

BSA Families and Relationships Study Group

2021/22: Report

Convenors:

Dr Julie Walsh, University of Sheffield, j.c.walsh@sheffield.ac.uk

Dr Katherine Twamley, University College London Katherine.twamley@ucl.ac.uk

Dr Julia Carter, University of West England, Julia.Carter@uwe.ac.uk

Dr Alison Lamont, University College London, a.lamont@ucl.ac.uk

Membership:

- According to the JISCMail list we currently have 406 members (as of July 2022).

Activities:

- *Changes in Co-convenorship:* 2021/22 saw one new convenor join the group (Julia Carter) and Alison Lamont stepped back from the role.
- **Committee membership:** Alison Lamont has been a co-convenor of the group for four years and, as is customary, felt that it was time to step back to give an opportunity to other colleagues, and to take time to focus on new areas of interest. Katherine Twamley has also been a co-convenor of the group for four years and, for the same reasons, had also made the difficult decision to leave the group in the autumn for similar reasons. Alison and Katherine have, and continues to make, a significant contribution to the group. Thank you to both of you – you will be missed - and welcome to Julia. We plan to circulate a call for a third convenor in the autumn.

Study group activities:

- *BSA Annual Conference 2022:* As usual, we have been stream co-ordinators for the BSA Families and Relationships stream at the BSA Annual Conference, sorting approx. 36 abstracts and allocating them into panels. The conference was, of course, virtual this year and a big success for us. Panels were chaired by all three co-convenors and additional volunteers from the study group. There was good feedback from audiences about the quality of papers presented and, in particular, members responded well to the plenary speaker - Rachel Salazar Parreñas – from the University of Southern California, who spoke to a ‘room’ of **????? delegates**.
- In the summer of 2021, we held our third and final webinar in our ‘Decolonising the Sociology of Families and Relationships’ series. The event was, again, well attended and we hope to build on momentum created during the webinar series with a view to future collaborations.
- In December 2021, we held an online symposium to celebrate the life of Lauren Berlant, with speakers, including Sasha Roseneil, Carolyn Pedwell and Bridget Penny. Over 55 people attended the event feeding back that that the event was both ‘moving and intellectually stimulating’.
- We are currently piloting an online FaR reading group. So far, we have held three sessions. These are held on the final Thursday of every month. The three we have held so far were facilitated by group convenors and we hope that members will now start to select readings and help facilitate sessions. The next will be held after the summer break in September.
- Julia Carter attended the Study Group Convenors Meeting in June 2022

- The FaR Twitter account, @BSA_FARGroup, which advertises group activities and member interests continues to grow where we now have 608 followers. We found this a really effective tool for raising awareness of group activities, events, and the Families and Relationships stream during the BSA conference, and will continue to grow our audience on this forum in the coming year.

Financial Situation:

- In our most recent statement, the study group had £403.63 in the budget.