

Diaspora, Migration and Transnationalism Study Group

Annual Report

Aims of the study group

Sociology of migration, studies of diasporic groups and their transnational activities have received significant scholarly attention in the last twenty years. This area is a fully-fledged field within sociology and our aim is to establish an intellectual home for the study of migration from a sociological perspective.

The Group aims to cover all aspects of migration research, including empirical and theoretical work. It will promote work which not only focuses on recent flows of people across spaces, but also foreground historical perspectives, and issues of identity, culture and the politics of migration. It will cover and contribute to studies of diaspora and transnationalism.

We aim to advance theoretical and methodological work, promote comparative studies, enhance critical, historical and political understandings of migration and diasporas. In so doing, we will provide a UK platform through which scholars can engage in debate and exchange of ideas

Membership of the Study Group

Total number of members: 396

Past and future activities:

Our study group was founded in October 2014.

2015 events

- One day symposium. 'Diaspora, Migration, Transnationalism Study Group - Working on the Edge of Society: Migrants in Illegal, Precarious or Exploitative Work'. 2 November 2015, University of Sheffield, UK
Speakers: Prof Bridget Anderson (Oxford), Prof Nicola Phillips (Sheffield), Dr Hannah Lewis (then Leeds, now Sheffield), Dr Louise Waite (Leeds), Dr Nando Sigona (Birmingham), Prof Sonia McKay (UWE), Dr Genevieve Le Baron (Sheffield).
- Diaspora Conference, University of Leicester. PSA Conference on Diasporas, 7-9 September 2015 at the University of Leicester. The event was supported and partly sponsored by the BSA DMT Study Group and the Leicester Migration Network.

2016 events

- BSA Annual Conference, Birmingham, April 2016. Our study group, together with the BSA Race and Ethnicity Study Group ran the 'Race, Ethnicity and Migration' Stream at the BSA Annual Conference. We were very impressed by the quality and diversity of the submissions and the amount submitted. We had the largest stream at the 2016 conference.

Our study group, together with the BSA Race and Ethnicity Study group, also ran a stream plenary at the BSA 2016 conference.

Title of the REM stream plenary: "Unwanted" populations at Europe's borders: Sociological Analyses and Responses'

Professor Bridget Anderson: ' "Help them, rescue them, and take care of them, but don't let them land here": 'slavery' and the Mediterranean crisis'

Dr Nando Sigona: 'The dead sea and the contested politics of mourning in the Mediterranean'

- DMT also co-funded an interdisciplinary event in association with the Kings College London on **28 and 29 October 2016**. This interdisciplinary workshop on the Geopolitics of Encounter was entitled 'Questioning the temporalities and cartographies of migration'.

Future events

- We are planning to organise an interdisciplinary Brexit and migration conference in 2018.
- We are planning to continue to support small migration and diaspora themed activities in the UK.