

## **Background Information**

### **What is the BSA?**

The British Sociological Association was founded in 1951 as the professional organisation representing sociologists in Britain. It provides a network of communication to all who are concerned with the promotion and use of sociology, and represents the intellectual and sociological interests of its members. Although most of its 2,300 members are in the UK, the Association – through reciprocal arrangements with organisations abroad – has members based in over 400 institutions in 45 countries. The BSA is a registered charity (no: 1080235) and a company limited by guarantee (no: 3890729).

### **Our mission**

The British Sociological Association's primary charitable objective is to promote sociology. It:

- Promotes the discipline and the work of sociologists within society.
- Develops and maintains links with sociologists throughout the world.
- Publishes journals, books and other materials.
- Provides information and services to members.
- Influences policies affecting sociology.

### **Publishing sociology**

The BSA owns and, with SAGE Publications, publishes two internationally renowned journals, *Sociology* and *Work, Employment & Society*. Members receive one of these free and the other at a discount. They also get free access to an online database of 40 journals published by SAGE.

The BSA is also joint owner, with SAGE Publications, of the journal *Cultural Sociology* and belongs to a consortium that publishes the electronic-only journal *Sociological Research Online*.

### **Helping our members**

The BSA operates a network of study groups, free to BSA members, covering a wide range of specialisms within the discipline. It runs a postgraduate forum and an early careers forum as networks for postgraduate students and early career researchers to share common interests. A comprehensive listing of funding relevant to the sociological community is also published. A forum to advertise CVs to prospective employers has been set up and the BSA Support Fund helps low-income members with research related expenses and attendance at conferences and study groups.

The BSA gives its members free help and advice on writing and publishing work in academic journals and also on promoting it in the media; it employs a media consultant to give free advice and to write press releases.

The Association has a busy calendar of events, including an annual conference at which more than 400 seminars are given and a smaller annual medical sociology conference.

A number of prize competitions for the best books and papers are run by the BSA which members are eligible to enter.

### **Promoting sociology**

The BSA works to promote sociology within society. For instance, the BSA is part of a group of 12 organisations which is talking to the government about developing social science research funding and creating closer links with government researchers. The BSA liaises with other social science organisations and promotes the work of its members in the media.

### **Organisation of the BSA**

The activities of the BSA are co-ordinated by an Executive Management Team of 10 officers charged with overseeing governance, membership services and publications.

Decisions are monitored and ratified by the Council of the Association. The BSA Council consists of 16 elected trustees, the President, and a number of people who are co-opted onto the Council.

The day-to-day running of the BSA is managed by a small but dedicated team of staff based at our Durham Office.