

BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY GROUP

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 12th September 2019, 12:45 – 13:45
Bar Area, Galleria Restaurant, Roger Kirk Centre, University of York

Forty three members of the BSA Medical Sociology Group attended the meeting. It was chaired by co-convenors Flis Henwood and Jen Remnant. Elaine Forester was responsible for minute taking.

1. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13th September 2018 and available to view on pages 65 to 67 in the conference programme, were agreed to be accurate and correct.

2. MedSoc Committee Nominations

There are 3 committee members leaving at the end of September. The committee would like to thank Flis Henwood, Yesmean Khalil and Sasha Scambler for all of their hard work and commitment to the group.

We now have 3 committee vacancies available: 1 Postgraduate Researcher (PGRS) member vacancy and 2 ordinary committee member vacancies.

Catherine (Katie) Coveney has been confirmed as the new co-convenor

The committee vacancies were advertised via JISCMail as agreed, however as only one nomination was received via the newly proposed system it was decided to revert back to the old way of receiving nominations from those attending the conference. As no mini biographies were available for those attending the AGM to read, all who had submitted a nomination while attending the conference were asked to stand at the AGM and introduce themselves to the meeting. Voting was then actioned by handing out voting slips to all of the AGM attendees who were current members of the BSA. The results for the vote will be posted in the conference notice board on the morning of the last day of the conference.

3. Regional / Special Interest Groups

All 15 groups who fall under the umbrella of the main Medical Sociology Group have been contacted to inform them of the organisational structure and reporting. All annual reports are now sent directly to the co-convenors of the committee before sending onto the BSA main office.

4. Convenor's Report - This report was delivered by Jen Remnant.

The 51st Anniversary Medical Sociology Conference received 286 abstracts, compared with 433 in 2018, with 160 oral presentation accepted into the programme, and 154 presenting after speaker withdrawals, with 206 presentations at the conference in total including posters, Pecha Kucha's and Special Events. (9 special events including the committee events) In summary the conference this year is the lowest number of abstract submissions and attendees since 2016. The anonymised scoring of abstracts will continue for the 2020 conference as all of those involved with the conference programme do feel this system of abstract reviewing works extremely well. The committee maintained the 24 funded places again for the 2019 conference, with 20 applications received, 3 rejected as did not meet the criteria, 9 were allocated to students and 8 to unwaged or outside academia delegates. The committee will continue to utilise funds to support members of the group to attend the conference whenever possible. In total 38 funded places have been allocated this year to committee members, BSA Staff and invited speakers up from the 27 in 2018. There continues to be a healthy international interest in the conference with 15% of delegates attending in 2019 from overseas. The MedSoc committee would like to thank Wellcome for becoming the main conference sponsor for this year's conference. A conference App has been developed which has partly replaced the printed conference programme, feedback will be requested in the survey which will be circulate after the conference.

5. Conference Innovations / Highlights

Following the success of the new timing of the Early Career Researcher Day in 2018 the ECR programme for 2019 again ran parallel to the first day of the main conference allowing those who had registered for the both the conference and the ECR day to alternate their attendance. As this has proven to be a well-attended event these new timings will continue for future conferences.

The opening plenary was delivered by Dr Amy Chandler and the closing plenary delivered by Professor Ruha Benjamin. This year the committee have experimented with a new approach inviting one speaker who is still relatively early career and one more established. This combination will be reviewed by the committee at the next meeting and through the survey at the end of the conference.

Nine Special events are included this year, 6 accepted through the submission process, 2 Committee events on Populism and Heath and a SHI workshop for Reviewers plus the Annual 'Cost of living blog'.

6. Report from the 'Medicine, Health and Illness Stream' at the BSA Annual Conference April 2019 from Ewen Speed

36 papers were submitted to the stream (a decrease from the 64 in 2018 and down again from the 88 in 2017). 22 were offered oral presentations, 1 roundtable and 1 poster. 0 abstract were reserve listed and none rejected, with 7 abstracts withdrawn before the conference. The committee would like to thank Ellen Stewart, University of Edinburgh for delivering the Stream Plenary titled 'Placing the Public in Medical Sociology' at Glasgow Caledonian University. The Stream Plenary speakers for the 2020 conference at Aston University, Birmingham are Alasdair Stewart, Jennifer McNeill and Joanne Brown. The Plenary will be held on Thursday 23rd April at 17:00. Please submit your abstract by Friday 11th October 2019.

7. Committee Challenges

There were two major challenges at this year's BSA Annual Conference relating to volunteers both for chairing of sessions and mentoring. The committee would like to encourage delegates who also attend this conference to volunteer if possible to help the Medicine, Health and Illness stream.

The committee are working hard to improve the communication between them and the Special Interest and Regional Groups and are planning to initiate a regional focus at the next annual conference.

8. Request to publish

Cambridge Scholars have contacted the committee to offer the possibility of an edited collection of papers from the conference. If anyone is interested please contact them directly.

9. Financial Report – Kerry Collins, BSA Company Secretary presented the financial report

Based on the current forecast figures for this year's conference at the University of York, it is anticipated that a small surplus of just under £4,000 will be generated.

Abstract submission were significantly lower this year at 286 compared to 433 in 2018. Demand to attend the conference in line with the above were also down on 2018. This reflects a trend in delegate numbers at other BSA events for 2019, possibly due to the ESA conference being held in the UK this year.

