

BSA CITIES study group annual report 2022

Number of members: 122

Income: closing balance for year ending December 2022 is £78.36 (no income or expenditures during the year).

Aims: The CITIES study group seeks to act as a forum to explore issues of inequalities, resistance, technologies, and everyday life, and to support discussions that might address the following:

- How we might expand our imagining of the urban and, in turn, how might this help us to develop the way we approach urban research?
- How can we use 'the urban' and 'mobilities' as critical lenses for engaging with other concepts such as ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, disabilities?
- How can we get cities and mobilities research to speak to broader publics including policy makers and activists?

Given the broad and multifaceted nature of 'Cities and Mobilities', this group actively supports the following activities:

- Inter-disciplinary discussions beyond sociology,
- critical urban discussions and debates with broader publics,
- the involvement and encouragement of postgraduate and ECR scholars in the study group,
- Innovative methods and research.

Activities in 2022/23: The CITIES study group organised five paper sessions and one special event session at the BSA Annual Conference 2023 held in Manchester for the Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space Conference Stream, for a total of 20 participants, including BSA members and non-members.

The study group organised a stream plenary session at the BSA Annual Conference open to all members and non-members of the study group. The plenary session consisted of a participatory walk around the city of Manchester aimed at turning participants' sociological attention to the built form. The one hour interdisciplinary walking tour, led by Emily Crompton, Senior Lecturer at the Manchester School of Architecture, reconstructed the story of how Manchester became the first place to build an entirely publicly funded, purpose designed centre for the gay community, just as Thatcher's government were enacting Section 28.

A social event held in a pub followed the plenary walking tour. This informal event was aimed to offer the opportunity to make connections with colleagues and help shape the future direction of the group's network.

Planned activities for 2023/24: The CITIES group is planning to hold an in-person workshop at the end of November 2023 on the topic of urban inequality. The activity is aimed to offer the possibility for members and potential new members to meet in person again and discuss their ongoing research.

Convenors contact details:

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