

## BSA Media Study Group Annual Report, 2021-22

The *BSA Media Study Group* was developed first as the 'News Media Study Group' in 1999. In 2006 it was rebranded to develop the group's membership base and appeal to those researching media beyond journalism. The group continues to provide one of the only spaces for media sociologists to meet, discuss and share ideas. Indeed, it operates against the context of a steady growth in the sociological interest in the media generally, as is found in individuals' participation in media -related BSA conference streams, panels and past group events.

The group contains a small but reasonably secure membership, (80-ish, based on jiscmail registration figures), who interact through posts on the groups' jiscmail discussion list. Often members will update others on relevant research and information on conferences and publications as well as engage in detailed discussion as part of group events.

An ongoing aim of the BSA Media Group is to provide spaces to introduce and discuss research projects and topics - whatever the stage of their development - for both early career researchers and established academics. This remains the focus in 2022 and onward.

However, unfortunately, the pandemic has impacted on the productivity of the group, this year. As such, group energies are focused now on the rest of 2022 and producing events that will welcome those developing their media sociological ideas and those that speak to the importance of the media within the significant societal shifts and challenges that we're experiencing.

Dr Julian Matthews, Convenor BSA Media Study Group.