

SRA Monthly Bulletin:  
April 2011



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This will be the last SRA E-bulletin I'm sad to say as I will be leaving this month. Many thanks to all of you who I have been fortunate to meet at our activities and speak to daily. It's been fantastic knowing you and I hope you continue to enjoy the SRA activities.

Items that you would like included regarding News and Publications should be sent to [Dorothy.williams@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:Dorothy.williams@the-sra.org.uk) and anything relating to Research Funding/ Training + Events to [Katarzyna.Nowakowska@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:Katarzyna.Nowakowska@the-sra.org.uk).

Please see the SRA website at [www.the-sra.org.uk](http://www.the-sra.org.uk) for more regarding what we have lined up ahead.

I hope you enjoy the articles and best wishes.

Maki

## **SRA News items**

**April 2011**

### **Scottish Government clashes with universities regarding funding**

A joint exercise by universities and the Scottish Government to estimate the size of the funding gap within higher education has backfired as the two have crossed swords in how the results of the findings are interpreted. Regarding the report of an expert group composed of economists, civil servants and officials looking into the issue, Scotland's Education Secretary Michael Russell said there would be a net funding gap of £93 million annually. However, principals representing twenty Scottish universities said the gap would be at least £200m. The smaller figure could be raised by the Scottish Government's budget possibly through increasing business rates, but the larger amount quoted by the principals could not be funded for independently and would further push Scottish universities to introduce tuition fees or a graduate tax.

Russell drew his £93m estimate from the group's report, by assuming that the average fee in England would be £7,500 would not rise with inflation and that Scotland would earn £62m in fees from English students. Scotland's main four political parties are set to decide before the 5<sup>th</sup> May what policy to go ahead with.

### **Millions of funding for research projects cut**

The government has cut 70 research and data collection projects worth £9million since it came to power. Using the Freedom of Information Act, the Radical Statistics Group of researchers and statisticians compiled lists of cancelled projects from these following departments: works and pensions; communities and local government; business; innovation and skills; and education. Education made 84 per cent of the cuts; adding up to more than £7.4m and more than half its total R&D spend in 2009-10. Axed projects include a £400,000 evaluation of academies; a £1.3m survey of children's views on their local area and £2.8m survey of disabled children's services.

### **BIS delays higher education White Paper**

The government has delayed its white paper on higher education in England until after the local elections in England on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. The white paper will tackle the aftermath on the Browne review, including details of the increases in tuition fees. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' department business plan last November committed to publication in March. Universities minister, David Willetts confirmed the delay. The publication cannot take place before the elections on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.

## **NIHR scheme increases transparency in health research**

The National Institute for health Research has launched Prospero, an online, advance register for the systematic reviews that provide evidence for decisions in health and social care. The Department of Health says the register will help avoid duplication of research and guard against selective reporting. Prospero, launched on the 22 February by the NIHR's Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, will give free public access to systematic reviews from all over the world.

## **Private forensic lab evidence may be rejected in Courts of Law**

UK courts may not accept forensic tests protected by commercial confidentiality, says Peter Gill, forensic scientist at the University of Oslo and co-developer of the DNA fingerprinting technique. He told the BBC that evidence from commercial companies would not be admissible unless their techniques could be properly scrutinized. The courts require openness, disclosure and scientific peer review, Gill mentioned. A petition was launched in protest against governments plans to close the Forensic Science Service has attracted just over a quarter of the 100,000 signatures needed to prompt a debate in parliament.

## **Cyber theft hits drugs and biotech companies**

Cyber crime hits the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, IT and chemical industries especially hard, a government agency has warned. UK businesses lose £9.2 billion per year in intellectual property theft, said the office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance, and cybercrime costs the UK economy up to £27bn per year.

## **Universities must engage with extreme views**

Universities should engage with extreme viewpoints on campus and be wary of marginalizing different cultures, says a report by the vice-chancellors' umbrella group Universities UK. It examines how universities can promote freedom of speech and protect the welfare of staff, students and the wider community. The working group was established following the arrest of former University College London graduate Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab in the US last December for an attempted act of terrorism.

## **Flagship engineering research centre for Belfast**

A £6m, 3,700 square metre research centre co-owned and operated by Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster will open in Belfast this autumn. Northern Ireland enterprise minister Arlene Foster said the centre 'will become the focal point for advanced materials and engineering R&D in Northern Ireland.

## Publications

We would be very grateful if SRA members who were interested could write a book review of one of the following titles:

[Doing Feminist Research in Political and Social Science, Brooke Ackerly and Jacqui True](#)  
[The Sociology of Intellectual Life, Steve Fuller](#)  
[Applying Social Science, David Byrne](#)

If any of SRA members are interested in writing a review of any of the titles mentioned above please contact Simon Haslam on [simon@researching.co.uk](mailto:simon@researching.co.uk).

### **IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

The new issue of [The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice](#) (formerly known as Benefits) (Volume 19, number 1) is now available online. The contents are listed below. The articles marked "F" are free of charge to download.

#### **Theme: Conditionality and social security in a global context**

**F:** *Editors: Fran Bennett with joint guest editors Katja Hujo and Elena Gaia*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00001>

A step in the wrong direction: linking the South Africa Child Support Grant to school attendance  
*Francie Lund, School of Development Studies, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, and the WIEGO Social Protection Programme*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00002>

Conditions in antipoverty programmes

*Armando Barrientos, Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester, UK*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00003>

Behavioural conditionality: why the nudges must be stopped – an opinion piece

*Guy Standing, Department of Social Policy, University of Bath, UK*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00004>

Tax credits: a close-up view

*Jane Millar, Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy, University of Bath, UK*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00005>

Top-down or bottom-up: the real choice for public services?

