

Invitation to join the Associate Board of the BSA journal *Sociology*



Introduction

The ongoing success of the BSA's journal *Sociology* can be seen in the fact that in 2006 it will move from five to six editions per year. This will ensure that *Sociology* continues to be one of the highest ranked and most cited of all journals in the discipline.

Both the journal's high status and the imminent move to six editions to a year inevitably mean that there will be more submissions to the journal than ever before. Given this, the previous and new editors of the journal, the current editorial board and the BSA Publications Committee, have agreed to develop a new '**Associate Board**' for the journal, which will run in parallel with the Editorial Board.

Associate Board composition and operation

The Associate Board is a flexible new way for individuals to become involved in the ongoing success of the journal. It is open to everyone, regardless of previous publishing experience, and does not require the same time commitment as membership of the Editorial Board.

The Associate Board will be made up of **24** scholars who commit themselves to reviewing up to **circa 6 papers** a year for the journal.

We are recruiting **12 members** this year and 12 the year after. We currently are inviting nominations for 12 places on the Associate Board. Successful candidates will become members of the Board from May 2006 onwards, for a period of two years.

The Associate Board differs from the journal's Editorial Board in that the latter has a strategic role in assessing and guiding the current and future goals of the journal, while members of the Associate Board will have the more delimited role of assessing individual papers submitted to the journal. Thus the Associate Board will not have face-to-face meetings but will be a 'virtual' entity.

Why should I nominate myself to become a member of the Associate Board?

Being a member of the Associate Board means being professionally associated with 'Sociology', one of the most well-regarded journals in the field. It is also an excellent way to make your own contribution to the continued successful running of the journal, and to the future health of British sociology as a whole. To acknowledge the valuable contribution made to the journal by members of the associate board, the names of the latter will be publicly recognised, by being printed in each edition of *Sociology*, and listed on its web-pages.

Who can nominate themselves?

We envisage that the Associate Board will be made up of a wide variety of scholars. This variety will be expressed both in terms of research interests and in terms of the career stages of those involved. Scholars ranging from early career researchers through to senior and retired academics can apply to be Associate Board members.

Terms and Conditions of Associate Board membership

1. Membership of the Associate Board will normally last **two years**.
2. Nomination to become a member of the Associate Board **is open to all qualified candidates** (see point 3 below), **regardless of previous publishing experience** and regardless of BSA membership. However, if an individual were to take up a position on the Associate Board, s/he would be expected to **become a member of the BSA** if not one already.
3. Members of the Associate Board must possess EITHER a **PhD in sociology** (or a cognate social science discipline), OR **at least two years' research and/or teaching experience of sociology** (or a cognate subject) in **Higher Education** (Note: people retired from an HE post are welcome to nominate themselves). If you are in doubt about your eligibility, please contact the Chair of the 'Sociology' Editorial Board, Alan Aldridge, at the address below.
4. The number of Associate Board members will normally be **24**. This year we are seeking **12 new members**. If there are **more than 12 people who nominate themselves** following the current call for nominations (see below), an **election** will be called. Members of the journal's Editorial Board will cast their votes to decide on Associate Board membership.

If you would like to nominate yourself for membership of the Associate Board, please email a short CV summarising your educational, employment and publishing history, to: Alan Aldridge, *Sociology* Chairperson, Alan.Aldridge@nottingham.ac.uk

CVs to be received by no later than **Friday 24th March 2006**. CVs to be no longer than two A4 pages, preferably in Microsoft Word.

If more than 12 nominations are received, an election will be held to fill the 12 places. The electors will be members of the Editorial Board of 'Sociology'. Nominees will be informed of the results in late May and, if successful, their duties will commence from the start of June 2006.