



British Sociological Association

BSA EARLY CAREER FORUM NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Welcome to the latest edition of the BSA ECF newsletter. We hope that you all had a good Easter holiday. The aim of this quarterly publication is to keep you informed and up-to-date on events and issues relevant to the ECF membership.

In this edition you will find feedback from the latest BSA Council meeting (Jan 2011), details of the ECF's involvement at the BSA's Annual Conference held at the LSE, details on the ECF Professional Development Award (PDA) 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, Tam Sanger & Mark Doidge
ECF Convenors

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ECF on Facebook.



Our ECF group on **Facebook** now has 114 members. To find us search for "BSA Early Career Forum" and click on the "join group" link. Please use the group as a discussion forum, to make contact with other ECF members, to find out about upcoming events or to raise any issues/questions with the ECF convenors.



ECF in *Network*.

Have an issue you want to air? We are on the lookout for thought-provoking articles from our EC community for inclusion in *Network*.

Read anything inspiring recently? Or want a free copy of a recent book? The *Network* editorial team is looking for book reviewers for the next issue.

Interested? Please contact alison.danforth@britsoc.org.uk for more details.



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ECF at the BSA Annual Conference 2011



BSA Annual Conference 2011

6-8 April 2011
London School of Economics

The 2011 BSA annual conference was a great success for the BSA. It was the most attended conference in its history.

The ECF hosted a special event entitled “Early Career Forum: Career Development Workshop” on 8th April. Professor John Holmwood provided a positive workshop for early career academics. He highlighted how our work is based on grounded research and gives us an advantage over more established academics who maybe do not have the time to undertake such extensive empirical studies. He reiterated the need to play to the rules of the REF and publications are vital. The event was also attended by Ian Farnden of the ESRC reiterated John’s points. Ian also clarified that early career academics are not disadvantaged by the funding criteria as work undertaken through PhD or postdocs fulfill all of the criteria expected of the ESRC.

In addition to our regular stall, the ECF held a social event at the Cittie of Yorke pub, which was a great success (and certainly aided by probably the cheapest beer in London).

Details of the BSA 2012 Annual conference will soon follow at <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/>. We will always be looking for feedback or ideas of workshops or social events, so if you have any, please let us know.

Hope to see you there next year!



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👉 Progress report on the ECF Professional Development Award (PDA)

Representing a 12-month campaign to increase the BSA's provision of services for ECF members, the inaugural BSA Professional Development Awards were granted in August 2010. 10 awards (max. £400) were issued and feedback from the recipients has been overwhelmingly positive. 2 more awards were issued in January. The deadline for the third round of PDA's will be June 30th. There will be one further award in September.

Do you have upcoming conference? Want to complete additional research training? Or simply attend an event designed to contribute towards your professional development?

Applications for the PDA are now open- see the [BSA PDA webpage](http://www.britisoc.co.uk/ECForum/ECFPDA.htm) for more details (<http://www.britisoc.co.uk/ECForum/ECFPDA.htm>)



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👉 Call for an additional ECF convenor- join the team!

It is with great sadness that the mastermind behind the ECF, Ruth Lewis, has chosen to step down. I hope you will all join us in saying a great "Thank you!" to Ruth whose hard work and dedication established the ECF and fought for the Professional Development Award.

With the continued interest and growth in membership of the ECF, the current convenor team needs assistance in maintaining the ECF and continuing to help meet the needs of the growing membership. We are looking for an additional ECF convenor to join our team! Could this be you?

The role of convenor includes attendance at Council meetings (1 per year), distributing information to members via Facebook and email, producing the quarterly newsletter (1 to 2 per year), maintaining the ECF resources on the BSA website, attending meetings with key partners in ECF affairs (e.g. C-SAP) and promoting/developing ECF services whenever appropriate.

If you are interested in joining the ECF team- please contact us on ECForum@britsoc.org.uk with a short introduction to yourself and the skills you would bring to this role- the deadline for applications is the **Friday 3rd June**. We look forward to welcoming you to the team!



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👉 Feedback from the February BSA Council Meeting

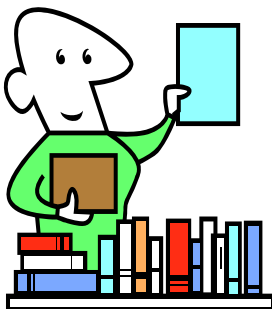
On 12th February, the BSA council convened for their winter council meeting at the BSA Meeting Room, Imperial Wharf, London. The full minutes of the Council meeting will soon be available for all ECF members on the ECF News Webpage (www.britisoc.co.uk/ECForum/ECNews.htm). However three issues on the agenda were particularly relevant to ECF members:



- 1. Continued growth in ECF membership and contact with members:** We now have over 350 people on the ECF mailing list, reflecting the demand, interest and support for the Forum. We have been asked to prepare a short “blurb” publicising the forum for inclusion in membership services literature and we are constantly on the lookout for ways in which we can support our members’ needs- please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any ways we can help!
- 2. Ratification of the ECF Professional Development Award:** After having good initial interest in the award, the December award received a disappointing number of applications. It has been decided to shift the dates for the 2012 award to April and September to coincide with the academic calendar. For 2011 only, the award dates will be June and September.
- 3. Collaborative event with C-SAP:** In conjunction with Professor Randal MacDonald (Senior Associate C-SAP, Professional Development), we have co-convened workshops for EC social scientists across the four societies represented by C-SAP. So far this year events have been held in Manchester and London. Another event is being held in Birmingham on 9-10 June (<http://www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/events/details/115-early-career-for-social-scientists>) and another one is being convened for June or September in Bristol or Bath (details to follow).

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

Papers/resources of interest



We are currently updating the **resources pages** on the ECF website. We are committed to providing dedicated space to funding and teaching/learning resources that may be of interest to our members.

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

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.