

WORK EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC LIFE STREAM 2012 – 2013

1. Established: established in 2003 by Tracey Warren and Tim Strangleman and Colette Fagan, but due to the changing family and job commitments of the convenors, it lapsed. It was re-established in 2010. New convenors since Spring 2012 – Lynne Pettinger, Maria Karepova and Ben Fincham

2. Current Membership Figure: 134 members are subscribed to the jiscmail mailing list

3. SG Expenditure: £0 **SG Income:** £0

4. Aim/s of SG:

The aims of the WEEL group are to:

- Exchange and develop ideas by attracting new and existing BSA members to the WEEL group and its activities.
- Encourage collaboration and lend support within a long tradition of British sociologists.
- Encourage research and publication around the sociology of work, employment and economic life.
- To develop a programme of events including building on the strength of the 'Work and Economy' stream at the annual BSA conferences; a series of themed seminars/ workshops; and a postgraduate forum.
- Act as a valuable to the activities of the key BSA journal Work, Employment and Society.
- To develop links with other BSA study groups and non sociologists interested in the fields of work and employment.

5. Review of Year and Key activities

There was a change of convenors of the WEEL Group from Spring 2012 who are settling into running the Group's matters. The new convenors had their first meeting in Summer 2012 where the course of action for the group and a number of possibilities for events in 2013 were discussed. The call for events was circulated through the JISC list.

Since the meeting of convenors we we have been working on promoting the group including establishing a Facebook WEEL Group which currently has 38 subscribers. JISC mail subscribers numbers have gone up significantly – from 68 (in 2011) to 134 (the end of calendar year 2012).

We have reviewed abstracts for the 2013 Conference were reviewed and programme compiled in November 2012. This year WEEL stream has received 48 abstracts, 42 were accepted.

The BSA Conference panel for this coming 2013 Conference will be entitled 'Youth in Crisis' and will focus on the issues of youth (un)(der)employment. Confirmed speakers include:

Dr Melanie Simms (University of Warwick),
Ms Charlotte Hill (CEO of UK Youth charity),
Professor Patrick Ainley (Greenwich University)
Dr Marin Allen (NUT activist)

A number of our WEEL members have published books, articles and held various events. The most recent ones are the following:

Dr Melanie Simms has a new book out with Dr Jane Holgate (Leeds) and Prof Ed Heery (Cardiff). Launch took place at the Trades Union Congress on 22nd January and had 115 practitioners and academics attending.

Professor Tim Strangleman has been involved in the making of a documentary film Watermark which tells the story of a former paper mill in Dover Kent and especially what happened to the workers. Watermark is a powerful and moving study of working class workplace culture.

6. Concluding Remarks:

There will be a Group progress meeting During the BSA Conference 3-5 April 2013 where the course for the next few years will be decided. We also aim to generate a number of group activities for the coming year 2013-2014.

7. Convenor/s Name/s:

Dr Maria Karepova (University of East London)
Dr Ben Fincham (University of Sussex)
Dr Lynne Pettinger (University of Essex)

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<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/study-groups/work,-employment-economic-life.aspx>

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