

BSA New Materialisms Study Group Annual Report 2024

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).
- Professor Debbie Watson (University of Bristol).

Number of members: 192 (increased from 152 in May 2024).

Finances: Balance at 31/12/24 was £202.00.

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

In-person Day Conference

The Group ran a one-day conference on 24 March 2024 at Goldsmith's University of London on the theme *Sociology and the New Materialisms*. This was our first face-to-face event since the Sars-Cov-2 pandemic. The keynote speaker was Professor EJ Renold (Cardiff University). This was followed by a programme of nine member presentations, selected from 18 responses to an open call for abstracts. These included early career academics, current PhD students and overseas scholars. There were approximately 30 delegates in attendance.

Online Seminar series

Once again, the group ran a very well-attended international seminar series in 2024 using the BSA's Zoom facility.

Seminar 1 (1 October 2024) 'Understanding sexual violence through new feminist materialism' Dr Raksha Janak (University of Pretoria, South Africa).

Seminar 2 (22 October 2024) 'Limpets lead the way: Questioning traditional ways of learning, relating, and knowing' Helen Garbett (Centre for Island Creativity, University of Highlands and Islands, UK).

Seminar 3 (19 November 2024) 'Animating the material politics of citizenship' Professor Anna Hickey-Moody (Maynooth University, Republic of Ireland)

Future plans

The group ran a very successful day conference in June 2025, and we are now finalising our online seminar series for autumn 2025. It was the Group's turn to convene the Theory stream at BSA Annual Conference 2025. (To be reported in 2025 annual return).

Concluding remarks:

The group is in a very healthy and active state, and we are delighted with the continuing growth in membership.

30 July 2025