

BSA STS Study Group Annual Report 2022-2023

Number of members: Members increased from 158 to 184 in 2022-2023 (based on jiscmail subscriptions; numbers of BSA members/associate members unknown)

Income, expenditure and balance: As of 31st December 2022, the account balance for the Science and Technology study group was £90.03

Aims of the group: The aim of this Study Group is to explore the intersections of sociology and Science and Technology Studies. It aims to promote STS as one of the major sites of conceptual and methodological innovation for sociology, and to maintain a space for STS at the heart for contemporary sociology in the UK.

A summary of activities undertaken in the past year (August 2022-May 2023)

The BSA STS study group kicked off 2023 with a much anticipated and very well-attended professionalisation event entitled 'How to: Publishing a Book in STS' held on 24 January. The event featured a panel of editors who shared their advice and experience with those thinking about publishing a book in STS. The panel were: Dr Amy Hinterberger, of King's College London, a qualitative sociologist who conducts multi-sited research into the governance and practices of biomedical research; Dr Des Fitzgerald, of University College Cork, a sociologist of science and medicine, with particular interests in the psychological and brain sciences; Dr Inanna Hamati-Ataya, of the University of Cambridge, who is the founding director of the Centre for Global Knowledge Studies; Professor Mike Michael, of the University of Exeter, who researches the relation of everyday life to technoscience; biotechnological and biomedical innovation and culture, and the public understanding of and engagement with science; and Dr Alex Wilkie, of Goldsmiths, whose work combines aspects of social research, with experimental design research in studies on energy and the environment, healthcare, and human-computer interaction.

At the BSA Annual Conference in April 2023, the group organised STS and digital studies themed sessions in a joint effort with the Digital Sociology study group. The conference activities included 6 paper panels, a stream plenary, and a study group lunch meeting. Presenters from various countries and at different career stages shared their research and received feedback from the audience during the panel sessions. Presentation topics varied from lay science to technology in healthcare to digital platform use, showcasing the great range of sociological research interests pertaining to science, technology and the digital. In the stream plenary, Mark Carrigan (Manchester), Huw Davies (Edinburgh), Rebecca Enyon (Oxford), Karen Gregory (Edinburgh), and Janja Komljenovic (Lancaster) discussed present challenges and future work in relation to educational technology. The STS study group also brought current and prospective group members together for a lunch meeting on the last day of the conference, opening up space to share thoughts on the group as a sharing community and make suggestions on future activities.

We also maintain an active Jiscmail list, which sees regular postings of STS-related events, jobs and other opportunities.

A summary of activities planned for the coming year (September to August);

The BSA STS study group is currently organising events for the next academic year. One notable one that we are glad to be able to announce already is a workshop titled "Re: Constructs | Exchanges between STS and Sociology" which will take place at the University of Essex on Friday 8 December 2023. The workshop is funded by the Department of Sociology at Essex and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies at the University of Warwick and organised by Tara Mahfoud (Essex), Noortje Marres (Warwick) and Michael Guggenheim (Goldsmiths) and includes talks by Linsey McGoey (Essex) and Anne Pollock (King's College London).

We are also planning an STS seminar series which will take place between October 2023 - June 2024.

We plan to run another successful set of streams at the 2024 BSA conference. We also hope to further build on the study group's relationship to other STS-related networks in the UK including Science in Public and UK-AsSIST (the UK's STS association).

We continue to advertise the conference and the benefits of BSA membership through the mailing list. We will always encourage jiscmail signups to register as BSA members when we circulate study group-related material.

Convenor details

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