

BSA Theory Studies Group Annual Report (2021/22)

Name: Theory Studies Group (THE)

Appointment of Conveners: August 2020

Number of members: about 450 on jiscmail and 7027 followers on Twitter.

Income: closing balance at 25/02/22 is £410.

Aims: key aims of THE include:

- provides a forum for those interested in sociological and social theory
- host events on current debates in the field of sociological theory
- coordinates the organisation of the Theory stream at the annual BSA conference
- facilitate research on and about sociological theory and its history

Review of the year:

Over the past year, we organised a series of events discussing the relevance, presentation and development of selected sociological thinkers. These events were recorded and have been archived on the BSA website:

18 May 2022 (15:00-17:00 BST) online

[Readings of Niklas Luhmann's System Theory: The Habermas Luhmann Debate with Gorm Harste and The Making of Meaning with Christian Morgner](#)

(Sponsored by the BSA Theory Study Group)

10 November 2021 (14:00-15:30 GMT) Online

[Colonialism and Modern Social Theory: A Conversation between Gurinder K Bhambra, John Holmwood, Ipek Demir, Steve Kemp & Christian Morgner](#) (Sponsored by the BSA

Theory Study Group)

25 October 2021 (17:00-18:30 BST) Online

[The Last Years of Karl Marx: A Conversation between Marcello Musto, Kevin B. Anderson, Himani Bannerji & David N. Smith](#) (sponsored by the BSA Theory Study Group)

30 June 2021 (15:00-17:00 BST) Online

[Online Book Launch - Zygmunt Bauman, Culture and Art: Selected Writings Vol. 1](#)

Join editors Dariusz Brzezinski, Tom Campbell, Mark Davis and Jack Palmer, along with special guests, in a celebration of a new volume of previously unpublished writings by Zygmunt Bauman on culture and art that have been discovered through the [Bauman Institute Archives](#) project. The volume, published by Polity Press, is now available and you can [browse the table of contents here](#).

Organised by the [Bauman Institute](#) and the BSA Theory Study Group

25 March 2021 (15:00-16:00 GMT) Online

[Social Theory for a Global Age: A Conversation about the Life and Work of W.E.B. Du Bois](#)

[with Gurminder K Bhambra and Vanessa E. Thompson](#) (sponsored by the BSA Theory Study Group)

19 February 2021 (1pm-2pm GMT) Online

[Adorno on Right-Wing Extremism in Late Capitalism](#) with Matthias Benzer and Juljan Krause (sponsored by the BSA Theory Study Group)

13 January 2021 (13:00-14:00 GMT) Online

[The ‘Non-linearity’ of Civilising Processes: A Conversation about the Life and Work of Nobert Elias with Michael Dunning](#) (sponsored by the BSA Theory Study Group)

The study group invited a stream plenary speaker at the BSA Annual Conference (22 April 2022) to address the conference theme – Building Equality and Justice Now.

Working in Durkheim’s “Social Fact” Tradition: Garfinkel, Goffman, Parsons and Sacks as the Authors of a Sociology of Practice and its Implicit Moral and Empirical Prerequisites

Anne Warfield Rawls (Professor of Sociology at Bentley University (Waltham, Massachusetts), Research Professor at the University of Siegen (Germany), and Director of the Garfinkel Archive)

The conveners of the study group also oversaw several of the theory panel presentations and moderated the discussion:

BSA 2022 Annual Conference: Theory Sessions

Wednesday, 20 April 2022 10:15 - 11:30 [Paper Session 1]

Chair: Christian Morgner

The Dark Side of Gift Giving: Understanding Sustained Exploitation in Family Power Dynamics

Lui Chihling (Lancaster University)

Prove Your Gift or Log Off: Online Charisma, Social Phenomenology, and QAnon

Dominik Zelinsky (University of Copenhagen)

Friday, 22 April 2022 11:00 – 12:15 [Paper Session 8]

Chair: Lisa McCormick

Towards a Tragic Social Science: Critique, Translation and Performance

Sam Han (The University of Western Australia)

Care, Capitalism and Affective Equality: Resisting Capitalocentrism

Kathleen Lynch (University College Dublin)

Hidden Transcripts of the Powerful

Narzanin Massoumi (University of Exeter)

Marcus Morgan (University of Bristol)

Friday, 22 April 2022 14:30 -15:45 [Paper Session 9]

Presider: Barry Gibson

Theory special event: New Materialisms and Political Sociology: a Symposium

Chair's Introduction

Pam Alldred (Nottingham Trent University)

To Resist is to Invent: How Deleuze and Foucault can help Formulate an Analytics of Resistance

Angharad Beckett and Tom Campbell (University of Leeds)

Reassembling Critical (Micro)political Economy

Nick J Fox (University of Huddersfield)

Reconsidering Precarity through Affect Theory

Amanda Light (Ulster University)

Concluding remarks:

In 2022-2023 the THE plans to organise further events on the relevance of sociological theory in contemporary society. As the upcoming years 2022/2023 will be the third and final year of our tenure, we will begin recruiting the next convenors for the study group.

The THE agreed with the New Materialisms group to alternate turns organising the theory stream plenary speaker and theory sessions at the annual conference. This arrangement should be revisited with the new convenors and updated as needed.

Convenors

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