

British Sociological Association Happiness Study Group

Annual Report for 2026

1. Established

2009

2. Current Membership

117 members on the Happiness Study Group JISC mailing list.

3. Accounts

SG Expenditure	£0
SG Income	£0
Closing Balance (as of 31 st December 2025)	£1238.50

4. Aims of Happiness Study Group

The study group exists to promote the sociological study of happiness, where happiness is defined as having subjective aspects (emotions, subjective experiences and cognitive processes) and objective or structural elements rooted in wider relationships in the community, family, economy and other institutions.

5. Key Activities in 2025-2026

At the beginning of the 2025-26 academic the convener of the Happiness Study, Laura Hyman, decided to step down. Two new convenors, Daniel Wheatley and Laura Kudrna, were recruited in October 2025 taking on the role from November 2025.

The Group continues to actively use, and promote use of, the Study Group JISC Mail list.

The Study Group co-organised a series of events from January-June 2026 in partnership with the Work Inclusivity Research Centre (of which Daniel Wheatley is Director) and through Applied Health Sciences at University of Birmingham with which Laura Kudrna is affiliated. This included:

- A seminar on the topic of measuring happiness arranged as part of the University of Birmingham's 125th Anniversary from Professor Paul Dolan, London School of Economics, in February 2026.
- A one-day workshop on digital well-being and AI drawing together contributions from international interdisciplinary academic speakers and industry. The workshop was held in March 2026 and attended by academics from across the social sciences and beyond and generated discussion and debate to inform future collaborations.

6. Concluding Remarks and Looking Forward

The Group is planning a webinar/seminar series for academic year 2026-27 with three confirmed events currently and plans for a further 2-4.

The Group will lead a stream in the forthcoming BSA Annual Conference in April 2027.

7. Convenors and Contacts

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