BSA Early Career Forum Event

‘Imposter Syndrome’ as a Public Feeling in Higher Education

Monday 4th June 2018

School of Education, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**Keynote Speaker**

Prof Yvette Taylor - University of Strathclyde

Dr Barbara Read - University of Glasgow

‘Imposter syndrome’ – sensations of not belonging, feeling that one’s competence and success are fundamentally fraudulent – is anecdotally very common in higher education, is popularly understood as an *individual* problem, and presents a particular challenge to early career academics. This BSA Early Career Forum event invites early career academics and postgraduate students in Sociology and related disciplines to explore the possibilities of re-thinking ‘imposterism’ as a public issue in HE.

The symposium draws on how HE inclusions, exclusions, and marginalisations have been understood by sociologists of education, and how feeling like an ‘imposter’ has been analysed according to intersections of class, race, and gender, in order to re-think imposter syndrome as a public feeling (Cvetkovich 2007, 2012) in higher education and academic labour. The symposium will locate academic 'imposter syndrome' in social and political context, reflect on long histories of working class, queer and Black feminist work on the affective dynamics of structural inequalities in higher education, and aims to further these conversations with a critical focus on the ‘early career’ category. This raises questions around who is visibly *marked* as an imposter and who can *choose* to occupy or speak from such a position, and on how claiming a peripheral or marginalized position in academia relates to access, belonging, and complicity within exclusionary and stratifying institutions.

Confirmed plenary speakers include **Prof Yvette Taylor** (School of Education, University of Strathclyde) and **Dr Barbara Read** (Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change, University of Glasgow).

**We are seeking** **abstracts for paper presentations, workshops, performances, and one further keynote/plenary which explore:**

* The socio-political context of feeling like an imposter in the inequality regimes of higher education.
* What feeling like an imposter can tell us about the neoliberal structure and governance of contemporary UK academia.
* Whether, and how, feeling like an imposter can be thought of not as an individual problem to be overcome, but rather as a resource for political action and a site of agency, as early career academics negotiate casualisation, insecurity, and performative regimes of audit.



**Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words to Maddie Breeze** **maddie.breeze@strath.ac.uk** **by 5pm on 30 March 2018. There are travel bursaries of up to £50 available for participants, please note in your email if you would like to claim a travel bursary.**

**Registration fees:** BSA members £5, Non-BSA Members £15.

