

Annual Report

BSA Social Statistics Study Group

2021/22, July 27, 2022

Leadership We were led by Emma Seddon, Stef Doebler, and Wendy Olsen. Later this morphed formally into a smaller leadership group (Doebler and Olsen) after Emma left. The group has a nice web presence including the webpage <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/study-groups/social-statistics-study-group>

Social Media We did regular tweets in Twitter as well as brief linked-in and facebook advertisements for each key event.

Events 1 We held occasional Brown-Bag Meetings, via zoom.

2 On 15 October 2021 we held a webinar which attracted 40+ participants, on “Beyond ‘just stats’: a feminist take on quantitative methods”. Charges For this event we had a charging system:

- BSA Members: FREE
- Non-members: £10
- Concessionary rate for non-members: £5

We were comfortable with this as it encourages people to join the BSA.

3 Stef Doebler helped manage and convene the Innovative Methods Stream of the 2022 BSA Conference (online-only). In this stream, Olsen and Kim offered a paper, Doebler offered a paper, and Stef Doebler and Wendy Olsen organised a special session as shown below:

Special Discussion Session 90 minutes (online only): Mixed Methods, Information Theory, Bayesian Methods, Delphi Method, and Time-use Diary Data: A Panel Discussion With Networking

In the session there was a mix of papers and discussion.

4 We held a brown-bag session May 2022. We were grateful for the leading input by Dr Lulu Shi of Oxford University on the Delphi Method as used in consumer research. She was critical of the method’s claims about measurement. She was able to trace the social construction of measured levels via the specific identities and backgrounds of the Delphi participants. Dr Jihye Kim also presented about the Delphi Method based on jointly conducted, multidisciplinary research at the same sessions. We had a good discussion.

Conclusion Overall this past year the participants included those named above, Kun Lee, Robert Moore, and many others over the whole year.

Thus, it is still a small group and little interest is shown in our conference stream yet. We hope to do more attractive events with a training element, aimed strictly at a sociology audience, in 2022/23.

Convenor Contact Details Wendy.olsen@manchester.ac.uk and s.doebler@lancaster.ac.uk or see below.

Past Convenors: We thank Dr Emma Seddon; Dr Charlotte Brookfield School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University Brookfield; Dr Jennifer Hampton, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University; and

Dr Aneta Piekut, Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield, who are all past co-convenors of this group. We note the strongly female gender tendency in the group leadership.

Future Events In 2022/23, the group is helping to prepare the 'Innovative Methods' stream of the BSA Conference 2023. The organisers of this stream are Wendy Olsen (above) and Dr Terence Heng, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, University of Liverpool, who will focus on the creative/ qualitative / visual side of innovative methods. Contacts: t.heng@liverpool.ac.uk , see also www.terenceheng.info, School of Law and Social Justice | University of Liverpool, Chatham Street | Liverpool L69 7ZR.

Current Convenor Locations:

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