

BSA Youth Study Group Annual Report 2015

The BSA Youth Study Group continues to build networks among sociologists from varied backgrounds and perspectives with an interest in youth research. Our goal is to facilitate spaces and opportunities for dialogue within the sociology of youth as well as the wider youth studies community. The Study Group mailing list remains active with 489 registered users and we have a growing Twitter community with 458 followers. A central activity for the Study Group this year is to continue to develop the Twitter feed as a key source of news and information for youth researchers.

The Youth Study Group organised a Stream Plenary at the 2015 BSA Annual Conference, as part of the Lifecourse Stream. Professor Kenneth Roberts, University of Liverpool, presented a paper entitled 'Youth in Transition: Progression or Regression?', in keeping with the Conference theme of 'Society in Transition: Progression or Regression?'. Professor Roberts explored the changing contexts for young people over the latter part of the 20th Century and considered the prospects for contemporary youth, including a view of political futures. Professor Gary Pollock from Manchester Metropolitan University acted as Discussant, with Dr Helene Snee, Study Group co-convenor as Chair.

Members of the Youth Study Group continue to be well-represented within Youth Studies and the wider sociological community, including:

- acting as peer reviewers for the international *Journal of Youth Studies*;
- presenting papers at the Journal of Youth Studies Conference in Copenhagen, April 2015 and in the 'Youth and Generations' network at the European Sociological Association Conference in Prague, August 2015 ; and
- editing a forthcoming special issue of the journal *Young* entitled 'Reconstituting Race in Youth Studies' (co-convenor Sumi Hollingworth with Bethan Harries and Malcolm James), which was specifically aimed at recruiting early career researchers.

The Study Group have plans for a number of activities over the course of 2016. On 28th April, the Group is holding a Research Student and Early Career Researcher Development workshop. The purpose of the day is to provide a platform for researchers to present their work in a supportive, constructive and intellectually stimulating environment, supported by advice and guidance offered by established scholars in the fields of Sociology of Youth. The day will also help junior colleagues to develop their research networks, and such opportunities remain a key priority for the Youth Study Group. Additional plans include an event in collaboration with the inter-disciplinary Manchester Centre for Youth Studies on 'Youth, race and ethnicity: identities and inequalities in a "post-race" world', as well as one at Durham University in collaboration with the Youth research group that focusses on issues of young people in Europe, social policy and welfare.