

OPEN STREAM

As well as the usual 'open-response' mode, where you are welcome to submit abstracts on any area of sociology that you might currently be working on, the Open stream at next year's conference will be organising a number of themed sessions. You are requested to submit abstracts as usual to the BSA office for both the open response mode and themed sessions. For open response submissions, please mark your abstract 'Open'; for the themed sessions, please mark your abstract 'Open: Food' or 'Open: Historical Sociology' etc.

Offers of papers/workshops and sociological reflections are welcome.

For details on how to submit your abstract, see:
<http://www.britisoc.co.uk/events/conference/abs.htm>.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **15 October 2010**.

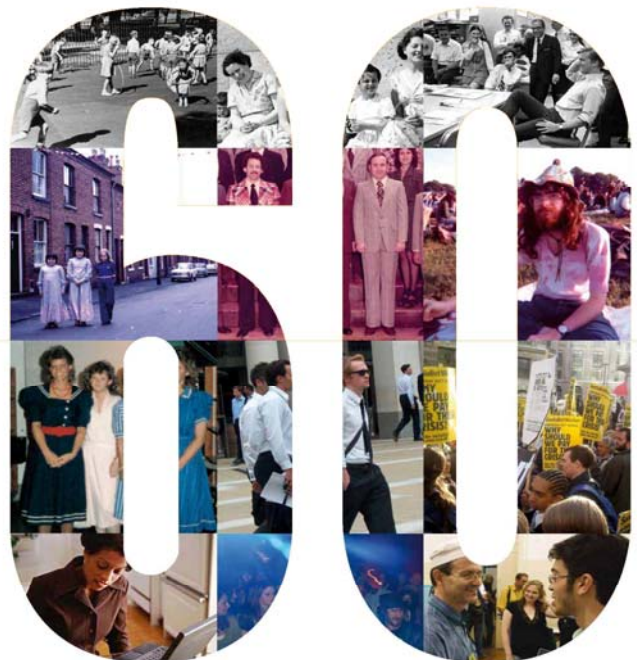
The themed sessions are:

- [Animals](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Global Historical Sociology](#)
- [Happiness](#)

For general information about the Open Stream, please contact Rosaline Barbour (details below). For information regarding the themed sessions, please contact the Session Convenor - details of which can be found at the bottom left of each session call for papers.

For further stream information:

Rosaline Barbour, University of Dundee
Email: r.barbour@dundee.ac.uk



YEARS OF SOCIOLOGY

OPEN STREAM

Animals

The BSA **Animal/Human Studies Group** invites submissions to its session at the BSA 60th Anniversary Conference.

Submissions to the **Open: Animals** stream can address any issue within the general area of human-animal relations. However, we would especially encourage papers which explore the following themes:

‘Animalising Sociology’: future directions, issues and challenges

- What might it mean to ‘animalise sociology’?
- What are the main theoretical and methodological challenges currently facing those who study animals from a sociological perspective? How might such challenges begin to be addressed?
- What is distinctive about sociologists’ contributions to human-animal-related research?
- How might findings from human-animal studies inform and/or transform mainstream assumptions and debates?
- How might findings from mainstream sociological sub-fields inform and/or transform the field of human-animal studies?
- What empirical, theoretical and methodological issues are currently missing from the human-animal research agenda?
- Examples of cross-cultural research into human-animal related issues?

Session Convenor:

Rhoda Wilkie, University of Aberdeen

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YEARS OF SOCIOLOGY

OPEN STREAM

Climate Change

The newly formed BSA climate change study group invites submissions to its session at the BSA 60th Anniversary Conference. Submissions to the open 'climate change' stream can address any aspect of this topic broadly defined. In addition we would like to invite contributions that explore new ideas, present recent research or promote debate on the following themes:

Theories of change: scale, pace, and place

Climate change is likely to require and engender social change in institutions, forms of governance and ways of life, and is likely to do so at different rates and scales. One challenge is to mobilise sociological theories and understandings of change and use these to explore the practical, cultural and political implications of "Living with environmental change". For example, do questions of adaptation (as distinct from those that focus on methods of mitigating or preventing climate change present new problems for sociology? How can sociological research on time and space be applied to these questions? What does it mean to live with climate change in different places? – whether these are defined geographically or in more abstract terms including those of social position – age, class, gender etc.

