



British Sociological Association

BSA EARLY CAREER FORUM NEWSLETTER

July 2009

Welcome to the 1st edition of the BSA ECF newsletter. We are aiming for this to be a quarterly publication that will keep you informed and up-to-date on events, issues and concerns of the ECF membership.

In this edition you will find feedback from the June BSA Council meeting, details of the upcoming inaugural ECF event, the launch of the ECF Facebook group and the regular features of "In the News and On the Move" and "Papers/Resources of Interest".

Don't forget to check out:

- The **ECF webpage** – www.britisoc.co.uk/ECForum/ for regular updates on ECF events
- The **BSA Jobs in Sociology – Vacancies Board** on www.britisoc.co.uk/about/Jobs
- Upload your CV to the BSA **CV Noticeboard** on www.britisoc.co.uk/members/
- ECF member contributions to **Network** for a commentary on the latest issues facing EC Sociologists.
- The **ECF Facebook** group to network with fellow ECF members, discuss current issues/concerns and contact your ECF convenors

You can always **contact us** on ECForum@britsoc.org.uk with any ECF news/discussion pieces or updates!

Lara Killick & Ruth Lewis
ECF Convenors

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 **Details of the inaugural ECF event at the British Library: Registration now open!**

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for **"Avenues of Support: What is out there for EC sociologists?"**. This is the first event hosted by the EC Forum and we hope that it will be of interest to many of you.

The evening will consist of four presentations covering various avenues of support for EC sociologists. These include:

1. **Professor John Scott** (University of Plymouth). Professor Scott is currently a PDF assessor for the ESRC and a member of the Leverhulme advisory panel. He will discuss what makes for a good/poor research grant application and offer his 'top tips' for approaching the application process.
2. **Dr Ian Fairweather** (C-SAP). Dr Fairweather is the academic co-ordinator for C-SAP (Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics) and he will outline the forms of support offered by C-SAP in respect to teaching and learning and the funding opportunities available through this organisation.
3. **Jude England** (British Library). Jude is the Head of Social Science Collections and Research at the British Library and she will showcase the tailored-support provided by this institution.
4. **Dr Nicola Gale**. (University of Birmingham). Dr Gale is a member of the ECF and she will discuss her experience of applying for an ESRC PDF, and of the career trajectory she subsequently followed. Dr Gale will offer a candid reflection of her experiences.

Each will speak for approx. 15 minutes and there will be time for a lengthy Q/A session afterwards. The evening will conclude with a tea/coffee/soft drinks reception at the Library, in order to give everyone a chance to mingle and meet fellow ECF members.

The details for this event are as follows:

Date:	Tuesday 28th July 2009
Location:	British Library (Conference Centre)
Time:	5.30-8pm
	Registration: Opens at 5pm
	Presentations: 5.30-6.30pm
	Q/A session: 6.30-7.15pm
	(Soft) Drinks reception: 7.15-8pm

Priority will be given first to ECF members and then BSA members more broadly. Non-BSA members are also welcome to attend this event. If you are not a BSA member, membership starts from £31 and further details are available from www.britsoc.co.uk/join.

Places for this event are free for BSA members and £10 for Non-BSA members. All places are subject to a £10 refundable deposit (details on ECF webpage).

To reserve your place for this event, please complete a Booking Form (found on the ECF webpage) and return it to us by fax to +44 (0)191 383 0782 or by post to The British Sociological Association, Bailey Suite, Palatine House, Belmont Business Park, Durham DH1 1TW, alternatively you could call the BSA office on +44 (0)191 383 0839. Directions to the event can be found on the ECF webpage.



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Feedback from the June BSA Council Meeting

On 5th June, the BSA council convened for their summer council meeting at the new BSA Meeting Room, Imperial Wharf, London. This was the first meeting at which the ECF was formally represented. The full minutes of the Council meeting will soon be available for all ECF members on the ECF News Webpage (www.britsoc.co.uk/ECForum/ECNews.htm). However three issues on the agenda were particularly relevant to ECF members:

