role to play in challenging assumptions underpinning policies affecting the environment and (perhaps most importantly given the current climate) helping to find some solutions!

Frances Short

Food Sociology

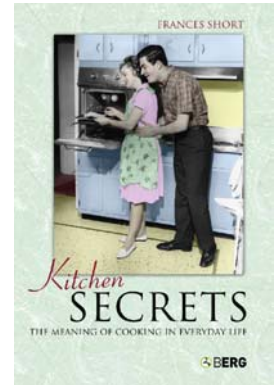
Email: francesshort@googlemail.com

Like many members of SOAg I imagine, I came to sociology via a less than conventional route. Although I originally did a degree in general humanities and social sciences I then spent the next fifteen years or so working as a chef. I worked in many different kinds of places, from the Adelaide Festival Centre and the Cornerhouse in Manchester to a posh solicitors overlooking Tower Bridge, to Langan's Brasserie and a vegetarian restaurant based in the crypt of St Mary-le-Bow.

Cooking for a living means long hours and low wages and by the time you're thirty you will most probably be one of the oldest in the kitchen brigade.

Slightly jaded, I moved into writing - occasional articles for

trade magazines, contributions to cookery books ... and then 'somehow' I met Professor Tim Lang, then of the Centre for Food Policy at Thames Valley University, and 'ended up' doing a PhD. The remit was to 'research something about cooking' in response to increasing concern at the time that pre-prepared convenience foods meant that people no longer really cooked and were losing their food skills. The research was always going to have a sociological leaning as my interest in food has always lain more in what people think about food and what they do with it, rather than the stuff itself. So, between 1995 and 2002 I carried out a qualitative exploration of the cooking practices, approaches and abilities of people who cook - men and women of all different kinds of backgrounds, ages, cooking responsibilities, living in different kinds of households, and so on. (I prefer the phrase 'people who cook' to 'cooks' as the latter appears to imply, I have found, a certain added value; a particular kind of approach or level of ability.)



Graphic by courtesy of Berg

A PhD can change your life but so can having a baby and I managed to do both during this time. Unfortunately (for that's how it feels) when I finished my PhD I felt that with a small child to look after and a work background in food rather than sociology, it would be difficult to pursue a career in a university sociology department. Despite that, this is what I would really like to do. So over the past four years or so I have tried to set up an independent academic career. I have lectured here and there, tutor for the Open University (in social policy, quite a leap from cooking) written a few papers and somehow managed to win a publishing contract with Berg. Last year my book, based on my PhD thesis, came out. It's wonderful to see all your hard work advertised on Amazon. 'Kitchen Secrets, The Meaning of Cooking in Everyday Life' is basically a sociology of domestic cooking, albeit one that challenges current discourses, putting forward arguments that school cooks and busy mothers are 'as skilled' as Michelin starred and celebrity chefs and that bringing back cookery to the classroom will not make a scrap of difference to people's domestic food practices (okay, without being properly thought-out that is). I'd like to think it is an accessible book for the 'general reader' as I believe, particularly being someone who came to sociology 'from outside' and struggled somewhat with the language, anything about people and their daily lives should be.

Continued overleaf

In 2003 I received a very small amount of money from the Jane Grigson Trust to set up a pilot study for research into the transference of food skills and knowledge from one generation to the next. With that well on its way, I now have new ideas to stimulate discussion and problematise food policy. So I'm currently looking for funding. I'm sure I'm not alone.

Steve Cook

Gentleman or Player?

I work in the Forward Planning Team of Merseytravel, which is the public sector body responsible for co-ordinating public transport across the county of Merseyside. It operates the Mersey Tunnels, the Mersey Ferries and provides much of the public transport infrastructure and publicity for Merseyside. My responsibilities here include co-ordinating the organisation's response to major property developments within the County of Merseyside. So if someone wants to build a block of flats, a housing estate, supermarket, factory or any other substantial building or enterprise in the county, I am part of the team that will assess the impact of the proposals and configure a response to the plans. As a social scientist and planner, my role also extends to include involvement in formulating overall policy and ensuring that effective measures are being taken to address the social, as well as economic issues confronting a very diverse county like Merseyside.



