

BOURDIEU STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Bourdieu
Study Group

BRITISH
SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

BOURDIEU: THE NEXT GENERATION

On 14th January 2016 at Cardiff University, the Study Group launched its edited book: *Bourdieu: The Next Generation, The Development of Bourdieu's Intellectual Heritage in Contemporary UK Sociology*. The book was one of the first three books in the BSA and Routledge Sociological Futures book series. The book was also launched at the BSA Annual Conference in April 2016.

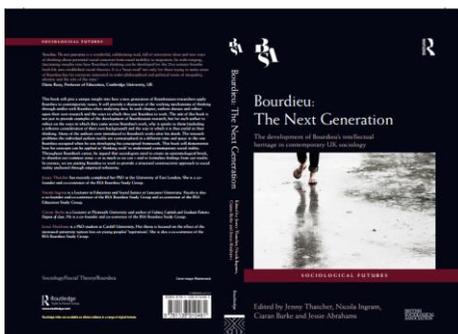
The contemporary relevance of the work of Pierre Bourdieu

The BSA Bourdieu Study Group held its first inaugural biennial conference: 'The contemporary relevance of the work of Pierre Bourdieu', between 4-6 July 2016 at University of Bristol. The conference was organised in association with the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies based at the university.

The conference consisted of a series of keynote talks and panels from world leading scholars including: Dr Will Atkinson, Dr Michaela Benson, Professor Harriet Bradley, Professor Gill Crozier, Dr Sam Friedman, Professor David James, Dr Joseph Ibrahim, Dr Daniel Laurison, Dr Lisa McKenzie, Professor Tariq Modood, Professor Diane Reay, Professor Derek Robbins, Professor Elizabeth Silva, Dr Nicola Rollock and Dr Derron Wallace. These different talks and panels addressed the relevance of Bourdieusian theory to contemporary issues of: social suffering, social class, education, 'race', ethnicity and politics, as well as tackling the epistemology, ontology and the prospects of his work for social science.

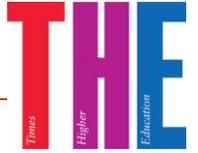
In addition, there were 105 paper presentations expanding Bourdieu's theoretical framework to a wide range of present-day sociological issues and case studies across themes of: taste, distinction, culture, inequities, social class, education, methodology, politics, activism, habitus, fields, symbolic violence, space and place, 'race', ethnicity and migration, gender, social justice, media and technology. Delegates had travelled from all over the world to present and attend the conference. It was extremely stimulating to see the inventive way people were applying Bourdieu to a variety of research projects in diverse national contexts. Delegates were also able to take part in two workshops – out of a choice of eight. These workshops produced energising discussions between delegates and workshop leaders.

It was not all work and speakers and delegates got to enjoy the evening conference dinners and even have a dance! The BSA Bourdieu Study Group would like to thank all the speakers, delegates, assistants and the BSA events team which made this conference possible.



BOURDIEU: THE NEXT GENERATION – The Development of Bourdieu’s Intellectual Heritage in Contemporary UK Sociology, Reviewed in Times Higher Education

In March 2016, the Study Group’s edited book was reviewed by Laurie Taylor:



“What perhaps provides this excellent volume with an additional frisson is the background awareness among its contributors that they themselves are now involved in the accumulation of academic capital and that their future lives in higher education will necessarily involve making the types of evaluations and classifications that will perpetuate the divisions and social inequalities against which they so forcefully rail. One can only hope that their current recognition of this paradox prevents them from ever falling into that group of educators that Bourdieu chose to describe dismissively as “lackey intellectuals” ”.

The full review can be read here: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/books/review-bourdieu-the-next-generation-jenny-thatcher-nicola-ingram-ciaran-burke-jessie-abrahams-routledge>

BBC THINKING ALLOWED: A SPECIAL PROGRAMME ON PIERRE BOURDIEU



In June 2016, BBC Radio 4 Thinking Allowed had a special programme on Pierre Bourdieu. Laurie Taylor explored the ideas and legacy of the French sociologist. Laurie was joined by Diane Reay, Professor of Education at Cambridge University and Derron Wallace, Post Doctoral Fellow at Brandeis University and Kirsty Morrin, PhD Student at the University of Manchester and co-convenor of the Bourdieu Study Group. During this programme Derron and Kirsty spoke about their research taken from their chapters in the BSA Bourdieu Study Group’s book: Bourdieu: The Next Generation.

