

BSA Sociology of Elites Study Group - Annual Report 2025

Members:

- Our JISC mailing list has 200 subscribers.

Convenors details:

1. Sarah Kunz
University of Essex
sarah.kunz@essex.ac.uk
2. Katie Higgins
University of Sheffield
katie.higgins@sheffield.ac.uk
3. Emma Taylor
King's College London
emma.s.taylor@kcl.ac.uk
4. Karen Lillie
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies
karen.lillie@mpifg.de

Aims:

- To build an inclusive, collegial and supportive community for sociologists at all career stages based in the UK who study elites.
- To run a mailing list and communication network to disseminate research ideas, project proposals, information about publications and other resources.
- To develop a programme of events, including member conferences, themed seminars and workshops.
- To provide a forum to stimulate debate and build collaborations in the UK and internationally.

Activities in 2025:

- Held four Research Clinics for Research on Elites, a peer-support initiative co-organised with the Elite Studies Working Group: “Negotiating access and exit” in May; “Anonymisation in elite research” in June; “Sharing research with elite research participants” in October; and “Researching elite schools” in November.

- Held a panel discussion on “Caste and Elite Studies” in December.
- Hosted a plenary stream session on Families and Wealth at the British Sociological Association Conference 2025 and a social event for people interested in the BSA Sociology of Elites study group.
- Led a mentoring programme in May and June with 25 mentees and 14 mentors, jointly with the Elite Studies Working Group.

Plans for 2026:

- Already held an additional two Research Clinics for Research on Elites: “When research publications threaten access to the field” in March and “Innovative and creative methods in elite studies” in April.
- Already hosted a plenary stream entitled “A wealth of insight: What 75 years of studying elites can tell us about social change, inequality and sociology” at the British Sociological Association Conference 2026 and a social event for people interested in the BSA Sociology of Elite group.
- Will lead a mentoring programme in September and October 2026, jointly with the Elite Studies Working Group.

Account balance:

- The account balance for the Sociology of Elites Study Group as of 31 December 2025 was £215.00.