Concepts of multi-level governance aim to describe and characterise responses to climate change across a range of scales, for example ranging from activist groups and local 'community' initiatives through to concepts of institutional change in risk society, and at a global level. We would welcome sociological contributions that explore links and connections within and between such 'levels'.

Social movements and social inertia

Civil society engagement with climate change seems to have mushroomed in recent years in tandem with the increased political and media attention paid to the topic. Last year saw one of the largest popular mobilizations around climate change in history with the mass demonstration in Copenhagen at the COP-15. Do such demonstrations present new or different challenges to an already established sociological literature on public engagement and social movements? What other questions should be addressed about disengagement and social inertia?

Climate Change cont....

Climate change, equity and justice

How do policy initiatives that seek to mitigate the effects of climate change reproduce or challenge local and global dimensions of social justice. This theme provides an opportunity to address fundamental issues of power, justice and inequity to consider the ways in which these structure access to the very resources that sustain human and non-human life.

Much of the debate about climate change is framed in technological or economic terms, but sociologists have more to say about the characteristics of the future societies implied or imagined in these debates. There is scope here to address, expose and debate the forms of well being and social division inscribed in climate change policies and in related plans and discourses.

Climate Change, Consumption and the Everyday

We welcome papers that explore the consequences and implications of climate change and wider questions of environmental degradation in relation to the routines and practices of “ordinary” consumers in different societies. What are the environmental costs of what people take to be normal and acceptable standards of living and what does the maintenance of such standards entail in terms of the ‘demand’ for food, clothing, heating, cooling, leisure, mobility etc. In relation to this topic, central questions have to do with the ways in which such ‘standards’ are defined and how they travel between social groups and around the world, and about the interdependence of consumption and production.

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words. All submitted abstracts will be reviewed equally after the abstract deadline of 15th October 2010 and all successful submissions will require presentation by a registered delegate. Please submit your abstract under the preferred stream of Open: climate change on the online submission system. Priority will be given to abstracts which make theoretical or empirical contributions to this topic.

Session Convenor:

Elizabeth Shove, University of Lancaster

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OPEN STREAM

Food

The BSA **Food Study Group** invites submissions to its session at the BSA 60th Anniversary Conference.

Submissions to the **Open: Food** stream can be on any topic that you are interested in within the broad area of 'food'. However, we would particularly like to attract submissions which address the following themes:
The British Sociological Association

"Food cultures": reflexive meanings and meaningful reflection. "Food culture(s)" is a term used by academics, practitioners and policy makers in social, food and health sectors to denote a variety of ways of thinking and speaking about food practices, tastes, knowledges and aspirations. Its 'umbrella' nature encompasses both description and explanation of meanings (whether attributed, unconscious or reflexive) and behaviours, and can be taken further to include food production and governance, and their influences. This **themed** session will enable exploration of contemporary usages and understandings both from within academia and contemporary policy making in the UK and elsewhere.

Climate change and the food system: The relationship between food production and climate change is increasingly coming under the spotlight. Modern food production techniques are making major contributions to CO2 emissions. A debate is beginning to emerge about the future of agriculture and food production. Authors such as Lang and Heasman (2004) see the future going in two separate directions, an ecological direction or a high tech direction (personalised foods, GM etc). What role does sociology and social science more generally have for making sense of all this? This themed session will explore some of the issues that sociologists are, or should be, engaging in.

"Children's food": A wealth of recent sociological research has explored children's food practices within families and institutions, such as schools. But neither families nor institutions exist in isolation from each other or from wider socio-cultural contexts. How do public and private discourses intersect in relation to "children's food"? Are children consistent in their eating practices across contexts? How and when does peer influence operate? In which ways are children's food practices and preferences shaped by, and how do they shape, cultures around food and meals in different environments? How best might researchers capture these practices and negotiations? This themed session sets out to explore theoretical, methodological and substantive topics which illuminate these issues.

