

Leisure & Recreation Study Group Annual Report

The Study Group has been dormant over the last two to three years due to unforeseen personal circumstances. The Study Group plans - including a proposed sub-plenary at the BSA Annual Conference - was again put on hold.

The convenor has liaised with the Leisure Studies Association and at its Annual Conference in July 2016 in Liverpool (where he was a plenary speaker) numerous scholars and researchers welcomed the proposal to reschedule the earlier plans/programme. Work has now been completed the membership/ mailing list of the group, identifying three dozen or so active individuals.

The group is now in a position to circulate a proposed schedule for activities in academic year 2017-2018, during which the Association could also announce the intent to find a successor for the convening role - or a co-convenor with whom the current convenor could work - from academic year 2018-2019 onwards.

The groups has not routinely drawn on BSA funds to support the model of the Study Group's activity, as the predominant model has been single-day workshops held in host institutions or, as is now possible, the BSA's London room. The Study Group has also supported research initiatives in leisure/recreation studies, such as the launch of research groups/centres in universities. But attendance has been at no cost for specific Study Group workshops. For activities such as a sub-plenary at the Annual Conference in 2012, we have received generous funding that was invaluable for key speakers to travel to Leeds. That sub-plenary led to a special issue of the journal *Contemporary Issues in Social Science*, 9/2, June 2014, also published in book form as *The Olympic Legacy: Social Scientific Explorations* (Routledge, 2016, ed; Alan Tomlinson) in the series 'Contemporary Issues in Social Science'. We hope that the renewed activity of the Study Group will generate ideas and debate as ever, but also collaborations and publications as in the stated case.

Academic Year 2017-2018: Projected Study-Group Activities

November 3rd (Friday) 2017: Leisure and the Wellbeing Agenda (London or Brighton)

April 2018 (BSA Annual Conference, Newcastle): Theorizing Leisure: A Contemporary Feminist Critique

June 8th (Friday) 2018: Populism and the Leisure Spectacle (Bath)

The first of these workshops will draw upon the ESRC research programme (2015-2018) Culture, Sport and Wellbeing (Brunel University, University of Brighton, LSE, University of Winchester) and other networks; the second event will be the

third in a series established as a review of leisure theory; and the final one will be hosted by Bath University.

The group are optimistic that this planned schedule will relaunch the Study Group and that it will have a lively future, reinvigorated by new personnel and pursuing vital questions on leisure, recreation and related topics (such as consumption) that remain central to any credible sociological project.

Alan Tomlinson
Convenor