You can listen to the programme here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07gg1kb>

BEYOND BOURDIEU WORKSHOP

In October, the Study Group supported the launch of Will Atkinson’s book: Beyond Bourdieu at University of Bristol. Will hosted a special workshop on the book’s themes for BSA Bourdieu Study Group members. Discussions focused on participants’ research in relation to the themes of: the interaction between fields and relevant physical spaces/sites and networks and the interplay of multiple fields in individual lives (i.e. research participants), including family as a field.

More details on the book can be found here: <https://www.polity.co.uk/book.asp?ref=9781509507481>

BOURDIEU STUDY GROUP MEMBERS’ PUBLICATIONS

This year saw one of the largest response to the Bourdieu Study Group’s call for members’ publications. You can see all this year’s publications here: <https://bsabourdieu.wordpress.com/2016/09/22/bourdieu-study-group-members-publications/>. All members’ publications can be found here: <https://bsabourdieu.wordpress.com/selected-publications/>. Publications have been placed under different themes. This was established so as to be a useful resource for people and we have been informed that some sociology lecturers are now recommending this resource to their students.

The next call for members’ publications will be issued in the summer of 2017.

BOURDIEU STUDY GROUP TRAVEL BURSARY AND FREE EVENT PLACE SCHEME

The end of the year saw the Study Group launching the Bourdieu Study Group's travel bursary and free place scheme for people on low income and/or in a period of non-funding/precarity. This can include: unfunded postgraduate research students (PGRs) and those PGRs in a non-funded write-up year, undergraduate students from a 'non-traditional' background, early career researchers on temporary part-time contracts and those that are unemployed. More details about this scheme will be released early next year. The scheme aims to give five free places to people who belong to these categories and one travel bursary (UK based) to a person who could not afford the travel expenses to attend an event.

THE BOURDIEU STUDY GROUP EXPLORES THE BODY

On 28th November 2016, the Bourdieu Study Group held an event entitled: 'Bourdieu, Aesthetics and the Body' at the BSA meeting room in London. The five papers presented opened up discussion on what a Bourdieusian theory adds to the exploration of the body and its aesthetic and performative capacities. The different papers showed how the body bears the imprint of divisions as a result of a person's social location, habitus and taste, and that symbolic value is bestowed to particular bodily forms.

This event brought together a range of sociologists who showed how empirical research conveyed the relevance of Pierre Bourdieu's conceptions of the body to: identity work and performances of self along social lines, gender and ethnicity. Rob Imrie (Goldsmiths) explored the relevance of Pierre Bourdieu's conception of the body to the development of disability theory, illustrating the ways in which the body is categorised in relation to its capacity to work. Nicola Ingram (Lancaster University) focused on teenage boys' identities and educational aspirations, contributing to an understanding of working-class masculinities as complex rather than monolithic constructs. Carl Mallett (University of Warwick) presented his ethnographic reflections when exploring the habitus through Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ). While Louise Rondel's (Goldsmiths) paper delved into the world of tanning and the social and spatial distinctions of the spray tan, showing how the body is the materialisation of class taste. Jenny Thatcher offered an insight into the aesthetic decisions that brides make when choosing a wedding dress, with the wedding dress becoming an embodiment of objectified capitals directly involved in the production and legitimation of class aesthetics.

All papers considered how bodies are read and misread, and how value is inscribed onto them. The papers questioned who has the power or privilege in society to make judgements and decisions on what it is to be 'valued', 'tasteful', 'classy', and 'respectable' and what happens when people don't subscribe to, and/or actively resist dominant 'value' body/aesthetic.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Bourdieu Study Group would like to express gratitude towards all the Bourdieu Study Group members who have supported us over the years and helped us build and grow from hosting small events of 20 delegates to conferences with 200 delegates. One of the most rewarding feedback we have received comes from both our long-term and new members who tell us the study group creates a safe and welcoming space for them to present and discuss their ideas. We are looking forward to organising our next 2018 biennial conference. In the meantime, we will be hosting a series of small events and workshops during 2017. We wish you all a happy holiday season and productive new year.