

## **BSA Convenors' Report – Digital Sociology Study Group**

At the BSA's conference last year we organised the STS stream plenary. The conference heard from experts in the field of Digital Sociology including Professor Will Housley, Professor Susan Halford, Dr Rebecca Eynon, and a leading Computer Scientist – Professor Les Carr – about the challenges and opportunities that interdisciplinary research presents.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 we organised an all-day seminar hosted by the University of Oxford – which contributed over five hundred pounds to our costs – that explored the tensions between Digital Sociology and STS (with a view to future collaborations and conferences). This was a joint STS and DS group event. There were 25 attendees from across the country representing a range of disciplines and career stages. The guest speakers were Professor Will Housley, Professor Susan Halford, Dr Mark Carrigan, Dr Kate-Orton Johnson, Dr Karen Gregory and Dr Des Fitzgerald.

On the 9th January 2017, we organised a workshop titled “NodeXL for social scientists” at Leeds Beckett University, this was convened by Wasim Ahmed who is a PhD researcher at Information School and a Research Associate at the Management School at The University of Sheffield and also a social media analysis consultant. This workshop introduced participants to the NodeXL software demonstrating what it was capable of achieving through analysing Twitter data. There was a particular focus on what this software could achieve for social scientific enquiry. Temporary licences were paid for using the registration fee so participants were given the opportunity to get hands-on experience with the software.

There were 35 attendees to the workshop with all places taken. Many participants were sociologists but a significant number were from other disciplines and professions including natural sciences, sport and management.

We are building our presence on social media – we have over five and half thousand followers on Twitter and we continue to develop our Wordpress blog. We are running another workshop in April on using free tools for social media data capture and analysis that is already sold out.

We look forward to putting on two more events before in the next few months (details tbc).