The British Sociological Association’s mission is to promote Sociology.

Mission Statement

The British Sociological Association’s mission is to represent the intellectual and sociological interests of its members. In doing so, the Association aims to do the following:

- provide information and services to members
- seek to influence policies affecting sociology within the wider social sciences
- communicate the identity of the discipline and its practitioners/scholars
- enhance the context for the pursuit of sociology
- maintain and encourage links with sociologists throughout the world
- publish journals, books and other materials
- generate income from activities related to the work of the BSA
- establish and maintain suitable systems of management for the BSA
- act as responsible employers, with appropriate concern for the health and welfare of its employees

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President’s Report

The year has been a busy one, marking our 60th anniversary as an Association. In addition, we have been dealing with the funding cuts, responding to HE consultations and continuing with all the regular round of activities that define the year’s work, such as organizing

Presidential Events, participating in the Annual Conference, making nominations to learned bodies, as well as representing the BSA at meetings. Personally, the special edition, on our anniversary, for Sociological Research Online, that I co-ordinated with Jennifer Plat, was a joy to compile, particularly so in the recognition it gave to two major sociologists vital to the Association during its history and who passed away during the year, Roy Porter and John Scott.

I need to look further back than the last year however, and the Report is not only an appreciation of the year past, but also a review of what has been happening in the Association over recent years. We need to think of this Report as a collective account of the BSA’s history and the year 2011 marks the half-century mark for the Association. It is the occasion for an assessment of what we have achieved over the last 60 years, and what we might build on in the years to come.

In 1951, the British Sociological Association was created as an association of sociologists, at a time when sociology was a discipline that was perceived as controversial and non-mainstream. Today, the BSA is a well-established and respected organization, with a membership of professionals and students, and a wide-ranging program of events and activities. In this Report, I will provide an overview of the BSA’s activities over the last 60 years, highlighting key milestones and achievements.

Chair’s Report

The year 2011 was key to us. Our publication and membership subscriptions are both at record levels. The Association reached its 60th anniversary last year and we marked the occasion with a programme of celebratory activities including our biggest ever annual conference, a three-part series of Debates on the history of the BSA and sociology in the past 60 years, the British Library Lecture, and the launch of the BSA Distinguished Service to Sociology Award as well as Key Articles in British Sociological Association Special Collection.

Such work was in addition to our norm of events and would not have happened without the remarkable efforts of both members and staff. It is fantastic that our Association has such a strong sense of community and collective spirit.

The BSA is committed to supporting external events, many of which are relevant to a range of social and historical issues, and it is particularly effective at developing our relationship with the CFSS and our External Affairs Group, Campaign for the Public University. We were pleased to connect with the Association for the Teaching of the Social Sciences and to work with them on a new Teaching Group.

In my letter to members accompanying the request for membership renewal this year, I made the point that the times we face make sociology one of the most perspicacious of subjects, and yet the discipline struggles, and in the last few years the Association has experienced some hard times. I also noted that the BSA has a long history of making changes to respond to the discipline and the Association when the times are tough, reaffirming our commitment to our membership and our continued support. This is particularly relevant now as the BSA has lost many of its publications and services due to funding cuts, and we need to think about how we can best support our members and the discipline.

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In 2011 the following awards were conferred:

- **Publications Prizes**
  - Philip Abrams Memorial Prize: Rosie Wicks
  - John D. Blackwell Memorial Prize: Pauline Marshall

- **Audit of the Nominations Office**
  - The British Sociological Association (BSA) holds a rigorous and transparent process for nominating members for its various awards and prizes.

- **Financial Review**
  - The BSA received £37,000 in donations in 2011, which was maintained as designated funds, for BSA publications and events. The Association holds unrestricted reserves of £492,000, sufficient to enable the running of the Association in the current economic climate; cuts in Higher Education funding; and/or Excellence in the Annual Accounts as part of the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Association.

- **Membership**
  - The BSA is the largest sociology association in the UK, providing a range of services to its members. In 2011, the BSA had about 5,000 members. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of members, with 4,000 new members joining in 2011.

- **Conferences and Events**
  - In 2011, the BSA’s main conference was held in Manchester, attracting over 600 delegates. The conference included a range of research interests and intellectual needs, and catering for members at all career stages.

- **Journals**
  - The BSA publishes three journals: *Sociology* (ISSN 0038-0385), *Sociological Theory* (ISSN 1475-8874), and *Cultural Sociology* (ISSN 1475-8874). These journals provide a platform for research in sociology, with a focus on emerging and established sociological themes.

- **Websites & Social Media**
  - The BSA has several websites and social media platforms, including the BSA website, BSA blog, and BSA Facebook page. The BSA continues to support the growth and development of sociological research online.

- **Awards**
  - The BSA’s Philip Abrams Memorial Prize is awarded to outstanding contributions in the field of sociology. The prize is awarded to support research and development in sociology.

- **Risk Management**
  - The BSA recognizes the importance of risk management and has implemented measures to identify and respond to potential risks. The BSA is committed to ensuring the safety and security of its members and staff.

- **Conferences and Events**
  - The BSA’s conference in 2012 was held in Sheffield, attracting over 800 delegates. The conference included a range of research interests and intellectual needs, and catering for members at all career stages.

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