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed equally after the abstract deadline of **15th October 2010** and all successful submissions will require presentation by a registered delegate. **Please submit your abstract under the preferred stream of Open: Food on the online submission system. Priority will be given to abstracts which make theoretical or empirical contributions to the sociology of food.**

Session Convenor:

Wendy J Wills, University of Hertfordshire
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OPEN STREAM

Global Historical Sociology

Over the past decade or so, historical sociology has slipped off the radar of many debates in British sociology. At the same time, the approach has played an increasingly vigorous role in debates in International Relations and Postcolonial Studies which focus on the formation and reconfiguration of a globalised social world. As part of this burgeoning field of enquiry, recent developments seek to rearticulate historical sociology as 'international historical sociology'; that is, as an understanding premised on the ways in which simultaneous differentiation and interactivity between social orders serves to drive historical development itself. This understanding not only problematises the 'timeless mystique' of many approaches in International Relations, it also calls into question linear models of development often prevalent in sociology. As such, it crosses over well to debates in Postcolonial Studies which look at the constitutive role of 'connected histories' and 'de-colonised' modes of praxis. This call seeks papers which explore the theoretical and empirical 'value added' of international historical sociology to students and scholars of sociology, postcolonial studies and IR. Our intention is to host a number of panel sessions at the 60th anniversary conference of the British Sociological Association, to be held at LSE in April 2011.

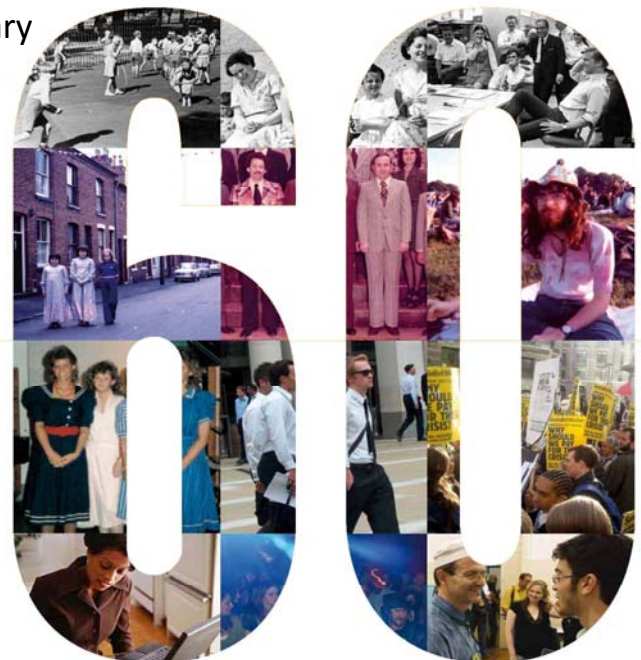
Session Convenors:

Gurminder K Bhambra, University of Warwick

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George Lawson, London School of Economics

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YEARS OF SOCIOLOGY

OPEN STREAM

Happiness

The BSA Happiness Study Group invites submissions to its sessions at the BSA Annual Conference in April 2011.

Submissions of abstracts on a **range of topics** relating to the sociology of happiness and well-being will be considered. However, they may wish to address the following themes (though this should only be used as a guide):

- The social and cultural construction of happiness and well-being
- Measurement of happiness and well-being
- Migration and happiness
- Happiness, therapy culture and cultures of narcissism
- The relation between happiness and health and illness
- Happiness, well-being and employment
- The sociology of emotions
- Happiness, subjectivity and selfhood
- Psychosocial approaches to happiness

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed after the final deadline for abstracts on the **15th October 2010**. All successful submissions must be presented by a registered delegate. Please submit your abstract under the **Open: Happiness** stream on the online submission system. Priority will be given to abstracts which make theoretical or empirical contributions to happiness and well-being.

Session Convenor:

Laura Hyman, University of Surrey
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YEARS OF SOCIOLOGY