

BSA Auto/Biography Study Group

Annual Report for Year 2010

1. Established:

1992

2. Current Membership Figure:

Members BSA 27/ Non-Members BSA 35

Associate Members: 59

3. SG Expenditure: £12,426

SG Income: £13,705

4. Aims of Study Group:

The aim of the Study Group is to foster an interest in and bring together those looking analytically and sociologically at all forms of biography and autobiography, the relationship between different genres of representing lives, and the interrelation of biography and autobiography.

5. Review of Year:

(i) Several notable study group events were held during the year including the annual three day summer residential conference at the University of Leicester, 22 papers were presented on the theme of 'Legacies'. The Phil Salmon Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Gayle Letherby of the University of Plymouth on the topic: "Auto/biographical reflections on personal and other legacies: much more than money". A Christmas day conference was held at the British Library on "Feminism and Lives" and attracted a large number of participants.

(ii) The Study Group held, with the Centre for Biography and Education at the University of Southampton, a number of workshops and seminars aimed at postgraduate students and research training provision. Contributions to the teaching on the Auto/Biography Doctoral Programme of the Centre for Biography and Education are undertaken by national and international members of the Study Group.

(iii) All full members of the Auto/Biography Study group receive a copy of the *Auto/Biography Yearbook* in the July of the subscription year in addition to regular electronic and postal mailings relating to conferences, seminars, workshops and other activities.

(iv) The Study Group charges an annual subscription for full membership. It also has an Associate category of membership for which there is no charge. (Associate members receive regular mailings but do not receive the *Yearbook* or reduced conference fees and have to pay full cost for publications). Membership charges are

used to subsidise publishing and conference costs and to assist those wishing to belong to the group but who are currently unable to meet the cost of a subscription. Subscription rates are:

BSA Members:	£15
Non-BSA Members	£25
BSA Overseas Members:	£25
Non-BSA Overseas Members:	£35

6. Key Activities during year 2010:

(i) 2010 saw the publication of the second Auto/Biography Monograph - Maria Tamboukou's *Visual Lives: Carrington's Letters, Drawings and Paintings*. This work explores interfaces between life and art; it draws on the letters, drawings and paintings of the British artist Dora Carrington analyzing narratives and visual images in their interrelation. *Visual Lives* is a high quality paperback of 45,000 words. The cost of *Visual Lives* is £25 (plus £5.00 p+p for UK, Eire and the Channel Islands orders, and plus £10 p+p for all Overseas Orders). Full Members of the BSA Study Group on Auto/Biography can receive discounted copies for £20 (including postage). To obtain copies send a cheque (sterling) payable to the *British Sociological Association* to Michael Erben, Auto/Biography, 21 Dorchester Court, Ferry Pool Road, OXFORD OX2 7DT, UK (michaelerben@gmail.com). Those wishing to pay with credit/debit card should contact Michael by email.

(ii) The third *Auto/Biography Yearbook* was published just prior to the Summer conference. The *Yearbook* proved very popular and soon sold out. Income from the sales of the *Yearbook* beyond the SG membership are used to maintain the current policy not increasing membership subscriptions. The purpose of the *Yearbook* is to publish each year some of the best articles on auto/biography produced in the preceding year. As such each *Yearbook* contains up to date work that has not been published elsewhere and is representative of the wide range of research activity that is the hallmark of the auto/biographical enterprise. The *Yearbook* is fully refereed and is edited by Andrew Sparkes. Among the articles that appeared in the last issue were:

Dress and the Narration of Life: women's reflections on clothing and age by Julia Twigg.

Killer Heels: the place of the stiletto in gender warfare by Josie Abbott.

'A Specialised Subject': Quentin Crisp's queer posing by Mark Armstrong.

Hope as a mechanism in emotional survival: documenting miscarriage by Chrissie Rogers.

A Carer's Life by Cathey Gardner.

How to fail successfully: an autobiographical reprise by Ian Stronach.

Articles for consideration for the *Auto/Biography Yearbook* should be sent to the editor, Andrew Sparkes (see section 9 below):

7. Concluding Remarks:

Future Events:

BSA Auto/Biography Annual Summer Conference ~ 'Hidden Lives'
Thursday 7 – Saturday 9 July 2011, University of Reading.

BSA Auto/Biography Day Conference
Friday 16th December 2011
British Library, London

8. Convenors and Contacts:

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