So how did I arrive in my office piled high with planning applications, government guidance and European Union policy documents? Not via a very direct route is the answer. I had actually qualified as a teacher of Sociology and Social Studies, but had the misfortune to co-ordinate this achievement with the graduation of Margaret Thatcher as a Prime Minister. Consequently in the early 1980's, finding posts to educate the nation's youth about the study of society was already becoming a difficult task, not helped by the Prime Ministerial denial of the very existence of society! So after three years working in a research teaching job at Wolverhampton Polytechnic studying industrial training, I headed for a further round of temporary teaching posts, interspersed with significant periods of driving buses to make a living.

As Mrs Thatcher's market based revolution took its great leap forward and as the periods of teaching grew thinner whilst the periods of bus driving grew thicker, I abandoned Sociology and Social Studies teaching, for the cut and thrust of full time employment within transport planning. To this day I am really not sure if my teaching experience or bus driving skills landed me in a job within the newly reconstituted Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive, but 20 years later I am still here.

Twenty five years ago transport issues were seen as something of a 'Cinderella' area as transport was deemed to be far less important than many other key areas of public policy, such as housing, education or health care. However, in the intervening years concerns about global warming, congestion, air quality, sustainability and so on have become more prevalent and transport has raced up the social and political agenda. In keeping with this new found status, Transport Planning has gone through a fairly classical process of professionalisation and many new planning staff arrive in organisations like Merseytravel, suitably armed and equipped with a dedicated Masters Degree in Transport Planning that has been completed following a first degree in any one of a number of relevant, and sometimes not so relevant, subjects. I on the other hand, wandered, or shuffled into my role, before such professionalisation created good and competent 'players' and have therefore always resorted to explaining away my various levels of huge and obvious incompetence, with a phrase along the lines of, 'I am really just a Gentlemen Transport Planner'.

During much of this time, of course, fairly crude neo-classical economics have held sway, the world and in the wacky world of transport economics is no exception. Here, absolutely everything can be given a monetary value, from the air we breathe, to the time we use and even our very lives themselves. Did you know, for example you are actually worth more if you die in a rail crash than a car accident? Well you are. Thereby hangs a significant challenge, for a practical sociologist. The monetarisation of the very fundamentals of life underpins an assumption that we can run our world on simple market forces. I would suggest that sociology can fundamentally contest this principle. Of course in reality, even decent economic theory would challenge the same premise, but all too often the alternatives to neo-classical economic theory are brushed aside. So deploying solid sociological arguments allows public service decisions to reflect the fact that society is a good deal more complex than a simple market.

The contestation of these ideas may seem like simply an academic debate, but applied on a day to day practical basis this discourse and how we draw our conclusions from it, can inevitably have a significant impact upon peoples lives, upon the society we live in and maybe even upon our very survival. Sociology can demonstrate effectively that simple market forces are too simplistic to effect positive human behavioural change. Yet human behaviour has to change quickly and significantly in the field of transport use if we are to construct a sustainable future for ourselves. This change will require a multi-disciplinary approach, but one in which sociology can and should play a leading role; a role I would wish to continue to promote.

So my rallying call to Sociologists Outside Academia would-be Sociologists of the world unite! You have nothing to lose; well certainly not on the buses and trains, and you have the environment to save, or at least you can contribute positively to the solutions!

Events review

This issue, Julie reports on the first meeting of a new group who wish to see the human contribution to climate change (and its impact) put firmly on the academic agenda ... and beyond.

