

BSA STS Study Group Annual Report 2025-2026

Number of members: Members increased from 294 to 326 in 2025-2026 (based on jiscmail subscriptions; numbers of BSA members/associate members unknown)

Income, expenditure and balance: As of August 2026, the account balance for the Science and Technology Studies (STS) study group was £119.03

Aims of the group: The aim of this Study Group is to explore the intersections of sociology and Science and Technology Studies. It aims to promote STS as one of the major sites of conceptual and methodological innovation for sociology, and to maintain a space for STS at the heart for contemporary sociology in the UK.

A summary of activities undertaken in the past year (October 2025 – June 2026)

In October 2025 we hosted an online talk entitled ‘The productive paradoxes of scaling data’ by Dr Saide Mobayed, of the LSE, which showed how the production and circulation of femicide data in Mexico is a site of epistemic and political struggle.

This year, we received a record number of abstract submissions for the STS/Digital Sociology stream at the BSA conference which took place in April 2026 at the University of Manchester. Together with the Digital Sociology study group, we organised 10 sessions on STS-related topics at the event. Submissions continue to show interest in AI and digital platform-related topics. Panel discussions at the conference included concerns related to digital inequalities, care, apps and platformisation as well as the implications of AI in various areas such as research and policy.

The group also organised the sub-plenary for the STS/Digital Sociology stream at the BSA annual conference. Professor Robin Williams, of the University of Edinburgh, gave a plenary talk on ‘The special relationship between sociology and science, technology and innovation studies’, which argued that working with the different epistemic orientations of these fields can foster a mutually beneficial relationship.

At the annual conference we also held a study group lunch meeting where members and prospective members were able to discuss common research interests and ideas for future events.

We also maintain an active Jiscmail list, which sees regular postings of STS-related events, jobs and other opportunities.

A summary of activities planned for the coming year (September 2024 to August 2025);

The BSA STS study group is in the early stages of organising events for the next academic year. We plan to continue our seminar series with more talks in 2026-27. We also plan to organise at least one more professionalisation seminar.

We plan to run another successful set of streams at the 2027 BSA conference. We also hope to further build on the study group’s relationship to other STS-related networks in the UK including Science in Public and UK-AsSIST (the UK’s STS association).

We continue to advertise the conference and the benefits of BSA membership through the mailing list. We will always encourage jiscmail signups to register as BSA members when we circulate study group-related material.

Convenor details

Tara Mahfoud stepped down from her role as co-convenor in June 2026. We plan to recruit another co-convenor in October 2026. The following members currently co-convene the STS study group:

Alina Geampana, Durham University: alina.geampana@durham.ac.uk

Yuhan Wang, University of Bristol: yuhan.wang@bristol.ac.uk