Convenors

Mark Carrigan, Cristina Costa, Huw Davies, Kate Orton-Johnson, Michael Saker, Chris Till

Christina, Mark and Kate joined as convenors in 2018

2018 Events

One-day symposium on the political economy of digital technology

On 28th of May 2018 the BSA Digital Study Group hosted a one-day symposium on the political economy of digital technology at the University of Amsterdam,
Despite the event's coincidence with a heat wave on a British bank holiday, the day was well attended by 20 sociologists and media scholars. Papers included:

1. The political economy of a large-scale hypertextual Web search engine: a critique of linguistic capitalism and the side effects of Google's advertising empire by Pip Thornton, Royal Holloway University of London
2. Hacking the Political Economy of Youth by Shane Duggan, RMIT University & NYU Steinhardt
3. Platform Capitalism and Political Consumerism: Perspectives of Boycotting and Buycotting in the Sharing Economy by Giulia Ranzini, Maaike van Vliet and Ivar Vermeluen, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
4. What does its (un)ethical approach to children tell us about digital capitalism's circuits of practice? By Huw Davies & Vicki Nash, University of Oxford
5. Post-scarce informational resources, unequal skill development and class stagnation by Chong Zhang, University of Durham
6. Big Tech's privatization of schools: a case study of computing education in England by Laura R. Pinkerton, University of Oxford
7. Home and Walled Garden: The Political Economy of the Smart Home by Murray Goulden, University of Nottingham
8. Future of information freedom after the internet: balkanization, fragmentation, territorialization, or diversification? by Julian von Bargen, York University, Toronto

These papers were followed by an interactive panel of leading digital sociologists including Karen Gregory, Susan Halford and Mark Carrigan during which discussed the form and content of the study group's events in 2019 and strategies for increasing the group's reach and influence.

Plans for 2019

We would like to consider for future BSA conferences how we can best reflect Digital Sociology in the *Science, Technology and Digital Studies* stream. This would be in recognition of the increasing distinction in the sub disciplines and with the aim to engage in a broader way with sociologists engaging with digital methods/substantive fields.

We are beginning to plan a series of networking events to strategically advance our profile with outside constituencies e.g. journalists, think tanks, charities. Our hope is to organise one such event in 2019 as a prototypes, taking advantage of an offer by BBC researchers to host an event, before planning follow ups the next year.

We will also revitalise our online presence during this year. Building on the continued growth of our @BSADigitalSoc feed (current following of 9,034) by setting up another social media feed (tbc) and moving our website to a magazine style format which accepts external submissions.