



This year is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Social Research Association. Reaching this important milestone shows that the SRA continues to play a valuable role helping social researchers and raising the profile and standards of social research. To mark the anniversary, a number of events this year will celebrate social research and the contribution of the SRA. Our Annual Conference on December 11th has as its title 'Trends: looking back, moving forward - 30 Years of the SRA'.

In our 30th year we are seeking both sponsorship for anniversary related activities and the means to explore longer term possibilities for developments requiring additional funding. Our imminent registration as a charity will enable us to take advantage of more favourable taxation rules, which means sponsors' contributions will be even more valuable.

30th anniversary opportunities

We are proposing to;

- use the next two issues of the SRA News to provide an opportunity for sponsors to both advertise themselves and celebrate our 30th anniversary. (please see attached details)
- offer for a time limited period associated with the 30th Anniversary, the chance to place links on our website to your organisation
- seek sponsorship of our summer event on July 15th - please see details of this event on [SRA website](#) . Space does not allow for the stands (as at the Annual Conference) but we are seeking an event sponsor and also there is scope to place flyers in the event pack.
- have the 30th as a major theme for the Annual Conference on December 11th - to be held as usual at SOAS. We are pleased to receive forward bookings now for stands and indeed for lead sponsorship.
- hold a celebratory dinner to mark the 30th anniversary.
- explore offering a prize for the most promising 30 year old social researcher – to be awarded at the Conference. We have yet to determine criteria for this – this is something to discuss with the prize sponsor.
- seek sponsorship events away from London. Our national branches in Cymru and Scotland would welcome support for events they will be organising later this year and further information can be provided on request.
- be open to ideas that our supporters may also have.

Longer term opportunities

We have a number of development plans that would benefit from financial support. This could be in the form of sponsorship or some other arrangement. To mention a few – and you may have other ideas;

- Re-design of the website
- Development of 'good commissioning' website.
- New publications and re-issue of existing ones – for example the development of a journal for social research and/or innovative ways of furthering knowledge transfer.
- Sponsorship of SRA News (to include certain number of advertisements) for a defined time period.
- Development of a 'work placement'/vacancy exchange agency to foster mobility and work experience between sectors.
- Development of an advisory service for new entrants to social research with mentoring support.
- There are also some on going issues that could always benefit from financial support such as a project to expand membership.
- We have begun providing customised training on an in house basis for a number of organisations. There is scope to expand this activity and we would be interested in exploring how this might be done
- In recent months we have increased the number and range of vacant posts being advertised on our website. A few weeks ago we had 15 different vacant posts. We would like to think we are becoming *the* place for such a service and again we would be interested in discussing how we might take this service forward with employing organisations.
- The development of core competencies for social research.

And no doubts there are other possibilities that may occur to you that we have not thought about. Please get in touch if you would like to progress any of the above by emailing nigel.goldie@the-sra.org.uk , or phoning on 020 7388 2391.

We look forward to hearing from you