

Name: BSA London Medical Sociology Group.

Established: before 1985

Number of members: we have no formal membership, but mostly 10-20 people attend our meetings; about half are BSA members. We have roughly 100 names on our regularly up-dated e-mailing list, and also circulate notices of meetings on Medsoc News jiscmail.

Expenditure: Nil 2009/10

Income: Nil 2009/10

Aims: to disseminate new sociological knowledge, and encourage contacts between those interested in medical sociology in London and the South-East.

Review of the year:

Once again the London group continued to operate successfully in 2010/11. As in previous years our meetings have been extremely wide ranging in content, with presentations on the construction of sexual knowledge by the media, body image and body without image, 'new' ageing populations, the obesity 'epidemic', experiences of acute hospital care by older people and their relatives, clinical encounters with patients receiving oral chemotherapy, the construction and use of health technology. Each session ends with a gathering in a convenient local venue where it is possible to talk informally with the speaker, share useful information about people or events and, over food and drinks, discuss matters of recent interest within the health and illness field (and, of course, well beyond).

Although we have always tried to ensure that our programme addresses the widest range of concerns within medical sociology we are aware of the increasing pressures on people's time. Average attendance at our meetings has declined somewhat even though a core of regular attenders seems to value the regular opportunity to meet people with a shared sociological viewpoint. Accordingly we have decided to refocus future meetings on more general topics rather than reports of research as such, concentrating on broad theoretical issues, methodological questions, and aspects of teaching, and our programme for 2011 aims to address many of these.

Our organizing committee remains unchanged: yet again great thanks are due to Iain Crinson (Mailing list), Jacqueline Davies, Annie Nixson, and Miranda Leontowitsch (Treasurer) for all their work in making the 2010 programme a success.

Once more we would like to thank Kings College London for waiving room charges for our meetings, and the Dept. of Nutrition & Dietetics for its support.

Concluding remarks:

We intend to arrange a full and varied programme of meetings in 2012, and as always greatly welcome suggestions for speakers, or offers of talks fitting the new guidelines outlined above.

Convenor contact details: richard.compton@kcl.ac.uk

To join the London Group mailing list email: icrinson@sgul.ac.uk

Future meetings in 2011 will be held at 6 - 7 p.m. on a Wednesday in:

King's College London, Room 1.16, Franklin Wilkins Building, Stamford Street, London SE1 6NN.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 Feb | Critical realism: can healthcare research do without it? | Priscilla Alderson Institute of Education |
| 9 March | Understanding men and distress: theory, research and practice. | Damien Ridge University of Westminster |
| 13 April | The sword of Damocles: a tale of cancer, symptoms and bodily awareness | Tom Horlick Jones Cardiff University |
| 11 May | Developing a cultural understanding of inpatient risk management. | Jacqueline Davies and Paul Godin City University |
| 8 June | Medical school culture: uniformity & difference | Caragh Brosnan and Heidi Lempp Kings College London |
| Summer Break | | |
| 12 Oct | Can qualitative research have impact? Is it even evidence-based? | Martyn Hammersley Open University |
| 9 Nov | Virtual fieldwork using Access Grid | Nigel Fielding University of Surrey |
| 14 Dec | TBA | |