

# British Sociological Association (BSA) Bourdieu Study Group

## BSA Bourdieu Study Group

The British Sociological Association (BSA) Bourdieu Study Group was officially formed in February 2012. The need for a Bourdieuan network was recognised after the co-conveners organised two events prior to the groups establishment: Bourdieu and Education Workshop at Queen's University Belfast (funded by BSA and QUB) in 2010 and Bourdieu Key Concepts Workshop at the University of Bristol (funded by Queen's University Belfast and University of East London) in 2011. Although we had initially only advertised for applications from the UK for the Key Concept event, we had applicants applying from all over the world. Therefore, we opened it up to an international audience and had attendees travelling from as far as America and Brazil. The event highlighted the increasing popularity of the application of Bourdieu's concepts to current research internationally. We were inundated with applications and unfortunately had to turn many people away. The number of people applying to attend confirmed the need for more events centered on Bourdieu. As a result, we applied to the BSA to establish a Bourdieu study group.

The BSA Bourdieu Study Group held its first study group event on 8th June 2012. This event drew together Bourdieuan scholars for a debate around issues relating to public engagement and Bourdieu's legacy. It posed such questions as: should the sociologist be helping people to reflect and question their own lives and conditions, why do we do sociology, and was Bourdieu really a public sociologist? To address these questions, the event brought together one of the most prominent advocates of public sociology - Professor Michael Burawoy current President of the International Sociological Association and Professor Derek Robbins who has been one of the leading exponents of Pierre Bourdieu's theories in the fields of sociology for over forty years.



Since the BSA Bourdieu Study Groups creation we have organised a number of other events:

- 13 December 2012: BSA Bourdieu Study Group event: Gender and Bourdieu, “Is doing gender unavoidable?”
- 17 June 2013: BSA Bourdieu Study Group Event: Bourdieu and Passeron
- 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013: Measuring Social Class: Bourdieuan Approaches

The group has also coordinated sub-streams at the annual BSA conference. In 2013 we worked with the BSA theory stream and had several sessions allocated to Bourdieuan papers. For the annual conference this coming April 2014 we have a special sub-stream with the education stream on Bourdieu and education as well as a session with the theory stream. The group was recently invited to Jean-Claude Passerons’ book launch for the English translation of Sociological Reasoning.

### **The aims of the Bourdieu Study Group are:**

- To encourage and support the discussion and application of Bourdieuan social theory within sociological research.
- To bring together researchers interested in a range of substantive areas to generate and consolidate theoretical knowledge.
- To facilitate networking and discussion through organised activities.
- To support postgraduate students who are engaging with Bourdieu.

### **Getting involved**

The group is free to join. Simply find the group on Jiscmail ([www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=BSA-BOURDIEU-STUDY-GROUP](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=BSA-BOURDIEU-STUDY-GROUP)) and click on the ‘subscribe’ button or email co-convenor: Jenny Thatcher at [u0933657@uel.ac.uk](mailto:u0933657@uel.ac.uk). This is our official email list which circulates details of all our events as well as other Bourdieuan events that we feel may be of interest to members.

For more informal engagement we have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bsabourdieu> and you can follow us on Twitter: @bsabourdiesg. We aim to encourage and support discussion on these media and have seen debates ranging from reproduction of elite institutions to whether scholars should use ‘Bourdiesian’ or ‘Bourdieuian’? And even if the study group should set a precedent by using and recommending one version over another?

We also have a blog: <http://bsabourdieu.wordpress.com/> and are looking to post 500 word contributions from Bourdieuan scholars about their own research drawing on Bourdieu’s concepts or thoughts on Bourdieu’s works. All levels are welcome and if you are interested please email Jenny: [u0933657@uel.ac.uk](mailto:u0933657@uel.ac.uk).

## **Plans for the future**

We will be holding an event on 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2014: Bourdieu in Migration and 'Race'/Ethnicity Studies with key note speakers professor Karen O'Reilly and Dr Nirmal Puwar. The event will be held at the BSA meeting room in London, booking will open shortly. We also have plans to hold more events in different regions of the UK as well as a special international conference.

## **Convenors**

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