

Diaspora, Migration and Transnationalism Study Group Annual Report 2022/23

Aims of the Study Group

The sociology of migration, the study of diasporic groups, and that of transnational relations have received significant scholarly attention in the last several decades, representing a significant field within sociology both in the UK and internationally. The aim of the group is to establish an intellectual home for the study of migration from a sociological perspective, as well as bringing together scholars, activists, and practitioners whose work addresses the study group focus from complementary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The group aims to cover all aspects of migration research, including empirical, theoretical, and creative-practice approaches. It will promote work which not only focuses on recent migratory movements, but also foregrounds historical perspectives and addresses issues of identity, culture, and politics as well as legal architectures of migration. We aim to advance new perspectives, promote relational and comparative studies, and enhance critical, historical and political understandings of migration and diasporas. In so doing, we will provide a UK platform through which scholars can engage in debate and exchange of ideas.

Membership and Budget

The study group has 658 members. The account balance for the study group is £834.70.

Activities of the Study Group

BSA Annual Conference, April 2023

The DMT study group once again successfully co-convoked the Race, Ethnicity and Migration Stream, this year working with colleagues from the Postcolonial and Decolonial Transformations study group. The stream received 94 total submissions, matching pre-pandemic interest in the stream. We were very pleased by the high quality of the abstracts and the synergy between proposed papers, which resulted in productive and well-attended panel sessions.

In collaboration with the Postcolonial and Decolonial Transformations study group, we organised the well-received plenary session entitled “Thinking in Crisis”. Addressing the public sociology theme, the plenary put Sita Balani (Queen Mary) and Rahul Rao (St Andrews) in conversation to discuss the imperial underpinnings of key contemporary crises and the transnational constructions of race, nation, modernity, and sexuality.

The REM reception attracted almost 100 attendees, attesting to the interest in our research focus and that of our partner study groups. The DMT study group will continue to cooperate

with Postcolonial and Decolonial Transformations on convening the REM stream at the 2024 Annual Conference.

The group had planned to organise an event in 2022 for members to come together following the pandemic and exchange current research interests and agendas. While this was delayed due to changes in the convenorship team, the group is currently recruiting new co-convenors to continue this work in the year 2023/2024.

For further information about the BSA DMT study group, please contact Špela Drnovšek Zorko (Kobe University/University of Warwick) at sdzorko@gmail.com.