

# SRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS

# Making a difference: social research in an era of austerity

*Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, British Library, London*

Social research faces major challenges in the face of major reductions to public expenditure. It is now more important than ever to demonstrate how social research can make a difference to effective strategy, policy and practice. Arguably the role of social research becomes more important to guide practice in an era of austerity than one of affluence.

This conference will be addressing these issues through the plenary sessions. We are issuing a call for presentations and workshops that addresses these issues and also:

- **Innovative methods** for the study of social change; social return on investments; the use of process data and other approaches
- **Methodological challenges** in an area of reduced budgets such as better use of existing data and archives; more effective collaboration and management of the research process and improvements to analysis
- **The changing political agenda** and how this will impact on the practice of social research
- **Improving professional practice and standards** to reflect the changing role and skill mix of social researchers; raising competencies and accreditation; new ethical and data protection issues, issues for training, professional development and good practice guidance.

If you have an idea for a presentation that does not readily fit one of the above let us know what it is so we can consider its relevance. We are looking for informative and innovative presentations and workshops from across the varied organisations and contexts within which social researchers work. At the heart of the SRA is a commitment to promote and disseminate quality social research by practicing social researchers. We also value debate and the exchange of ideas and welcome presentations that will engage with conference attendees.

Send your abstract of not more than 500 words to [admin@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:admin@the-sra.org.uk) by **17th June 2010**. Please make the subject line of your email SRA 2010 Abstract and include your name on all attachments. Your abstract needs to include:

- title of presentation or workshop
- details about which theme your abstract reflects
- summary outline of content and areas of learning
- a description of your research methodology, if appropriate
- your name, affiliation and contact details (including email address)

Please do not send completed presentations or papers. Workshop presenters will pay a reduced fee to attend the conference. Further details about the conference will be announced on the SRA website [www.the-sra.org.uk](http://www.the-sra.org.uk)