Rescue!History: Inaugural meeting

By Julie Cappleman-Morgan

On a cold, grey, damp November morning (placing the proceedings in a rather ironic context given the subject matter), fifteen concerned individuals ranging from academic historians and sociologists to a BBC journalist and an Eco-Congregationalist, gathered together in a somewhat formal board room at Warwick University for the first informal **Rescue!History** meeting. The purpose of the gathering: to discuss the reality of anthropogenic climate change and the duty of the academy to turn its focus to environmental history and scholarship within the humanities.

Rescue!History, the brainchild of Dr Mark Levene (University of Southampton), was launched as an offshoot from the *Crisis Forum*, to focus specifically on the environmental aspects of current global crises. Dr Levene's vision for this vehicle is to engage the academic world (and beyond) in debates on the human impact on climate change with a view to understanding the historical factors that led us to the current situation, to explore whether these factors are inherent to humanity or recent in origin, and to learn from history the lessons that might enable us to survive the crises currently befalling the world and those that are predicted to follow in generations to come.

The meeting began with introductions from everyone and a consensus that anthropogenic climate change *is* a reality¹. A discussion followed of analyses, from varying perspectives, of the cause of humanity's self-inflicted environmental crisis. Is it a result of our psychology, our 'nature' or politico-economic factors (or indeed all of these)? Current works encompassing various perspectives were outlined, including: McNeal's *Something Under the Sun* (perceived to be neutral in objectives); Jameson's *Endgame* (in which a reversion to pre-industrial society is suggested); and Lomburg's *Sceptical Environmentalist* (critical of scare mongering - problems can be resolved). Given such conflicting views it can be hard to decide who is to be believed.

Some attendees identified with the rather pessimistic and fatalistic view that humanity is bound to contribute to its own demise, and pointed to the preponderance of empires and civilisations to become extinct over time and that indeed 'all things come to an end'. My view was that if this were the case, why bother turning up? What would be the point of taking any action at all? The very fact that we *had* all turned up must have meant that we *do* have a degree of optimism and hope for the future, and more importantly, that we wish to be proactive about changing things for the better. After all, empires and civilisations may come and go, but the human race is not yet extinct. Cultures may fade but traces of 'lost' civilisations are still evident in the peoples of

¹ The meeting took place prior to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's announcement that it was 90% certain that human activity in the form of 'greenhouse gas' emissions is a factor responsible for global warming and consequently climate change (BBC (2007) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6321351.stm>)

the world, as scientific advances in genetic profiling have begun to show us. The human race has adapted to survive crises in the past and it is my hope that we can do so again.

Happily, most of the meeting's attendees agreed that we should at least try to 'do our bit' and that we need more environmental history (and in my view, sociology) to address the questions. In addition to focusing scholarship and research on environmental history, and in light of the apparent disengagement of the student population with mainstream politics, it was suggested that both academics and students may need to become more involved in activism. The example of Mark Thomas (comedian) was given as someone who has used humour and alternative thinking to engage with mass culture on serious political and economic issues. However, other attendees pointed to the need for a coherent agenda and also for Rescue!History to engage with the media without expressing an overt political point of view which might alienate others.

Although the various attendees brought to the meeting a variety of views and perspectives, all were in agreement that we can and should learn from the past. Directing studies towards former societies (and those *currently* living through crises?) while involving a wider audience, from school children to the general public at large via the media in all its forms, would be a positive way forward. My own interest was sparked further by mention of World War 2 and how 'ordinary' people coped with the relative material deprivation imposed by rationing. Would we in our modern, individualistic society be able to accept the same types of limitations imposed on our access to resources and ways of living? It was certainly food for thought for a future research project.

