



British Sociological Association

BSA EARLY CAREER FORUM NEWSLETTER

January 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR all ECF members! We hope 2011 is a productive and prosperous year for you all!

In this edition you will find notification of changes to the ESRC delivery plan and the BSA President's response, details of the Professional Development Award (PDA), upcoming Council meetings, the ECF presences at the annual conference and the regular features of "In the News and On the Move" and "Papers/Resources of Interest".

Don't forget to check out:

- The **ECF webpage** – www.britsoc.co.uk/ECForum/ for regular updates on ECF events and resources
- The **BSA Jobs in Sociology – Vacancies Board** on www.britsoc.co.uk/about/Jobs
- Upload your CV to the BSA **CV Noticeboard** on www.britsoc.co.uk/members/
- ECF member contributions to **Network** for a commentary on the latest issues facing EC Sociologists.
- The **ECF Facebook** group to network with fellow ECF members, discuss current issues/concerns and contact your ECF convenors

You can always **contact us** on ECForum@britsoc.org.uk with any ECF news/discussion pieces or updates!

Lara Killick, Ruth Lewis, Tam Sanger & Mark Doidge
ECF Convenors

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👉 Changes to the ESRC delivery plan: How do these affect ECF members?

We received news this month that wholesale changes are being made to the [ESRC's delivery plan](#), many of which will have consequences for ECF members.

The new delivery plan sets the ESRC's commitment to:

- Align and shape our strategic research investment in three priority areas
- Focus our resources on longer, larger grants that deliver ambitious social science
- Invest in future research leaders early in their careers
- Contribute to the RCUK interdisciplinary research programmes
- Streamline existing funding opportunities
- Concentrate our PhD training in the best centres
- Protect our core investments in the national data infrastructure
- Continue to prioritise the generation of economic and societal impact
- Expand our collaborative activities with the private sector
- Continue to encourage and promote international collaboration

The ESRC draw our attention to the following changes:

- The termination of our existing Small Grants, Postdoctoral Fellowships and Mid-Career Development Fellowships Schemes on 1 February 2011. All applications received by the Schemes closing date will be processed.
- The increase in the lower threshold for standard grants to £200,000. Applications for standard grants up to £200,000 will only be accepted until 1 February 2011.
- The introduction of a new Future Research Leaders Scheme for early-career researchers in spring 2011.

The ESRC are adamant that the changes will “continue to support researchers in the early stages of their careers”. However, the response from John Brewer, BSA President, has been swift. He argues that Early Career Sociologists will be hit that hardest, particularly those who engage in qualitative research. His full response can be accessed on the BSA blog [“Sociology and the Cuts”](#).

We would love to hear your thoughts on this matter, how do these changes affect you? Are you concerned about the ESRC's decision to terminate Small Grants, Postdoctoral fellowships and Mid-Career Development fellowships? Contribute to the blog, email us on ECForum@britsoc.org.uk or write a contribution for Network.



👉 BSA Professional Development Award

Representing a 12-month campaign to increase the BSA's provision of services for ECF members, the inaugural BSA Professional Development Awards were granted in August 2010. 10 awards (max. £400) were issued and feedback from the recipients has been overwhelmingly positive. The second round of PDA's are now under consideration, and the recipients will be announced early in the new year.

Do you have upcoming conference? Want to complete additional research training? Or simply attend an event designed to contribute towards your professional development? Applications for the PDA are now open- see the [BSA PDA webpage](#) for more details.



British Sociological Association

BSA Council Meeting

The next BSA council meeting is scheduled for February. If you have any issues you would like raised at this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us on ECForum@britsoc.org.uk.

BSA annual conference: April 2011

60 YEARS OF SOCIOLOGY **BSA Annual Conference 2011**
 6-8 April 2011
 London School of Economics

The 2011 annual conference is swiftly approaching! Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the BSA, this conference will explore the past, consider the present and assess the challenges of the future for sociological research in an ever-changing social landscape.

We will be hosting an ECF special event entitled "Early Career Forum: Career Development Workshop" on 7th April at 3.30pm followed by the annual ECF social event at a local London location (details to follow). We will also have our regular ECF stall, swing by for coffee and all the latest ECF news! We hope to see you all there!



ECF members- in the news and on the move.



In the news:

Dr Lara Killick & Kendra Consiglio in the British Library Olympic Resource site "[Sport & Society: The Summer Olympics and Paralympics through the lens of social science](#)". Read their piece entitled "The bloody Olympics down under: Sport, politics and the 1956 Olympic Games".

If you are "in the news" and would like to advertise your media exposure let us know: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk



Dr Andrea Scott has moved to Chichester to start a position as a Senior Lecturer in Sports Development at the University of Chichester. She can be contacted on a.scott@chi.ac.uk

We wish all the ECF members "on the move" the best of luck with their new positions.

If you are "on the move" and would like to advertise your change in employment details let us know: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk



Papers/resources of interest

We are working on our “Funding” and “Teaching” resources and links to these will be going live on our webpage very soon. If you come across any papers/resources that you think may be of interest to ECF members, please forward them on to us at: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk

Call for contributions

Got an Early Career event you want to advertise?

Let us know about it! Email us at: ECForum@britsoc.org.uk and we will post it on the ECF webpage

Would you like to write a discussion piece for Network?

Contact us to find out how. We look forward to hearing from you at ECForum@britsoc.org.uk

Want to publicise your media exposure/new job details?

If you have any media exposure/new job details you would like to publicise in the next edition of the newsletter simply email us the details at ECForum@britsoc.org.uk

Have an idea to improve the ECF?

We are always looking to drive the ECF forward and meet the needs/demands of our members. Contact us at ECForum@britsoc.org.uk with your ideas.



Find us on Facebook...

Search for BSA Early Career Forum and join us on Facebook for the latest ECF news and events.