

Study Group Name: Sociology of Arts

Number of members: 141 (subscriptions to mailing list)

BSA Members: ?

Account balance: £95.20

Aims of study group

- 1) To provide a space in which academics with a specific interest in the arts can come together and share ideas, thoughts, and arguments.
- 2) To offer the opportunity for critical development and exploration of theory and practice relating to the arts.
- 3) To create opportunities for collaboration and professional networking for those working, and interested, in the sociology of the arts, both within the context of sociology and across other disciplines.
- 4) To foster inter- and trans-disciplinary thinking and research in the sociology of the arts, and to develop new ideas about art which are of international significance.
- 5) To link in productive ways with study groups within the BSA dealing with related areas.
- 6) To work with BSA conference organisers in arranging themed streams at the BSA conference.
- 7) To organise seminars and other events for BSA members interested in the arts.
- 8) To engage with the BSA journal Cultural Sociology, and to propose special sections and editions of the journal which come out of the study group's activities.
- 9) To forge links with practitioners in the arts and cultural industries.
- 10) To promote the BSA and sociology within major higher education institutions where the arts are taught.

Review of the year

There is no activity to report for the year 2022/23, other than the recruitment of a new study group convener: Laura Harris (University of Southampton). Laura took over the role in April 2023 and is currently in discussions with a potential co-convener. She plans to reanimate and reinvigorate the group, which remains much needed in the field of UK sociology, however at this early stage plans are only just beginning to emerge.

The first step is setting up the infrastructure for the group. Laura is conducting a scoping exercise and reaching out to key scholars whose input will help guide the development of the group. A steering group will be put in place shortly. Invitees will include: Lisa McCormick (University of Edinburgh); Maria Rovisco (University of Leeds); TBC.

Laura Harris is also book reviews editor for Cultural Sociology. She will use this connection to strengthen the engagement between the study group and the journal.

Plans for 2023-24

Event: Theorising with Art and Music, co-organised with BSA Theory Study Group.

When: Wednesday 21 June 16:00-17:30 BST

Where: Online

What: This online seminar will bring together contributors to the new book *The Cultural Sociology of Art and Music: New Directions and New Discoveries* (2022). The collection sets new research agendas in the cultural sociology of the arts, with a specific focus on music and visual art. It also presents new theoretical developments and critical discussions of established approaches in the sociology of the arts. In this seminar contributors will introduce and discuss their chapters, and there will also be an open discussion.

Aims: 1, 2, 5, and 7

Event: Joint online seminar with the ESA Sociology of Arts and Nordic Sociology of Art research groups

When: TBC

Where: Online

What: This online seminar will bring together researchers from across Europe whose work speaks to a specific theme within the sociology of art (theme tbc). It will also act as relationship building between the research networks.

Aims: 1, 2, 4, 7

Event: BSA Sociology of Art Symposium: Taking the temperature of Sociology of Art in the UK

When: TBC

Where: In person; TBC

What: The primary purpose of this event will be to bring Study Group members physically together. It will be structured around invited talks which all 'take the temperature' of Sociology of Art in the UK from different perspectives. It will culminate in an open discussion about the future of the subfield, key themes of development, and areas that need more activity. This will serve a useful disciplinary function, as well as help guide the Study Group plans for the following year.

Aims: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7