

BSA Cities and Mobilities Study Group

Annual Report for Year 2016

1. Established:

[Unknown]

2. Membership Figure (2015): In the region of 200 (based on jiscmail subscriptions; numbers of BSA members/associate members unknown)

3. SG Expenditure: £0

SG Income: £95

4. Aims of Study Group:

The study group takes a broad approach to cities (encompassing urbanism, and visions and experiences of urban life) and mobilities (of people, capital and things). The urban is both fundamental to the functioning of the global political economy and to local everyday lives and practices. Questions of who gets to move and who gets to stay resonate on global and local scales. Cities and mobilities are then central to ongoing and negotiated inequalities, resistance, technologies and everyday life and conviviality.

This study group seeks to act as a forum to explore such issues and to support discussions that might – amongst many other questions – address the following:

- How we might expand our imagining of the urban and, in turn, how might this help us to develop the way we approach urban research?
- How can we use 'the urban' and 'mobilities' as critical lenses for engaging with other concepts such as race, gender, class, sexuality, disabilities?
- How can we get cities and mobilities research to speak to broader publics including policy makers and activists?

Given the broad and multifaceted nature of 'Cities and Mobilities', this group actively supports the following activities:

- Inter-disciplinary discussions beyond sociology
- Critical urban discussions and debates with broader publics
- The involvement and encouragement of postgraduate and ECR scholars in the study group.
- Innovative methods and research

5. Review of Year:

The study group's major project this year was the transition to new convenors and a re-launch of the group. Emma Jackson and Kirsteen Paton took over from Robin Smith as co-convenors of the SG in May 2016. The main aim this year was to manage the transition and broaden the scope and membership of the group's activities. We did so in a variety of ways. We used social media to re-launch the group and gain feedback from current and potential members about what they would like from the group. We created a Twitter account (with x followers) and set up a website

<https://bsacitiesandmobilities.wordpress.com/>

We held our first event Urban Methods on the Move (Goldsmiths, 16th September 2016). The event title reflects the feedback we received and our ambition to reconnect with, and further develop, an innovative, radical and creative tradition in urban research and included a mix of PGs, ECRs and senior academics. This event was attended by 27 delegates. Links, resources and information from the presentations on the event can be found on the website.

6. Membership

Membership of the SG is ad hoc, with no formal list maintained by the convenors' no fee charged; 225 people are signed up to group's jiscmail.

7. Forthcoming:

We are in the process of planning for the Cities and Mobilities Stream at the BSA in Manchester, 2017. We received 101 abstract submissions, the 2nd largest number of abstracts for any SG (10% of the total received). 74 abstracts were accepted. Not only does this create a strong core Cities and Mobilities strand at the annual meeting, the range of papers speak to a diverse interpretation of the 'urban' which contributes to the growth and innovation of the group's aims and scope. We plan to link the BSA conference activities with event and discussion which link with the wider city – Manchester.

We are currently in the early stages of planning a day event, to be held in Liverpool, later in 2017.

8. Convenors and Contacts:

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