

BSA New Materialisms Study Group Annual Report 2022/2023

Name: New Materialisms Study Group

Established: September 2018

Convenors:

- Professor Pam Alldred (Nottingham Trent University);
- Dr Fay Dennis (Goldsmiths, University of London);
- Professor Nick J Fox (University of Huddersfield).

Number of members: 123 (107 in May 2022). We have a Twitter feed (@bsanewmat) with 797 followers.

Finances: Balance at 08/06/23 is £90.11.

Aims

- To supply a forum within the BSA for the discussion of new materialist and posthuman theories and their application to sociological research.
- To host scholarly activities, including seminars and workshops, around new materialist sociology, research methodologies and the development of new materialist social theory.
- To provide a supportive environment and resources for PGR and ECR members of the Association who wish to use these approaches in their research.
- To plan contributions to future BSA annual conferences, regional BSA meetings and free-standing events, and to collaborate and engage with other relevant BSA study groups (e.g. Animal/Human; Disability; Theory).

Review of past year

Online Events

After the success of our 2021 international seminar series in 2021, we ran a second series in early summer 2022.

Seminar 1: (24 May 2022) ***Nonhuman matters/Nonhumans matter: Plants, food systems and the production of health*** Dr Sarah Elton, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada.

Seminar 2:(20 June 2022) ***Teenage girls and the entanglement with online porn: a new feminist materialist perspective*** Professor Deevia Bhana, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Seminar 3: (26 September 2022) ***Whores, hijabs and heart emojis: intersectional explorations of youth's sexualized and racialised online assemblages*** Dr Kim Ringmar Sylwander, Malmo University, Sweden.

In-person event

In September 2022, the group organised an in-person/hybrid symposium, in conjunction with Nottingham Trent University Department of Social Work, Care and Community, entitled: ***How may the material turn theorise individuals in neoliberal contexts?*** This featured three papers by group members:

Paper 1: ***Reconsidering precarity through affect theory.*** Amanda Light, Ulster University.

Paper 2: ***To resist is to invent: rethinking theories of social movements***. Angharad Beckett and Tom Campbell, University of Leeds.

Paper 3: ***Politics of a pandemic: a more-than-human analysis***. Nick J Fox, University of Huddersfield.

BSA conference

The group took responsibility once again for convening the Theory stream at the 2023 BSA Annual Conference. The stream was very buoyant with papers presented in all nine of the paper sessions.

In addition, we organised the Theory stream plenary, with invited speaker Professor Gabrielle Ivinson (Manchester Metropolitan University), who spoke on the topic: '*Rethinking the sociology of horizontal knowledge: Basil Bernstein meets Gilbert Simondon*'.

Future plans

The convenors are currently putting together the 2023 international seminar series. Speakers will be:

Gavin Andrews (McMaster University, Canada);

McKenzie Wark (the new School, New York, USA) (awaiting confirmation);

H Howitt (University of Brighton, UK).

We are also planning a day conference in Spring 2024 for study group members' papers. Theme to be confirmed.

Concluding remarks:

The group is very healthy and active, and we look forward to running our first face-to-face study group conference since 2019 next year.