1. **BSA Annual conference:** The general consensus was that the 2009 conference was highly successful and the Council are keen to maintain the momentum and interest generated in Cardiff. Glasgow Caledonian University has been confirmed as the host for the 2010 conference with the event returning to London for 2011 and the 60th anniversary of the BSA.
2. **Membership Fees:** There was significant discussion about proposed changes to the subscription rates. A detailed paper was brought to Council, which described a proposed simplification of the subscription rates, which currently include nine rates, all related to individuals' income. Underpinning the proposal was a move to fewer categories, not defined by declaration of income to facilitate income-forecasting which would in turn enable a clearer understanding of the expenditure budget for the coming year. There were two options: the first with two rates (standard and concessionary, with the option for higher earners to make a donation when paying their subscription) and the second with three rates (including a higher rate for Professors or those of equivalent grade). The second proposal was accepted. This will be phased in over a three year period commencing 1st January 2010. These changes will have limited effect on ECF members, as we will remain in the same subscription category (standard) and will continue to pay similar rates as we do currently. The major changes will be felt at the higher end of the pay scale.
3. **New Media:** A task group designed to move the BSA forward in relation to new media/technologies was formed at the meeting. Lara will be representing the ECF on this group and would welcome your feedback/ideas on ways you think the BSA could better engage with new technologies/media.

The ECF report circulated to all ECF members before the meeting was well received by Council. It generated discussion about the ways in which we may define early-career sociologists and the proposed Professional Development Award. There was support from council members for the latter, however Council has suggested that we address a couple of potential problem areas of the proposal before returning to the EMT (Executive Management Team) for ratification. We are currently working through these areas of concerns and plan to take the revised proposal to the EMT in September.

Membership services meeting

The main Council meeting was preceded by three sub-meetings related to various aspects of the BSA: governance, membership services and publications. As an ECF convener, Lara was present at the membership services meeting, in which the group brainstormed the various issues, concerns and challenges facing the BSA in relation to membership attraction and retention. The ensuing discussion was both lively and very productive. The introduction of a referral reward scheme, honorary memberships, teaching prizes, life-time achievement awards and thesis prizes were all debated and we may start to see some of these 'go live' very soon. Ways in which we can maximise use of existing services (e.g. the departmental rep system) were also explored, with a view to improving the efficiency of the organisation. These discussions are ongoing and should you have any ideas you would like to raise regarding membership attraction/retention, please do not hesitate to contact Sandra Harris (Sandra.Harris@britsoc.org.uk).

If you have any issues you would like raised at the next Council meeting, which Ruth will attend in October, please do not hesitate to contact us on ECForum@britsoc.org.uk.



☞ ECF on Facebook.



We have recently set up an ECF members group on **Facebook**. To find us search for “BSA EC Forum” and click on the “join group” link. Use the group as a discussion forum, to make contact with other ECF members or to raise any issues/questions with the ECF convenors.

☞ ECF members- in the news and on the move.



In the news:

Dr Anne-Marie Kramer, Dr Rachel Lara Cohen & Dr Stella Hart in the August Edition of *Network*. Read their piece entitled “The challenges of being an early career sociologist”.

If you are “in the news” and would like to advertise your media exposure let us know: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk



Dr Joseph Burridge is moving to Portsmouth to start a position as Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Portsmouth. He can be contacted on josephburridge@hotmail.com.

Dr Ruth Lewis is leaving Edinburgh to start a position as Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She can be contacted from 3rd August on Ruth.Lewis@lshtm.ac.uk

Dr Lara Killick is moving to Stockton, CA to start a position as Associate Professor in Sociology of Sport at the University of the Pacific. She can be contacted from the 6th August on killick@pacific.edu

We wish all the ECF members “on the move” the best of luck with their new positions.

If you are “on the move” and would like to advertise your change in employment details let us know: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk

☞ Papers/resources of interest

We have come across these **papers and resources** that may be of interest to our members. We will add links to these on our webpage very soon. If you come across any papers/resources that you think may be of interest to ECF members, please forward them on to us at: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk

Bazeley,P. (2003) ‘Defining ‘early career’ in research’, *Higher Education*, 45: 257-279

Wiles et al (2009) ‘Methodological approaches at PhD and skills sought for research posts in academia: a mismatch?’, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 12 (3): 257-269.



Call for contributions

Got an Early Career event you want to advertise?

Let us know about it! Email us at: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk and we will post it on the ECF webpage

Would you like to write a discussion piece for Network?

Contact us to find out how. We look forward to hearing from you at ECForum@britsoc.org.uk

Want to publicise your media exposure/new job details?

If you have any media exposure/new job details you would like to publicise in the next edition of the newsletter simply email us the details at ECForum@britsoc.org.uk

Have an idea to improve the ECF?

We are always looking to drive the ECF forward and meet the needs/demands of our members. Contact us at ECForum@britsoc.org.uk with your ideas.