

## **BSA Families and Relationship Study Group Annual Report 2012 to 13**

**Name:** Families and Relationships Study Group

**Established:** active since 1969

**Number of members:** c 248

**Expenditure:** 0.00

**Income:** £522.11 (total, carried over).

**Aims:** The Study Group aims to facilitate interchange between all those interested in the broad area of families, intimacy and personal relationships.

- To provide a forum to bring together the diversity of studies of families, households and relationships of members working across academic disciplines.
- To promote dialogue between those who focus on sociology of families, intimacies and relationship and specialists in gender, sexuality and relationships research, taking in the broad range of possible substantive and theoretical concerns of contemporary sociology and forging new connections.
- To encourage links between senior and junior researchers regionally, nationally and internationally, providing an opportunity for networking and the development of collaborative research across the fields of study.
- To interrogate the key concepts and theoretical frameworks which are deployed in sociological analyses of families and relationships.
- To complement the work of university based research centres by providing a national network and hub for discussion.

**Review of the year:** Membership of the Families and Relationships Study group has risen steadily, with 248 members. The vibrancy and high level of interest in this area is further demonstrated by the number of paper submissions received for the BSA Annual Conference, Families, Relationships, Lifecourse Stream. In 2012 the stream was allocated 2 parallel streams to accommodate this popularity: this will be sustained at 2013 conference with the stream receiving the largest percentage of abstracts. Eva Illouz from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has accepted our invitation to speak at the Stream Plenary event.

A special issue for the journal *Families, Relationships and Societies* is currently in production based on last year's study group conference 'Intersecting Family Lives, Locales and Labours'.

On Friday 1 February 2013, Yvette Taylor and Emma Casey held a one-day conference 'Intimacies, Families and Practices of Consumption' as a combined meeting of the British Sociological Association's Families & Relationships and Leisure and Recreation Study Groups. Participants interpreted the call for papers widely, as 'intimacies', 'families' and 'consumption' were discussed and debated. A special 'Open' section in *Families, Relationship & Societies*, edited by Emma and Yvette, will be published and Palgrave have expressed an interest in publishing an edited collection from proceedings. Over 100 tweets were sent during the event and RT by @britsoc etc.

A further event, Mothering and the New Politics of Parenting is being planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> of May this year. Glenda Wall from Wilfred Laurier University, Canada will be giving a keynote.

As convenors we ensure that the email list continues to provide a dynamic channel of communication, enabling members to hear about up and coming events, job vacancies, studentships and fellowships, and new books published in this field. The membership of this group, as measured by the email list, has expanded this year and the Study Group continues to go from strength to strength.

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