

BSA Sociology of Alcohol Study Group Annual Report (2018/19)

Name: Sociology of Alcohol Study Group

Established: July 2011

Number of members: Circa 120 study group members based on subscription to study group Jiscmail. We also have 1001 Followers on Twitter,

Income: We started with a study group account balance of £2172.57; we have an event on 'Careers in the Sociology of Alcohol in Academia & Beyond' scheduled for May 2019, so will know remaining balance after this.

Aims:

Key aims of the Sociology of Alcohol Study Group include:

- To support and promote the emergent subject field of sociology of alcohol and related fields
- To support researchers in the sociology of alcohol and related fields
- To support the aims of the BSA

Review of the year:

In 2018/2019 the group focused on one single-day event (see below).

Highlights include:

- In March 2018, Samantha Wilkinson and Clare Markham joined the study group as co-convenors, following the stepping down of Tom Thurnell-Read and Carol Emslie.
- We are in the process of organising one day interdisciplinary conference titled 'Careers in the Sociology of Alcohol in Academia and Beyond' to take place on Friday 24th May 2019 in the London Meeting Room. The event is aimed at early career researchers and postgraduate researchers interested in exploring careers in the Sociology of alcohol in academia and beyond. We have a number of excellent topics and speakers. For example, we have Paul Woodgate from the Wellcome Trust and Deborah Toner, University of Leicester discussing research funding for ECRs. Moreover, we have Betsy Thom (Professor of Health Policy); James Kneale (Senior Lecturer in Geography) and former BSA Alcohol Study group co-convenor Thomas-Thurnell Read discussing academic careers. In addition we have a number of excellent speakers discussing careers beyond academia, and others discussing publishing from the PhD.
- Plans are being developed to offer prizes for the best Undergraduate and Master's dissertations and PhD thesis in the sociology of alcohol.
- Laura Fenton continues to improve the group's use of social media, with the Twitter account, in particular, being useful in promoting group activities (e.g. research activities of group members). The number on followers have grown from over 800 last year, to now over 1000 people. Our tweets promoting the forthcoming conference has received a number of engagements on Twitter, including: likes, comments and retweets.

- Co-convenors Laura Fenton, Samantha Wilkinson and Claire Markham are currently in the process of co-authoring a book chapter on young people's drinking in rural and suburban spaces for submission to be considered in an edited collection on 'Youth, Place and Social Transformation Beyond the Global City' (edited by David Farugia and Signe Ravn) with Policy Press.
- We are in talks surrounding co-organising a conference on sobriety to take place in December 2019.

Concluding remarks:

The Alcohol study group continues to maintain a steady membership, with its social media presence growing. We continue to plan and deliver timely events relevant to the group members' interests. It is pleasing to see that, as in previous years, the coming event will include subsidised places for PhD students and Early Career Researchers; we have also offered a few free places to students.

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