

Climate Change Study Group Annual Report 2025/26

1. Established: July 2010

2. Current Membership Figure: 320

3. Financial Information

Opening balance	1761.93
Income	0
Expenditure	0
Balance	£1388.30

4. Aims of Study Group:

Sociology plays an increasingly important role in shaping and contributing to public and policy debates about climate change. This study group offers a forum to explore how sociology's unique and interdisciplinary perspectives can be effectively applied to this most pressing global challenge. It is open to all sociologists, regardless of their specialism and career stage.

5. Review of Year (2025-26):

The Climate Change Study group engaged in a diverse range of events aimed at advancing interest in the sociology of climate change, expanding its membership, and bringing new members into the convening team.

In preparation for the British Sociological Association's 75th anniversary in 2026, the study group undertook a significant period of renewal.

As Pancho Lewis stepped down from his role, we brought in Durham colleague Angela Marques Filipe to balance early and mid-career stages whilst Samyia Ambreen offered continuity through this transition calling for expression of interests (EoI) and leading on expanding the convenor team. In turn, Angela led on refreshing the group's strategy, vision and public facing statements and media presence to strengthen the contribution of sociology to public and policy debates on extreme weather, climate change, and environmental futures. Central to this vision is the recognition that climate justice is inseparable from broader questions of social justice, collective action, everyday environments, and shared planetary futures.

As part of this strategic vision refresh and with trustee approval, the group adopted a new name, **Environment, Society and Changing Climates**. This change brings together the study group's longstanding focus on climate change with the annual conference stream *Environment and Society (EnvSoc)*, reflecting a broader and more pluralistic engagement with changing climates across social and more-than-human worlds.

The group continued to promote critical engagement with core sociological questions, theories, and methodological developments, while fostering interdisciplinary dialogue.

Areas of focus included sustainability transitions and futures; planetary, affective, anti-colonial, and post-human theories; embodied and multi-modal methodologies; political ecology, epistemic violence, and climate migration; and environmental action, emotions, and research practices. The study group also strengthened connections with colleagues across other BSA conference streams, including health and wellbeing, emotion, science and technology studies, urban studies, families and relationships, social movements, activism, and sociological theory.

Throughout the year, the group organised and supported a range of activities, including webinars, conference sessions and plenaries. These activities provided platforms for showcasing innovative sociological research and demonstrating its relevance to contemporary ecological, social, and climatic challenges.

1. The Study Group hosted six paper sessions at the BSA Annual Conference, showcasing a diverse range of topics, including climate justice, human-nature relationships, sustainability education, youth activism, racism and environmental stewardship, and global climate governance. The group also organised a highly successful plenary session featuring **Professor Ben Highmore**, who delivered an engaging and thought-provoking presentation entitled *"Borrowed Time: Developing Multi-Temporal Imaginations."*
2. Angela Marques Filipe joined the group in early 2026 ahead of the conference. She organised and chaired a special event for the BSA 2026 titled **"Climate Affects and Liveable Futures in an Age of Planetary Crisis"** on the 10th of April which informed the strategic refresh, vision statement, and group renaming piece. This included talks from colleagues in the UK, Ireland, and central and Eastern Europe.
3. The Study Group has further enhanced its web presence through the BSA website, creating a platform to support interdisciplinary debate and showcase global research frameworks. As part of its digital strategy, the group has updated both its name and vision statement on BSA web and JiscMail to better reflect its evolving focus and objectives. As in previous years, communication with members will continue through the Study Group webpages and JiscMail. Membership currently stands at 320. While the group experienced a reduction of 27 subscribers compared with the previous year, it continues to maintain a strong and engaged membership base.
4. This year, the Study Group recruited new convenors to represent both mid and early career and postgraduate researchers - the first in winter/spring and another 3 convenors over summer in an open call for Eols. Their appointments bring fresh perspectives and ideas, helping to shape the future direction of the group and support the development of its activities and engagement initiatives.

5. Our colleague Pancho Lewis stepped down this year after serving as a Study Group Convenor for almost three years. We would like to express our sincere thanks for his dedication and hard work, particularly in organising the Study Group stream plenaries and the summer event held in Manchester in June 2025. Pancho has been an invaluable member of the convening team, contributing both expertise and enthusiasm to the group's activities. His wisdom, insight, and collegiality will be greatly missed, and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

6. Plans for 2026/27

During 2026-2027, the Study Group will continue to build a diverse and representative convening team that reflects the breadth of the field. By bringing together researchers from a range of institutional settings, disciplinary backgrounds, and career stages, the group aims to strengthen collaboration, promote inclusivity, and support the exchange of innovative ideas. This leadership structure will help ensure that the Study Group remains responsive to the needs of its membership while fostering intellectual development and engagement across the community.

Events and activities are already planned for 2026/27:

1. The Study Group will continue to build a strong presence at the 2027 BSA Annual Conference. We plan to organise a Stream Plenary that will showcase current debates and emerging research in the field, while providing opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange among members. We are also exploring the possibility of inviting a speaker from the University of Portsmouth, Dr Julia Brown, Assoc Prof and Deputy Director of the Centre for Blue Governance, to contribute a keynote on Water Resources as Politics in Uganda for the plenary session with a panel of discussants concerning **What Freedom and Hope? The Politics of Political Ecology in the Global South**, including Naheem Jabbar, to help broaden the reach and impact of the event.
2. The Study Group will organise a **Work-in-progress reading group** that will meet online every two months. The aim of this reading group is for members to submit work-in progress and get constructive criticism for their drafts. This will foster the creation of a research community and will lead to further collaborations between members.
3. We will organise an online PhD and early-career seminar where upcoming researchers can present their work and get feedback from more established academics.

6. Concluding Remarks:

Strategy Update for 2026/27

Following another active and successful year, the study group enters 2026/27 with a renewed focus on expanding engagement, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and developing its growing international community.

As part of this development, we have updated the name of the study group to better reflect its vision and values. The new name recognises the close links between climate change, social justice, and environmental justice, and reflects our commitment to fostering critical and inclusive discussions across these interconnected areas, as well as a broader range of expertises in convenorship. With a team of 5 convenors across career stages, we will be operating with an improved labor division (finances and reporting, mailing list and events, strategy and social media, outreach and membership).

Over the past few years, we have seen a significant increase in membership and participation from international scholars. To better reflect this growing diversity and global perspective, the study group has embraced a broader and more inclusive identity. We were particularly encouraged by the strong presence of international researchers at our conference sessions and by their enthusiasm to become involved in the group's activities. We look forward to building on these connections during the coming year. We have also recruited new convenors from different career stages, cultural backgrounds and geographic locations, bringing a range of experiences, perspectives, and expertise to the leadership team. This reflects our commitment to supporting researchers throughout their academic journeys and ensuring a dynamic and sustainable future for the study group.

Looking ahead, we are hopeful for an engaging and productive year. We aim to further showcase the interdisciplinary nature of the study group through a wider range of engagement activities, including reading groups, networking opportunities, online events, and conference sessions. We will continue to strengthen our online presence, support collaboration among members, and create opportunities for dialogue between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in the UK and internationally.

The study group remains financially healthy and continues to benefit from a growing network of members, supporters, and event collaborators. Building on the momentum of recent years, we look forward to fostering an inclusive, vibrant, and internationally connected community in 2026/27. We are keen to forge inter- and intra-disciplinary connections across BSA streams (health, emotions, activism, social theory, relationships, etc).

8. Convenor/s Name/s:

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10. SG weblink: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/study-groups/environment-society-and-changing-climates-study-group/>