



## BSC Hate Crime Network Newsletter

Welcome to the BSC Hate Crime Network Members' Newsletter for April 2025.

The newsletter provides an update on the latest news and events offered through the Network. The BSC Hate Crime Network is intended to provide a forum for those who are researching/working in the field of hate crime. More information about the Network can be found [here](#). If you have any queries about the newsletter or the Network, please contact the Chair of the Network, Dr Rachel Keighley ([Rachel.keighley@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.keighley@leicester.ac.uk)) or the Network's email: [hatecrimenetwork@britsoccrim.org](mailto:hatecrimenetwork@britsoccrim.org)

We are now on Bluesky. Please do follow us on: [@bschcnetwork.bsky.social](https://bschcnetwork.bsky.social) or follow the link [here](#).

Also follow us on LinkedIn [here](#).

**Things to look out for in this issue include:** Call for nominees for the Sophie and Sylvia Lancaster Award, applications for new committee members, registration for our Perpetrators of Hate Conference is open, ECR/PGR discussion groups; and online writing groups.

## Call for new Hate Crime Network committee members

# Apply to join the BSC Hate Crime Network Steering Committee

WE ARE SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR TWO NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN OUR STEERING COMMITTEE. THE POSITIONS WE HAVE IN MIND INCLUDE BEING INVOLVED IN RUNNING THE NETWORK'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND THE NETWORK PODCAST



## WANT TO APPLY?

PLEASE SUBMIT A STATEMENT (300 WORDS) OUTLINING HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR CHOSEN ROLE(S) & THE NETWORK, TO THE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR: RACHEL KEIGHLEY  
([RACHEL.KEIGHLEY@LEICESTER.AC.UK](mailto:RACHEL.KEIGHLEY@LEICESTER.AC.UK)) AND  
MIKAHIL AZAD ([M.AZAD@WORC.AC.UK](mailto:M.AZAD@WORC.AC.UK))  
BY 31ST MAY 2025.

We are seeking expressions of interest for two new members to join our Steering Committee. The positions we have in mind include being involved in running the network's social media accounts and the network podcast.

Want to apply?

please submit a statement (300 words) outlining how you can contribute to your chosen role(s) & the network, to the chair and co-chair: Rachel Keighley ([Rachel.keighley@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.keighley@leicester.ac.uk)) and Mikahil Azad ([m.azad@worc.ac.uk](mailto:m.azad@worc.ac.uk)) by **31st May 2025**.

## **BSC Hate Crime Network “Sophie and Sylvia Lancaster Prize” 2025**

### **Call for Submissions:**

The British Society of Criminology Hate Crime Network is proud to launch the Sophie and Sylvia Lancaster Prize 2025, celebrating excellence and innovation in the field of hate crime. Submissions can be related to academic work, policy, practice or activism in the field of hate crime.

🏆 Prize: £100 worth of Palgrave books, awarded at the BSC Conference at the University of Portsmouth (2-4 July 2025).

♦ Eligibility:

- ✓ Must be a BSC member
- ✓ Work must be published/shared or role active between 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025
- ✓ For policy, practice or activism nominations: must have produced this output (for example, a podcast, an infographic, a video) between 1st April 2024-31st March 2025
- ✓ Self-nominations welcome (with permission)

✉ How to Apply:

Submit a 250-word supporting statement explaining how you meet the criteria to [Jon Garland \(j.garland@surrey.ac.uk\)](mailto:j.garland@surrey.ac.uk) by **5pm, Friday 16th May 2025**.

Let's celebrate and recognise those making a difference in the fight against hate crime!

## Events

### Perpetrators of Hate Conference:

We are delighted to announce that this year, the Hate Crime Network are co-hosting our annual conference with the Policing Network on Hate Crime Perpetrators, **Thursday 5th June 9.30am-4pm**. A one-day hybrid conference organised by the BSC Hate Crime Network and BSC Policing Network, hosted by the NTU Hate Crime Research Group at Nottingham Trent University. The aim of this conference is to examine the motivations of hate crime perpetrators and the effectiveness of Criminal Justice responses to hate crime offending. The conference is targeted at academics, PGR candidates, researchers, policy makers, practitioners, professionals and interested others. There is no fee for the conference registration. Sign up for free [here](#).

Any queries can be directed to Dr Irene Zempi (email: [irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk))

### PGR/ECR events:

1. **Unpacking Experiences of Racism in Rural England:** PGR/ECR Discussion Group. Wed 30 Apr 2025 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM BST Online. Sign up for free [here](#).

### Writing Groups:

## Latest podcast episodes

- Interview with Jonathan Blyth about anti-racism and social justice movements beyond academic. Listen [here](#).
- Interview with Professor Mark Walters on his book "Criminalising Hate: Law as Social Justice Liberalism" – Winner of the BSC Hate Crime Network "Sophie and Sylvia Lancaster Prize" 2023. Listen [here](#).
- Interview with Dr. Gopala Sasie Rekha, Lecturer in Criminology, University of Winchester on the topic of 'sex trafficking'. Listen [here](#).

## Publications and News

Please find below some of the latest publications and news at the cutting edge of hate crime research:

1. Yip, A., Keighley, R., Kuppan, V., Fowler, C., Kelalech, K., Chakraborti, N., Clarke, A., Nisic, M. (2025). "Is there anywhere left that is not considered racist?": demystifying the online backlash against rural racism. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 1–21. Read [here](#):  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2025.2468257> Racism in the British countryside is under-acknowledged due to the dominant conceptualisations of the "rural idyll" – as opposed to the unstable and insecure urban life, the rural is romanticised as problem-free, idyllic, and a sanctuary from the harsh realities of everyday life. The objective of this study is to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive countryside through unpacking the varieties of online backlash provoked by the topic. A corpus of approximately 193,000 words was compiled from online news websites and social media. The analytical approach draws on methods of corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis. Four major types of strategies were identified in response to discussions of race and racism in the rural context: us versus them, unleashing emotions, denial, and engagement with racism. The backlash stems from a lack of understanding of the significance of rural racism and evolving conceptualisations of racism.
2. Dr Leah Burch has been awarded funding by the Office of the Victims Commissioner to conduct a systematic review about disabled victims' experiences of the criminal justice system. The funding (£7,541.27) was awarded on the 4th March 2025. PhD student Vickery Stamp will also be

a Research Assistant on this project to support the methodological framework. The report, which is due to be delivered by the end of April, will shape future empirical research conducted by the Victims' Commissioner on this important subject area.

**BSC Hate Crime Network**

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