

Deconstructing Donation Study Group

Membership

The Group's mailing list has a total of ninety eight active members. Membership consists of approximately; 17 BSA members; 18 based internationally, with the remaining members based at UK institutions; and 8 members based within NHS settings, with the remaining members based at academic institutions. The members range from doctoral students to senior academics.

Aims

The aims of the group are to foster sociological exploration of the notion of 'donation', and to initiate inter- and multi- disciplinary dialogue between researchers and practitioners in the field of donation.

Previous activities

- **Conference**
A conference took place on 27th June 2016 at Lancaster University. Three guest speakers presented at the conference, including the artist from the Museum of Water discussing the donation to body fluids to art projects and Reverend Cannon Dr Paul Denby discussing the award for organ donation. Thanks to additional funding from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the call for abstracts was extended to incorporate additional themes: cultural influences, transplantation, risk, and quality.
- **Sociology of Health and Illness Special Issue**
Beck Dimond, Lucy Frith and myself applied to the 24th SHI Monograph competition in July 2015. Nine applications were submitted. We were informed that our proposal was unsuccessful. However, since then, we have been in discussions with SHI as our proposal did score highly. We now have confirmation that the editorial team will accept our proposal for a new initiative, whereby within an issue there will be a thematic section made up of a small number of invited papers, dedicated to exploring a specific topic. The themed section of the journal, planned to be published in 2018, will consist of a maximum of 4 papers. Lucy, Beck and I have approached contributors for the papers for the themed section, based on the emails we received when we initially approached the group regarding the SHI Monograph application. We wish to thank Louise Locock et al, Julie Kent et al, and Rhonda Shaw for accepting our invitation. The papers have passed the Editorial checks and been sent out for peer review. The authors are now working on their revisions to the papers.

Future activities

- Conference

At the 2016 conference, delegates discussed the possibility of 'hosting' the Deconstructing Donation Conference at different Universities in order to capture researchers at different locations in the country who might be unable to travel to Lancaster University for various reasons. As a result, Dr Maria Fannin from Bristol University has agreed to host the next conference. The conference is currently planned to take place 7th December 2017. Professor Annelien Bredenoord, Department of Medical Humanities | UMC Utrecht, has agreed to act as the plenary speaker for this conference. The theme of the conference will be the Future of Donation. A call for abstracts is being promoted.

- Steering Committee for Deconstructing Donation Group

In light of the interest the Group is generating from its members, I have approached potential members to see if they wish to form a Steering Committee for the Group itself. The Committee would inform and influence the direction of the Group, including recommending potential plenary speakers, conference themes, and proposing new activities/events. The Steering Committee is likely to come online in 2018, given that the conference for 2017 is already underway. The Committee will be in addition to those organising the conference.

- A special event at BSA MedSoc Conference

An application to BSA Med Soc Conference organising committee is anticipated in 2018 relating to the special issue in Sociology of Health and Illness. It is hoped that the authors of the articles in the special issue will be approached to present a summary of their papers as a panel on the theme proposing a Sociology of Donation.