The registration fees increased slightly in line with the Consumer Price Index so BSA Members who attended the full conference paid £310 and non-member £440.

At the end of the financial year (31st December 2018) the BSA audited accounts show a credit balance on the MedSoc account of £99,190 and for the end of the financial year (31st December 2019) as small decrease to £92,740 and a forecasted balance for 2019 of £93,270.

10. SHI Editorial Board Nominations

There is one vacancy this year with 6 nominations received and all applicants' details have been circulated via listserv. Voting closes at 17:00 on Thursday 12th September and the winners will be announced to the conference notice board on the last day of the conference.

11. Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness – Editors Report delivered by Flis Henwood

- i) There has been an increase in the number of papers submitted from 395 from the 1st September 2017 to 31st August 2018 to 409 in the same period 2018-2019. The acceptance rate has also risen to 26.6% from 20.5% in the previous year.
- ii) The Impact Factor is also up from 2.122 to 2.211
- iii) A new e-proofing platform has been introduced to speed up the production processing time
- iv) Now have clear definitions of 'article types' on the website. Original article: review article and research note
- v) Virtual Special Issues for the 40th Anniversary of SHI
This year, SHI is celebrating its 40th anniversary. As part of our celebrations, they asked past winners of the 'New Writers Prize' to select their favourite papers from the years 1979-1991, before the writer's prize was introduced. It will also be free to access each prize winning paper from 1991-2018.

SHI would like to thank all of the referees – their help is very much appreciated

12. Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness – Chairs Report delivered by Jon Gabe

Contract for Editorial Services with Sussex: The Contract with Cardiff University for the provision of Editorial Services for Sociology of Health and Illness ceased at the end of September 2018. The contract is now with Sussex and Brighton Universities

Contract for Editorial Services with Sussex and Brighton Universities: The Contract to provide Editorial Services for Sociology of Health and Illness with Sussex and Brighton Universities has now been finalised. The new team started its first term of three years in October 2018. The first payment was made in July 2019.

Foundation Awards:

The following awards were made during 2018-2019. For full details see the attached Appendix.

(a) Post Graduate International Conference Travel Grants.

During the year **17** applications for these awards were received by the Foundation, as against 26 applications during the previous year. **7** awards were made against 13 in 2017-18.

(b) Mildred Blaxter Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

These were advertised twice during the financial year. There were **15** applications across the two rounds and **two** were awarded, one in the first round and one in the second. One was awarded to Eleanor Johnson, University of Bristol the other to Anna Dowrick of QMUL.

(c) Symposia & Workshops Support Awards.

There were **11** applications for these awards during the year (against 13 in 2017-18), and **6** were supported by the Foundation.

(d) Research Grant Development Awards.

There were **two** applications over two rounds (there were 8 in 2017-18 and 3 awards made). **No** awards were made in 2018-2019.

Proposed schedule of awards to be made in 2019-20: As well as supporting the continuing work of the new editorial team at Sussex and Brighton, the Trustees intend to advertise and fund three Mildred Blaxter Fellowships, up to 16 Post-Graduate travel awards (with the maximum value of £800), up to six Symposia/Workshops, and up to four Research Grant Development Awards. Details of how to apply for the awards and closing dates for applications are provided on the Foundation's website.

Risk Register

This was last updated in September 2017 with three changes: 1) Failure to appoint a new Editorial Team. Likelihood changed from 'low' to 'medium'. Action changed from 'asking' the editorial board to begin search 18 months in advance to 'Ensuring' that the Editorial Board begins a search 18 months in advance. 2) Inadequate reserves and/or cash flow changed from 'medium' to 'low'. 3) Uncertainty about annual royalty changed from 'high' to 'medium'.

13. Cost of Living Blog

This is the 7th year for the BLOG and in the past 12 months the site has had 22,000 page views, from approx. 24,000 viewers in the previous year. The most popular post was one by Khadj Rouf and Danny Taggart on 'Is There Justice for Trauma Survivors'.

The current page rank on Google is 5. The site had visitors from across the world with 50% from the UK 20% from the USA and 30% from Europe. There remain 10 members of the editorial collective. The managing co-editors are Simon Carter and Ewen Speed with Editors Hannah Bradby, Charlie Davison, Judy Green, Lesley Henderson, Jen Remnant, Sasha Scambler, Christopher Till and Carl Walker.

They are always happy to accept guest contributions.

14. Phil Strong Memorial Prize

The 2019 prize received 3 nominations however only 1 fulfilled the criteria so this year will be award to Lijiazi Cheng from the University of Sheffield.

9. Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness Book Prize 2019

16 books were nominated this year with the four short listed books from Rebecca Dimond and Neil Stephens, *legalising Mitochondrial Donation: Enacting Ethical futures in UK Biomedical Politics*. Katherine Mason, *Infectious Change: Reinventing Chinese Public Health after an Epidemic*. Barbara Prainsack, *Personalized Medicine: Empowered Patients in the 21st Century?* Graham Scambler, *Sociology, Health and the Fractured Society: A critical Realist Account*. The winner will be announced at the Conference Dinner.

11. Any other business

The next Annual General Meeting will be held in the Faraday Lecture Theatre, Lancaster University, during the 52nd Annual Conference on Thursday 10th September 2020.

The minutes of the 2019 AGM will be printed into the programme of the 2020 conference.