

## **BSA Education Study Group Annual Report 2010/2011**

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

### **Convenors:**

David Mellor, Bristol University  
Richard Waller, UWE Bristol

### **Activities to date**

The Education Study Group re-launched at the BSA 2010 annual conference in Glasgow. The meeting was well attended and a new membership list was created, which continues to grow. We would like to recognize the generous help of the BSA staff in promoting the re-launch event. At the meeting the future of the study group was discussed and contact details were collected to form the basis of a new SG mailing list.

### **Planned activities**

*April 2011* – Profs Diane Reay, Roger Dale and David James will speak at the sociology of education sub-plenary at the BSA annual conference in London. The study group meeting at the conference will focus on involving members in the development of the recently launch sociology of education blog.

*July 2011* – joint seminar with Youth Study Group on International Student Mobilities, to be held at the BSA London meeting rooms.

*Ongoing* – the main activities of the study group will be web based. There are many education organizations that hold annual or bi-annual conferences and as convenors we feel that these cater well for our members and mean that an additional, regular event organized by the study group is not required. We do, however, plan to encourage members to organize special events, panels, workshops and similar activities for the annual conference, in order to maintain and provide a strong, vibrant education stream, which helps develop a strong scholarly community within the sociology of education.

Occasional meetings will also be organized for early career researchers, and we will discuss the possibility of appointing some early career members to coordinate such events at the SG meeting in April.

We also plan to continue and develop our association with the Youth Study Group, and maintain good levels of contact with special interest groups within other professional organizations both within the UK (such as within BERA) and internationally (particularly within the ISA and ESA).

### **SocofEd website**

The SocofEd website was launch in January 2011. The website uses a blog format and is based on Wordpress – <http://socofed.com/> The blog is edited by the convenors, who also provide opinion/editorial content and new updates. As we note in the ‘about’ section, “SocofEd is for academics, teachers, students, policy makers and anyone who wants to engage in critical debates about education. SocofEd aims to bring sociological approaches to education into conversation with a wide and diverse audience.”

We therefore aim to develop SocofEd as a space for public sociology, particularly at a time when education is so central to debates concerning not only the restructuring of public/private services in light of the ‘financial crisis’, but also the future constitution of civil society. Contributions and comments are welcomed from members and non-members, as we wish to provide an open platform for discussion. We are particularly interested in fostering the growth of international dialogue during the coming year, as we believe that analysis and discussion that goes beyond nation states is vital.