

## **BSA Scottish Studies Group Annual Review, 2010-2011**

### **Review of the Year**

The Scottish Studies Group was re-launched in October 2009. The group is primarily envisaged to be a network which allows researchers investigating issues relating to individuals and communities, economy and politics, culture and society within the 21st century Scotland to come together. Re-launching the group helps consolidate research on Scottish society and politics in a changing global world and also bring together researchers in Scotland. We feel that now more than ever is it important to build a network of Sociologists in Scotland as departments are increasingly restructured and subject to cuts. By creating a Scottish Sociology network we hope to connect our academic analyses with practitioners, policy makers and activists.

### **Key activities 2010-2011**

In terms of activities, the key focus this year has been the re-launch of the group. This has involved renewing interest in the group and encouraging new membership in order to create network of active researcher members. We re-launched the JISmail list. This is now being used regularly as the primary means of communication, ranging from events, activities, call for papers to notices of employment, amongst members through Scotland and the UK. In addition to this we have set up a Facebook page which aims to communicate with members as well as disseminating information to new and non members.

We took advantage of the fact the 2010 BSA annual conference was held in Glasgow. This was a great opportunity to officially re-launch the group as a research network. The first session we organised was a 'meet and greet' for old and new members to come along and discuss issues around Sociology in Scotland and any ideas for the future directions of the group. This was followed by a panel discussion titled 'Hidden injuries and hidden rewards of everyday life in contemporary Scottish society' which explored the key conference themes in relation to the hosting city: inequalities and social justice in Glasgow and Scotland with contributions from speakers Patricia McCafferty, (University of Strathclyde) Susan Batchelor (University of Glasgow) and Kirsteen Paton (University of Glasgow). The speakers examined the myths and realities of everyday life in a neoliberal context, problematising issues around class, gender and social justice, directly confronting issues of inequality through empirical research. It was a well attended event that engendered a useful discussion.

This year we plan a day seminar *Scotland, Sociology and the Cuts*, in June at the University of Glasgow. This day seminar aims to explore the impacts, issues and challenges raised by public spending cuts in relation to teaching and research in Sociology and everyday life in Scotland. It will provide the opportunity for researchers in Scotland to meet and share ideas and research. The event will also have a post-graduate and early career focus including a morning Masterclass with experts in the field of inequalities as well as a practical session on writing, getting published, methodologies and getting more involved in the BSA network.

**Convenors:**

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Please see Scottish Studies webpage on the BSA website:  
<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/Scottish+SG.htm>