

Leisure and Recreation Study Group

Annual Report for Year 2010

1. Established:

2005 (after several years being defunct)

2. Current Membership Figure:

Approx 35

3. SG Expenditure:

SG Income:

4. Aims of Study Group:

The aims of the Leisure & Recreation Study Group are to:

- promote the sociological understanding of leisure & recreation,
- encourage publication of papers on the sociology of leisure and recreation,
- to hold meetings with a view to encouraging critical discussion on leisure and recreation,
- to consolidate international links with other sociological leisure & recreation groups,
- to report annually to the BSA Executive Committee,
- to work closely with other organisations interested in the sociology of leisure & recreation,
- to promote members of the BSA.

5. Review of Year:

'Beyond the Leisure Dome' was the first of a trilogy of events based on a collaboration between our Leisure and Recreation Study Group and the Sociology of Sport Study Group, aimed at exploring social science's and in particular sociology's contribution to the understanding of the Olympic phenomenon. Held at the British Library, in January 2011, it attracted a range of disciplinary specialists in the social sciences as well as interdisciplinary scholars and researchers, covering historical, policy, and media issues as well as core sociological questions. The event was featured in *Network* (Spring 2011, Issue 107, p.15). The initiative has been stimulated and led by Professor John Horne, of the University of Central Lancashire; the second event was a sub-plenary on the Olympic Games, held at the BSA 2011 conference at LSE, in April. Entitled 'The Olympics, Sport and the Social', the session noted that at the first BSA Conference in 1951 it would have been inconceivable that sport would feature prominently on the conference schedule. Though London had hosted the 1948 Olympic Games, British football teams had entered the men's FIFA World Cup for the first time in 1950, and in 1951 the UK was staging the Festival of

Britain, sport and leisure were barely on the sociological agenda. Since the 1970s, though, the Leisure and Recreation Study Group has profiled sociological work on leisure and related spheres, and the Sociology of Sport Study Group was inaugurated in the mid-1990s, further recognizing the sociological significance of leisure and consumption in contemporary life. At LSE, Professor Kath Woodward addressed issues of sex and the Olympics, and Professor Mark Dyreson offered a US historian's perspective on the intensifying 'Californication' of the Olympics. The third event in the series, again at the British Library, will be in early 2012.

In 2010/11, the Study Group reflected upon future programmes, and confirmed its commitment to the organization of 1-day regional workshops, as well as a potential stream at the annual conference. In Autumn 2011, a workshop reviewing the contribution of the late John Hargreaves to theorizing leisure/sport will be hosted at the University of Brighton Centre for Sport Research, kick-starting a programme of workshops that will review leisure theory and the contributions of sociological and social theory to the understanding of leisure; the second of these will be hosted by Leeds Metropolitan University's Carnegie School, in early 2012. Study-group workshops have generated related publications, and work on the 2009 workshop on 'Sexy spaces: geography and leisure intersectionalities' has now been completed with the publication of a special issue of *Leisure Studies* (Volume 30 Issue 2) edited by Jayne Caudwell and Kath Browne.

After staging an open stream on leisure/sport at the 2010 Cardiff Annual Conference, and contributing numerous papers at the LSE 2011 Conference, the Leisure and Recreation Study Group is planning to offer a full(er) stream (including tourism and sport-related topics) at the 2012 Annual Conference in Leeds. A sub-plenary event at the 2012 conference is also under consideration, and a provisional theme of 'Olympic Follies: Promises, Pleasures, and Betrayals' is under discussion.

6. Key Activities during year 2010 / 2011:

See above

7. Concluding Remarks:

Future Events:

Thursday 30th June 2011
at Brunel University, Uxbridge, West London

Brunel Centre for Sport Health and Wellbeing
British Sociological Association - Leisure and Recreation Study Group
a one-day symposium on

Leisure, health and wellbeing in an age of austerity: research and policy perspectives

This one-day event brings together an exciting line-up of experienced academic and policy researchers to examine the interrelationship of leisure, health and wellbeing in a time of economic constraint. As the UK's coalition Government explores the concept of wellbeing as a measurable dimension of individual and social development and welfare, the symposium will consider the issues and challenges that this raises for policy and research. Speakers will examine the relationship between leisure, health and wellbeing in the context of inequality and in different contexts, including across the lifespan and among diverse populations. Ambiguities in the development of public health policy, and in popular responses to them, will also be considered. Throughout the symposium, diverse disciplinary perspectives will be presented to allow delegates to examine how different methodological approaches can enrich understanding in this area.

Speakers

PROFESSOR CARA AITCHISON, University of Edinburgh
PAUL ALLIN, Director of the Measuring National Well-being Programme, Office for National Statistics
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SIMONE FULLAGAR, Griffith University, Brisbane
DR. PAULA GRIFFITHS, Reader in Biosocial Science, Loughborough University
PROFESSOR DAVID HARGEAVES, Co-director of the Applied Music Research Centre, Roehampton University
DR. LOUISE MANSFIELD, Senior Lecturer in the Sociology of Sport, Canterbury University
DR. JOE PIGGIN, Lecturer in Sport Management and Policy, Loughborough University
DR. ELIZABETH PIKE Sport Development and Management, University of Chichester
PROFESSOR ROBERT WALKER, Professor of Social Policy, Oxford University

27 February 2012

Event 3: After the Leisure Dome

The British Library Conference Centre, UK

This event takes place 5 months before the start of the London Summer Olympic Games. It will feature speakers discussing the economics of the Olympics, the Olympics and architecture, the Olympics and sustainability and the Olympics and politics. Speakers at a round-table discussion on 'The Olympics and civil society' will include Dr Graeme Hayes of Aston University.

8. Convenors and Contacts:

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