

# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## **SNSBI: Autumn Meeting: *Names and Power***

Saturday 14 November 2026, University of Sheffield and online (10am to 4.30pm)

### **Call for Papers**

The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland invites proposals for papers for a one-day meeting on the theme of '**Names and Power**' – a hybrid event held at the **University of Sheffield on 14th November**.

Names are not neutral. Whether attached to people, places, streets, institutions, objects, events, texts or literary worlds, names are deeply implicated in relations of power. They may express authority, ownership, affection, belonging, memory, hierarchy or resistance. They may also become sites of contestation, where competing interpretations of the past, present and future are negotiated. This conference invites papers that explore the many ways in which names and naming practices intersect with power.

We welcome contributions from across the broad field of name studies and from related disciplines, including linguistics, history, geography, literary studies, digital humanities and heritage studies. We are interested in papers on all kinds of names, including place-names, personal names, street names, institutional names, literary names, names of things, and names in digital or virtual spaces. Contributions may address historical or contemporary material, theoretical or methodological questions, specific case studies, or comparative approaches.

**Proposals are invited for 20-minute papers (with 5–10 minutes for questions).**

If you are interested in presenting, please email a title and abstract (of up to 250 words) to [confsec@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:confsec@snsbi.org.uk) by the **4th September 2026**. There no registration fee for speakers.

**Further details about the programme, registration, travel and accessibility will be circulated in due course.**

