

BSA Disability Study Group Annual Report for Year 2021-2022

Established: 2013

Membership Figure (2022): 71 Members BSA / Non-Members BSA 20 / Associate Members 51. The number of people involved with the group has remained steady.

Income: There was no income during the year, as COVID – 19 measures required a reduction in public activities.

Aims

The Disability Study Group aims to promote knowledge of disability studies and the discussion of disability issues within sociology. It also aims to foster an appreciation of the value of sociological scholarship within disability studies. A further aim is to encourage the participation of disabled academics, staff and students working in sociology, to share their knowledge and experiences, and to work in ways that challenge their academic marginalisation.

Activities 2021-2022

Measures intended to contain the COVID – 19 pandemic had a limiting effect on the activities of the group between 2021 and 2022. Although we made a substantial commitment to developing a comprehensive series of online seminars in 2020 (available on the study group website), uncertainty about the course of the pandemic meant it was not feasible to organise any major face to face events during the year. One convenor had to suspend activities due to lapsed membership because of poverty, a situation which is now resolved.

The Disability Study group is now well established as part of the Social Divisions / Social Identities stream at the BSA conference. The event is an important focus for networking and support for study group members and for raising the profile of disability studies in sociology. Sarah Woodin as sole convenor this year, provided co-ordination for this year's stream, reviewing papers, liaising with other groups and later chairing sessions at the conference. Disability Study group members made several interesting submissions, enabling online networking in 2022.

Future Developments

With usual activities now possible, there are exciting opportunities for BSA members working in disability studies to get involved in making a contribution to the Study Group. We are looking forward to developing a re-energised programme of work.

Possibilities for the coming year include the development of new academic and civil society partnerships to focus on the concerns and issues faced by disabled people at a time of turbulent social change. Disabled people are at the 'sharp end' of the current social crisis and the group intends to stimulate academic recognition of this. We anticipate holding at least one large event as a focus for regeneration of the group and its activities.

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