Following further debate and discussions, everyone agreed that the first steps forward for Rescue!History would include:

- Focusing on the academy in the initial period
- Creating a website and statement of aims
- Producing a special journal edition
- A curriculum development option
- Working on the possibility of holding a conference late in 2007
- Producing an edited collection of essays to generate academic debate

Since the meeting, a statement of aims and a petition have been written and are available on Rescue!History's new website: <http://rescue-history-from-climate-change.org/petition.php>

I certainly felt that the meeting was very worthwhile and that Rescue!History has the potential to contribute greatly to current debates about the human contribution to climate change, but perhaps more importantly to make known to a wider audience the lessons learned from history and how we, individually and collectively, can do something about it. However, although the seed of this venture has developed within academia, I feel that the roots can be spread more widely to include independent sociologists, social researchers and others working outside academia who might bring with them additional insights and perspectives gained from working within community and public settings. Indeed, some of us may be ideally placed to bridge the gap between the academic and public worlds; a valuable attribute if we are to encourage *everyone* to feel that they can play a part in rescuing our planet - for our own sakes and for those of future generations.

Resources / Publications

Want to contact other SOAg members?

Julie is compiling a shared membership distribution list which will enable registered members to contact others in the group who have similar interests. If you would like to add your name to the list, please email Julie julie.bsa-soa@ntlworld.com or write to SOAg at the BSA (see contact details at end of newsletter) giving your name, contact details, current status (e.g job/retired/postgraduate etc) and areas of academic and other interests. We aim to distribute the first list in April 2007.

Research resources

Dr Ron Iphofen, Director of Graduate Studies School of Healthcare Sciences University of Wales, Bangor, has suggested the following organisations as providing useful resources and networking opportunities for BSA members and especially those of us who are largely outside academia:

- The US National Coalition of Independent Scholars - which has an excellent resourceful website with lots of free access ideas: <http://www.ncis.org/links.htm>
- The Social Research Association. www.the-sra.org.uk,

Dr Iphofen has informed SOAg that academics form only about one third of SRA membership - the rest are government researchers, market researchers and, most importantly, a range of independent researchers - some who have been running their own consultancies for some years. According to Dr Iphofen SRA training courses are highly rated, and not pricey. If you too are aware of any resources that would be useful to SOAg, please contact Julie or Annika at the addresses given at the bottom of the newsletter

Jobs

Many thanks to Lynda Nicholson who has contributed the following information for SOAg members currently seeking employment:

- **BSA jobs section** available on the BSA website:
<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/about/Sociology%20Vacancies%20Board>
- **Jobs.ac.uk** is a Recruitment Website for Academic and Associated Communities such as research staff in the public and private sector. You can join the mailing list at the following address <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/cgi-bin/register.cgi> to receive regular details of vacancies in your area of interest.

Getting published by the BSA

By Libby Marks, BSA Publications Manager

As a membership organisation, the BSA offer lots of opportunities to get involved make your mark, have your say or even just have a go! Study groups, fora and the conference all provide networking and professional development opportunities. However (and I know I am biased as I write this), I think BSA publications represent one of the best ways to join in, help out and have fun.

Following discussions with Julie Cappleman-Morgan about how to encourage SOAg submissions to our publications, we agreed I should provide a bit more information about BSA Publications. With limited space, I can't go into the different volunteer opportunities available on our journals so instead will focus here on getting published. (If you are interested in the criteria for nominated to a journal board, go to www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/pubsvacancies)

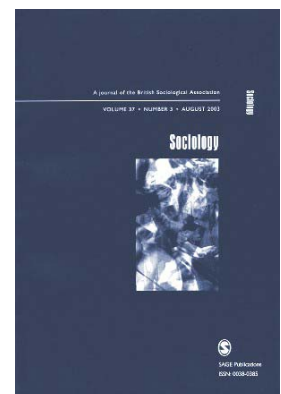
The BSA have an 'academic' publishing programme as well producing a members' newsletter three times a year.

Our academic publications are three journals (Sociology, Cultural Sociology, and Work, Employment and Society) and quarter shares in an online journal (Sociological Research Online). By calling these publications 'academic', I do not mean to exclude those of you outside academia, and there are still ways to get involved. However, the journals do serve a mainly academic community.

