

BSA West Midlands Medical Sociology Group Annual Report 2010/2011

This group has been established for a number of years.

Membership:

We hold a database of names of people who have attended our past events, have contributed as presenters and have shown an interest in future activities. We regularly circulate opportunities for funding, conference calls and invitations to contribute to publications which arise through our professional connections to the group.

Expenditure:

£155.10 spent on conference catering, £20.00 conference fee generated from one waged delegate.

Aim:

Our primary aim is to establish a local network of interest in the sociology of health and illness and to promote the profile of postgraduate research. We provide a forum to facilitate collaborative inter-disciplinary links for those with an interest in medical sociology within the West Midlands and beyond. The convenors are based at Coventry and Aston universities and also have long-standing links with Warwick University.

Key activities during 2010/2011:

On April 23 2010 we held a successful one day conference '*Generating sociological understandings of the health and well-being of children and adults*'. The conference was jointly hosted with the BSA's recently formed Childhood Studies Group (CSG). The day included a range of interesting topics from across a number of disciplines: Wendy Stacey-Aldina (Southampton University) 'A sociological analysis of the organisation of time and birth'; Louise Laverty (University of Liverpool) 'I swear to God you smoke more when you're pregnant than when you're not': understanding the experiences of pregnant women who smoke during pregnancy and the barriers to abstinence'; Jennifer Heath (Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust) 'Does chronic renal failure affect the quality of life of children and young people?'; Tim Turner (Coventry University) 'Tales of the city: victimisation at the edge'; Robert Tummey and Anthony Colombo (Coventry University) 'How should the notion of "child abuse" be defined/operationalised for the purposes of conducting research?' and Hayley Davies (Warwick University) 'Children's roles in securing their own well-being'. It provided an opportunity for new ways of understanding to emerge and to be considered during discussions.

During the past year the group's convenors submitted a proposal to host a West Midlands Medical Sociology Group-led plenary session at the BSA Annual Conference, to showcase the legacy of one of the founders of medical sociology, Professor Meg Stacey. The application was unsuccessful but we hope to organise such an event locally in the forthcoming year.

Forthcoming events:

We are in the process of organising a further one day conference in May which will focus on the implications of translating health related research findings into practice, providing the opportunity to explore the sometimes competing agendas of researchers, commissioners/funders and practitioners. This will be of appeal to those who have a genuine interest in 'making research count' and ensuring that findings and recommendations have an impact, both within academic circles but also in the world of health and social policy and practice.

Delegates at our previous conference suggested that we facilitate an event for research students to discuss aspects of the research process, such as ethical considerations and methodology, within a supportive environment. We aim to organise such an event shortly. At each of the above events we encourage collaborative links between researchers and also encourage new membership of the group.

For further information about the West Midlands Medical Sociology Group please contact the convenors:

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