

BSA Activism, Social Movements and Revolutions (ASMR) Study Group Annual Report

(1 Feb 2026 - 31 Aug 2026)

Name:

Activism, Social Movements and Revolutions (ASMR) Study Group

Formation of the Group:

The ASMR Study Group was formally approved by the BSA Board of Trustees on 27 January 2026 following the initial proposal made by Birgan Gokmenoglu in December 2025.

Convenors:

Birgan Gökmenoğlu (Birmingham City University)
Camilo Tamayo Gomez (University of Huddersfield)
Minwoo Jung (Loyola University Chicago)
Steven Speed (University of Greater Manchester)
Benjamin Abrams (University College London)
Mathis Ebbinghaus (University of Oxford)
Arianna Introna (Open University)

Members and Affiliates:

As of August 2026, the Study Group has:

- 57 JISCMail subscribers
- 60 followers on Bluesky

Aims:

The ASMR Study Group exists to:

- Provide a forum for scholars working on activism, social movements, and revolutionary change
- Foster interdisciplinary dialogue across empirical, theoretical, and methodological approaches
- Support collaboration between academics, activists, and practitioners
- Facilitate opportunities for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)
- Develop a sustained presence for activism research within the BSA, including at the Annual Conference

Review of 2025–2026 (since approval of the Study Group):

1. Establishment and Infrastructure Development

The 2025–2026 period has primarily been one of institution-building, following formal approval of the Study Group on 27 January 2026.

Key developments include:

- Creation of a JISCMail mailing list and initial membership base
- Development of the Study Group microsite and online presence, including the ASMR logo designed by Steven Speed
- Establishment of communication channels and convenor coordination structures
- Publication of a Network Magazine outreach piece for wider dissemination of the group's aims and activities

These activities have enabled the Study Group to begin building a sustainable network for future scholarly collaboration.

2. Events and Intellectual Activities

Launch Event: *Activist Archive Tour and Workshop* (10 April 2026)

- Organised a launch event for the Study Group at the BSA annual conference in Manchester.
- Held in-person at the Working Class Movement Library, Manchester

Online Roundtable: *Theorizing from Lived Experience: Activist Scholarship* (12 May, 2026)

- Organised jointly with the BSA Theory Study Group
- Featured speakers including Akwugo Emejulu (Sheffield), Panos Theodoropoulos (KCL), and AK Thompson (Holy Cross)

This event formed part of a broader series exploring the relationship between activist knowledge production and sociological theory.

Visiting Lecture: *Against and Beyond Recognition: Learning from the History of Black Freedom Struggles in the US* (AK Thompson, Holy Cross)

- Held at UCL Institute of Education, 28 May 2026

This event reflects the Study Group's commitment to linking academic and movement-based scholarship.

Book talk: *Huey P. Newton: Panther/Philosopher*

- Held at MayDay Rooms, London, on 19 August 2026
- The event hosted the author Delio Vasquez (NYU) and discussant John Narayan (KCL)

This was a full house public event that attracted both academic and non-academic attention, contributing to the Study Group's public outreach.

3. Early Career and Capacity-Building Initiatives

The Study Group has committed to supporting ECRs in its activities, ranging from the development of workshops designed to appeal to ECRs to the promotion of calls for papers and targeted opportunities via the mailing list. The ASMR team intend to organise an ECR support session at the 2027 Annual Conference or later in the year.

4. Community-Building and Network Activity

The JISCMail list and Bluesky account have been used actively to:

- Circulate PhD studentships, events, and opportunities
- Share relevant publications and announcements
- Facilitate connections across institutions and research areas

These activities have helped establish the Study Group as an emerging hub for research on activism, social movements and revolutions, within the BSA and British Sociology, as well as internationally.

5. Developing a Presence within the BSA Conference

Convenors have begun discussions with the BSA regarding the development of an independent ASMR conference stream in anticipation of the review of the conference streams prior to the

2028 conference. This reflects a strategic priority for embedding the Study Group within the institutional structure of the BSA.

The ASMR Study Group has joined the Theory Stream temporarily for the 2027 Conference.

Budget:

No budget allocation or expenditure is reported for this period.

Forthcoming Events:

- After extensive deliberations with the New Materialisms Study Group, the ASMR team have taken on the role of **stream coordinators** (i.e. Birgan Gokmenoglu and Ben Abrams) at the BSA Annual Conference 2027
 - Proposed events at the conference include a stream plenary on the theory of revolutions, a special event on the criminalisation of activism, and an ECR event.
- Further **programme of academic and public events** forthcoming, TBC:
 - Billionaires and Guillotines: Talk and game night with Max Haiven (Lakehead University) in October 2026
 - Potential collaborations with Sense and Solidarity
 - Panel organisation at the ISA Conference in 2027

Future Plans:

- Establishment of a dedicated ASMR stream at the BSA Annual Conference
- Development of a regular programme of online and in-person events
- Expansion of membership and engagement across the JISCMail network and Bluesky
- Continued collaboration with other BSA Study Groups (e.g. Theory)
- Further development of ECR support structures
- Increased public engagement and dissemination through BSA platforms
- Building up our budget through donations to be able to support our in-person events, ECRs and speakers as needed

Concluding Remarks:

The 2025–2026 academic year marks the foundational phase of the ASMR Study Group. Within a short period following its approval, the group has successfully:

- Established core infrastructure
- Initiated a programme of intellectual events
- Established international connections with the ISA, the Alternatives to Capitalism Network, and individual scholars
- Established connections with other BSA groups (i.e. Theory; Emotions) and national networks (i.e. Alternative Futures and Popular Protest)
- Built an active (if still growing) membership network
- Begun positioning itself within the BSA and its conference structures.

The Study Group is well positioned to expand its activities and consolidate its role as a key forum for the sociology of activism, social movements, and revolutionary change.