

Climate Change Study Group Annual Report 2024/25

1. Established: July 2010

2. Current Membership Figure: 347

3. Financial Information

Opening balance	1761.93
Income	0
Expenditure	0
Balance	£1388.30

4. Aims of Study Group:

Sociology plays an increasingly important role in shaping and contributing to public and policy debates about climate change. This study group offers a forum to explore how sociology's unique and interdisciplinary perspectives can be effectively applied to this most pressing global challenge. It is open to all sociologists, regardless of their specialism and career stage.

5. Review of Year (2024-25):

The Climate Change Study group engaged in a diverse range of events aimed at advancing interest in the sociology of climate change, expanding its membership, and further strengthening connections with other BSA study groups; such as Race and Ethnicity, Employment and Economic Life, Emerging themes & Special Events.

1. On 28th June 2024, Pancho Lewis, a convenor of the BSA climate change study group, organised a conference on the "Politics of Emotions in the Net Zero Transition" conference at the University of Manchester. This event was co-organised by the RGS Energy Geographies research group and was attended by around 40 researchers from the UK, Netherlands, and Belgium. Funded by a £2,000 grant from the Methods North-West consortium, the event featured keynote talks by Professor Matthew Paterson and Dr Mel Rohse, who explored themes of rhetoric, populism, and emotional experiences in climate politics. The day included six diverse sessions covering topics such as infrastructure, domestic heating, and green imaginaries, showcasing a wide range of methodologies and disciplines. A highlight was Professor Nick Pidgeon's talk on sustainable futures, followed by a reflective plenary session that encouraged discussion on emotional complexity in climate research. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with all 15 responses rating the event as highly satisfactory.
2. The Study Group hosted seven paper sessions at the BSA Annual Conference, covering a wide range of topics and themes including climate justice, human-

nature connections, sustainability education, youth activism, racism and stewardship, and the global governance of climate. The group also held another excellent stream plenary event, featuring Dr. Katy Wheeler, who delivered an inspiring talk titled “How Young People Imagine their Climate Futures.”

3. The Study Group is planning to enhance its webpages to host interdisciplinary debates and global research frameworks. As part of its digital strategy, the group has deleted its profile on X.com (formerly Twitter) and agreed to share content related to the sociology of climate change via its webpages or through JiscMail. Membership has grown this year, with the group now comprising a total of 347 members.
4. This year, we are recruiting new convenors to represent early career and postgraduate researchers, and to bring in fresh ideas to help shape the future direction and activities of the group. We held a successful study group meeting during the annual conference in April 2025 to discuss these opportunities and future directions.

6. Plans for 2025/26

Events and activities are already planned for 2025/26:

1. The study group will again work to build a strong presence at this year’s (2026) BSA Conference, with an aim to attract even more papers this year. We will host a Stream Plenary planned, with the possibility of inviting a speaker from a Scottish university to highlight work being undertaken in Scotland in our area.
2. The study group will host a workshop for BSA Climate Change members in the winter of 2026. It will ask members, including PGR and ECRs, what activities they would find most helpful for educational, networking, and career development purposes.
3. The group will seek to continue its collaborative work, with a potential event planned to bring the New Materialisms and Climate Change study groups together.

7. Concluding Remarks:

2024/25 was another active year for the study group. Events were well attended and sparked several ideas for future initiatives. The group’s online presence has been revitalised through updated webpages and consistent engagement via JiscMail. At the BSA annual conference, multiple sessions and papers attracted strong delegate participation. Financially, the group remains in a healthy position and continues to build a growing network of supporters and event co-organisers across different the UK and internationally. We were especially inspired by the strong presence of international scholars at the conference sessions and their enthusiasm to join the study group. We hope to develop this area further.

8. Convenor/s Name/s:

Samyia Ambreen, (convenor), Independent Researcher
Pancho Lewis (To be appointed as ESRC Research Fellow, commencing October 2025)

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10. SG weblink: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/study-groups/climate-change-study-group/>