

BSA Urban Theory and Research Study Group

Established:

2007

Aims of the Study Group

It is proposed that urban theory and research is a growing field of work in the social and natural sciences as well as in related disciplines. In fact the strong trends towards urbanisation across the globe suggest that this is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future and we are increasingly becoming a predominantly urban society. Despite this trend the sociology lacks a strong focus for the work of urban theorists and researchers and increasingly is losing expertise and personnel to related disciplines; such as planning, geography, criminology and politics.

It is among the key aims of this study group to reinvigorate the networking of urban sociology as a field of enquiry, fostering interdisciplinary connections across disciplines, institutions and continents with a view to generating more impactful connections of theory and research for all of those engaged in this vibrant area of expertise.

However, in developing the **Urban Theory and Research** group (or **UTR**) it is hoped that more than this can be achieved. We aim here to create a globally recognisable '**brand**' of excellence in urban theory and research that members of this group can proudly use, and link into, for a wide range of academic endeavour, such as:

- Fuel generation of collaborative research bids & link to research institutes.
- Create a dynamic forum for theoretical debate.
- Assist and develop publications strategy & skills throughout the career path.
- Assist in development of academic enterprise.
- Promote individual excellence and activities.
- Proactively engage and foster networks for academics and practitioners.

Activities in 2010

The key activity between group members was in responding to the Sociological Review Monograph call issued in Summer 2010. Upon circulation to the group by the group convenor, a number of members offered to contribute chapters and suggested international colleagues who were also contacted. The call was initially broad and was intended to be an exercise in determining what areas/themes members of the group were working on at that time. The proposal that was submitted was entitled 'Urban Rhythms: The socio-temporal organisation of the contemporary city' (Smith and Hetherington, Eds.). I am pleased to be able to announce that the proposal was accepted and that the monograph will be published in 2013. This represents the first collaboration between group members with hopefully more to come. It is intended that the proposal will provide a platform form which to host an event where authors of chapters can present their work and receive feedback from attending group members.

With regard to the BSA Annual conference it was slightly disappointing that, again, I was unable to get any response from group members regarding abstract submissions

and organising a panel within the Space, Mobilities, Place stream. The group have, however, submitted a proposal for a plenary at the 2012 conference in Leeds.

Convenor

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