Due to the way research funding is allocated to individual researchers by funding bodies and to institutions by government, there is a great deal of pressure to produce journal articles. As our academic members are required by their employers and funders to publicise their research, one of the functions of BSA journals is to provide an outlet for this. Institutional subscribers are also the main market for the finished product.

However, another function of the journals is to promote findings in all areas of sociological research, and that doesn't mean it has to come out of a university. There is no bar on article submissions from people working outside academia.

If you would like to submit to a BSA journal, you can find instructions online at www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/howtosubmit. The best way to learn about preferred format for submissions is to read the journals you are hoping to submit to. You should also consult the 'Notes for Contributors' for specific presentational instruction.



Submitting to academic journals can be tough. The rejection rates for BSA journals currently stand at around 75% - only one in every four articles makes it. Those that do make it are normally subject to one or two rounds of revision. This is not to put you off submitting but to say not to be discouraged if your article is not accepted.

You might also be interested to know that when articles are reviewed for publication in our journals, one of the three referees is always a 'general reader' checking the material is accessible to an informed, non-academic audience. In this way, we hope to maintain academic rigour without compromising accessibility.

Of course, our journals don't just publish articles. We also publish book reviews. Book reviews are a great way to get involved. They give you a chance to flex your critical muscles and you also get to keep the books you review. Books available for review are listed in the back of each issue of the journal. Simply email the journal administrator to make a review offer.

Sociology and WES also both operate a book reviewer database. This means the list of books available for review is emailed to registered reviewers in advance. If you would like to register as a book reviewer, instructions are again available on our website under www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/pubsvacancies

Another way to get involved with BSA publications is to write for, or apply to join the editorial team for, our members' newsletter Network. Network is written by members for members and we aim to represent the full diversity of our membership: from students to the retired, from academics to SOAg members, from government organisations to members of the public, and everyone in between.

Obviously, it can be hard to represent the needs of such a diverse group of people, particularly with so few issues per year and so few pages per issue. For this reason, we have set 'categories' of submissions, such as 'Research News' or 'Soapbox' which are relevant to all members regardless of their employment status. For a full list of submission categories please see the Network 'Notes to Contributors' on our website at www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/network

We would welcome articles from SOAg members and we have printed a number of articles from SOAg members in the past few years - about the need for a SOAg group, about members' experiences and achievements, and about the formation of the new group.

Now that awareness of the problems faced by sociologists outside academia has been raised, we encourage you to get involved with Network by applying your sociological eye to the world around us: for example, use our 'Soapbox' feature to get a bee out of your bonnet (how do you feel about media portrayal of Islam?), or cast your 'Sociological Eye' over something that interests you (what effect have licensing laws had, one year on?), write a 'Research News' piece on what you are currently researching and how you are researching it.

Like the journals, Network also has a book reviewer database. Email me at the address below to be added to it.

One final thing, some SOAg members without an institutional affiliation have expressed concern about how, if published, they should identify themselves. They have also been worried about the requirement to include a contact address at the end of an article. Normally, articles will have a

by-line including author name and institution. After consultation with SOAg, it was agreed that members without an institutional affiliation should identify them however they feel comfortable, for example:

- independent scholar /*researcher*/ consultant
- community thinker/ researcher /activist
- social researcher / scientist
- BSA member
- freelance sociologist

We have also agreed that authors outside academia should not be required to supply a contact address if they do not feel comfortable doing so.

We look forward to hearing from you, SOAg members! Do email me if you need any guidance or assistance.

Libby Marks
BSA Publications Manager
Libby.marks@britsoc.org.uk

Finally: We have a logo!

Graphic designer and visual artist Rosalind Shaye has kindly designed a logo for us. She will be designing posters and flyers for our stall at the BSA annual conference in April. We hope this new logo will give the group a sense of identity and help to attract new members.

Rosalind is on the look out for more design commissions and you can email her at rosalind@glitteringpoppies.com. Her website, glitteringpoppies.com will be up and running soon.



Contact details

Please e-mail to Julie Cappleman-Morgan:

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