



BSA Annual Conference 2020: Researching Social Bodies: Self, Institutions and Societies

Call for Papers
Environment & Society Stream

Submissions

We would like to invite you to submit a paper to the Environment & Society stream - hosted by the Climate Change Study Group - at the next BSA Annual Conference, which will take place on the 21-23 April 2020 at Aston University.

Sociology has an increasingly important role to play in shaping and contributing to public and policy debate about environmental change. The study group provides a forum in which to explore how to effectively bring sociology's unique perspective to bear on this most pressing of challenges. We pay particular attention to the inequalities that differentiate the experience of environmental change, as well as the rights and responsibilities brought to bear upon different social groups in so doing.

This year, we host a stream plenary on 'The failure of sociology to properly factor environmental concerns into its research'. This session will be an opportunity to hear from leading environmental sociologists, Professor Erika Cudworth (University of East London) and Professor Nigel South (University of Essex), who will argue that sociological research should not just focus more on environmental issues specifically but consider incorporating an environmental dimension into all research. The session will also provide an opportunity for researchers from across the discipline to discuss potential future collaborations and new ways for incorporating environmental issues into their research. The Climate Change Study group committee intend to use the plenary to launch a series of events and outputs over the next year designed to support and encourage new collaborations with the BSA's Race and Ethnicities Study Group around the theme of Environmental Racism, as well as across the discipline more broadly.

We are keen to encourage authors to submit papers that speak to the stream plenary theme, but also in relation to these cognate issue areas:

- **Environmental justice: social inequalities & environmental change**

This theme invites papers that consider the disparity between higher income groups who account for a greater share of global resource use and the poor that typically bear the costs. Amidst disparities between rich and poor, and between

different social groups, at different spatial scales – local to global – what can be done to make everyday life more sustainable and just for all?

- **Sustainable consumption and production**

Consumption and production are increasingly treated within Economic Sociology not as separate fields of inquiry, but as a related set of processes around which structures of everyday life are reproduced and changed. This session invites contributions that theorise the relationship between consumption and production, as a means to understand the organisation of macro, meso, and micro level spheres of activity which shape environmental problems, and the potential solutions.

- **Everyday life, materiality and the non-human**

This theme considers how theories of social practice, materiality, and non-human, help us to understand trajectories through which sustainable ways of life might become normal; how environmental issues intersect with other aspects of daily life; or the temporal rhythms of everyday life and their implications for social change.

- **Governing Transitions**

This theme invites analysis of particular policies; examinations of sustainability governance in different forms, such as transition management; or analysis of how social science research can influence policy. Relevant questions include; what is the adaptive capacity of our institutions, forms of governance and ways of life in the face of environmental changes? How do these requirements relate to different scales and places? Under what conditions are we able to participate in decision-making processes underpinning policy?

These are suggested thematic areas but we welcome submissions relevant to issues of environment and society more broadly.

How to submit

Please submit your abstract under the preferred stream of 'Environment & Society' on the online submission system. All paper abstracts and proposals for other events can be submitted online at: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events/bsa-annual-conference-2020-reimagining-social-bodiesself-institutions-and-societies/submissions/>

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **11 October 2019**.

For further information contact the *Environment & Society stream co-ordinator*,

Thomas Roberts Email: t.m.roberts@surrey.ac.uk

Alternatively, contact the BSA Events Team Email: events@britsoc.org.uk