



BSA Activism in Sociology Forum

April 2021
Issue2

Activism in Sociology Update

The BSA Activism in Sociology Forum (ASF) was established in 2013. Its purpose is to aid those inside and outside academia working on social justice projects to connect with one another for collective action, and to bring academic-activist practices into conversation.

This newsletter reports on some of the activities ASF members have been involved in over recent months. Submissions to future issues are very welcome.

Keep up with ASF activities via social media, on **Twitter** @bsaactivism, on **Facebook** at 'BSA Activism in Sociology Forum', and on **Jiscmail** at: www.jiscmail.ac.uk/BSA-ACTIVISM-IN-SOCIOLOGY-FORUM or via **email** at activism.bsa@gmail.com .

CONVENOR UPDATE

Tom Vickers and Karim Mitha have stepped down as ASF convenors. Tom was a founding member of ASF and has helped it grow and succeed over the years. Karim's help during his time with us was very productive. We wish them both every success and we hope to work with them again in the future.

We are happy to announce that we have been joined by two new convenors.

Peter Burgess (PhD candidate, King's College London) joined the team in summer 2020. In addition to his BSA ASF role, Peter, a former sociology teacher, is active within the National Education Union (NEU), the Socialist Educational Association (SEA), and a number of activist groups. He would like to see more teachers, scholar-activists, and activist sociologists outside the academy becoming involved in the ASF. Peter can be contacted at peter.burgess@kcl.ac.uk

Dr Alpesh Maisuria, University of the West of England, joined in March 2021. Alpesh's work coalesces: ideology, politics, and social class. Alpesh can be contacted at: Alpesh.maisuria@uwe.ac.u

Peter and Alpesh join the two other co-convenors, Rumana Hashem and Spyros Themelis.

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OPEN LETTER TO UEL VC – STOP RESTRUCTURING AND REDUNDANCIES



In support of University of East London staff and students, the BSA ASF wrote an **Open Letter to Amanda Broderick**, VC of UEL, calling for an immediate halt and a radical rethink of planned restructuring and redundancies. It pointed out that radical cuts to staffing, including the compulsory redundancies of Professors Gargi Bhattacharyya, Molly Andrews, Corinne Squire, and Dr Jill Daniels, threatened the continuing viability of important research departments including the Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging, which has made a significant contribution to research on migrant communities, and the Centre for Narrative Research.

With the support of @saveuel, the UCU, and many colleagues within Sociology and other university departments, the Open Letter attracted almost 200 signatures, including 62 professors. (The full text and list of signatories can be read on the BSA ASF website.) Despite this strength of feeling, the BSA ASF did not receive a reply from Amanda Broderick.

LUNCHTIME MEETINGS

This year, we launched **lunchtime meetings** with our members where we share our news, update our members on our activities and we hear from our members about their own activities, campaigns and important events.

The first lunchtime meeting took place on 24th November and we were joined by ASF members fighting the casualisation attack by UEL management.

An outcome of this meeting was the decision to support staff at UEL by organising the 'Open Letter' to the VC UEL, Amanda Broderick.

If you would like us to invite a group you are working with or to reserve you space for an update, please do get in touch: activism.bsa@gmail.com



ASF-SPONSORED BOOK LAUNCH

ASF sponsored the **book launch** of Critical Reflections on the Language of Neoliberalism in Education: Dangerous Words and Discourses of Possibility (Routledge Studies in Education, Neoliberalism, and Marxism), edited by one of our convenors, Spyros Themelis.

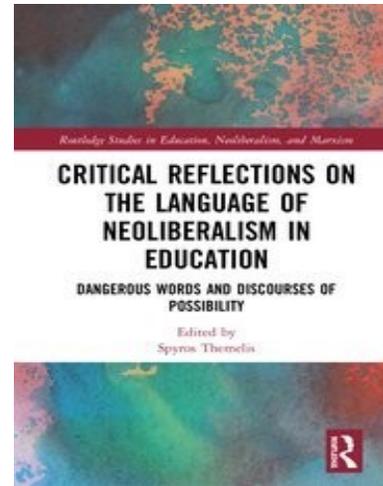
The event was well-attended with over 75 people in attendance.

It took place via **Zoom** on **Friday 23 April via Zoom**

To watch the launch, please follow the links below:

Part 1: <https://we.tl/t-UAzJDceNaw>

Part 2: <https://we.tl/t-ZcWGvvuyH2>



BOOK REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Books Received

Decolonizing Sociology: An Introduction. (Dec 2020). By Ali Meghji.

Peter Burgess is preparing a short review which will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Book Recommendations Wanted

We would like to hear about any new books on sociology and activism, scholar-activism, public sociology etc. If you know of a recently published book relevant to the work of the BSA ASF please let us know so we can check it out and recommend it to members of the Forum.