*Anneliese Dodds, Department of Sociology and Public Policy, Aston University, UK, and*

*Dan Paskins, Ealing Community and Voluntary Service, London, UK*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00006>

### **Policy Review**

The distributional consequences of the 2010 Spending Review

*Tim Horton, The Fabian Society, London, UK, and Howard Reed, Landman Economics, Colchester, UK*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00007>

### **In Practice**

An examination of the public discourse on benefit claimants in the media

*Richard Baillie, Edinburgh Welfare Rights Service, UK*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00008>

Employment and Support Allowance – what next?

*Daphne Hall, Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service, Bristol, UK*

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00009>

### **Research Round-Up**

*Department for Work and Pensions*

Employment and Support Allowance: findings from a face-to-face survey of customers

*Institute for Public Policy Research*

Now it's personal? The new landscape of welfare to work

*Centre for Research in Social Policy*

Transport and getting around in later life

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00010>

### **Government Round-Up**

The Spending Review and further analysis of the Budget • Welfare reform • Fraud and error in the benefits system • Health inequalities • Social care, personal budgets and community care grants • Regulation of social housing

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2011/00000019/00000001/art00011>

## **Titles of Interest**

### **Open University Press – Social Research By Tim May (University of Salford)**

About the Book: This fully revised and updated popular text successfully bridges the gap between theory and methods in social research, clearly illuminating these essential components for understanding the dynamics of social relations.

The book is divided into two parts, with part one examining the issues and perspectives in social research and part two setting out the methods and processes. Updates to this edition include:

- A new chapter on case study research
- A new concluding chapter
- Links to additional websites and IT applications that are integrated throughout the book

- Updated experiential examples and scenarios
- More international examples

The clear writing style, chapter summaries, questions for reflection and signposts to further readings continue to make this book the ideal companion to social research for students across the social sciences. In addition, it will be recognised as an invaluable source of reference for those practising and teaching social research who wish to keep abreast of key developments in the field.

### **Introducing Qualitative Research in Psychology**

**Carla Willig, City University London**

This text offers a clear introduction to the topic by taking six different approaches to qualitative methods and explaining when each one should be used, the procedures and techniques involved, and any limitations associated with such research.

- Reflexivity and ethics
- The benefits of different approaches and the comparisons
- Appropriate ways of writing up research

### **Research Methods and Data Analysis for Psychology**

**Stuart Wilson and Rory MacLean, Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh Napier University**

This student-friendly and accessible text offers a broad introduction to research methods, data analysis and SPSS for psychology. Bringing these three elements together the text provides students with a full introduction in a single title. With coverage of qualitative research methods and data analysis, as well as the traditional quantitative elements, this text offers a balanced approach. Further support for students and lecturers can be found on the accompanying website, including a guide to SPSS. Written with student engagement in mind, the text offers Stop and Think boxes, In the Know boxes, Test Yourself sections and Activities and Questions.

### **The Stata Survival Manual**

**David Pevalin and Karen Robson**

**University of Essex**

If you are new to using Stata software and concerned about applying it to a project you may find this book useful. The authors offer you a step by step introduction to the basics of the software, before gently helping you develop a more sophisticated understanding of Stata and its capabilities. The book will guide you through the research process offering further reading where more complex decisions are needed and give 'real world' examples from a wide range of disciplines and anecdotes that clarify the issues for readers.

### **Qualitative Research Design for Software users**

**Silvana di Georgio and Judith Davidson,**

This book is an essential guide for anyone using qualitative data analysis software (QDAS), particularly useful for those that want to go beyond a basic introduction to discover how to get the most out of software and how to identify the methodological issues they need to consider. The book is organized in the three parts – the first addresses the methodological issues that need to be addressed when designing qualitative research using QDAS; the second uses case

studies to demonstrate the issues and the design framework that was introduced in the first part. The last section contains practical appendices to help readers apply the framework introduced to their own research.

**Essentials of Social Research**

**Linda Kalof, Amy Dan and Thomas Dietz**

**Michigan State University**

This is an introductory text designed to provide straight forward, clear answers to the key questions students have about research methods. Written for those with no prior background in social research methodology.

**Social Research 3/e: Issues, Methods and Process**

**Tim May,**

This book bridges the gap between theory and methods in social research, clearly illuminating these essential components for understanding the dynamics of social relations.

**Research Methods in Health 3/e**

**Ann Bowling,**

**University College London**

This best selling book provides an accessible introduction to the theoretical concepts and descriptive and analytic research methods used in research on health and medical services. The third edition has been thoroughly revised throughout to include updated references and boxed examples, with additional information on key methodological developments.

**Interpreting Statistical Findings: A Guide for Health professional and Students**

**Jan Walker and Palo Almond**

**University of Southampton**

Perfect for students undertaking a critical review of quantitative research papers and will also help health professional to understand and interpret statistical results with health-related research papers. The book requires little knowledge about statistics, includes worked examples and is broken into the following sections:

- A worked example of a published RCT and a health survey
- Explanations of basic statistical concepts
- Explanations of common statistics test
- A quick guide to statistical terms and concepts

## **Policy Press**

New publications this month

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20% discount available on all titles at <http://www.policypress.co.uk>

### **Applying Social Science: The Role of Social Research in Politics by David Byrne**

**Summary:** In complex contemporary societies social science has become increasingly interwoven into the whole fabric of governance. At the same time there is an increasing recognition that attempts to understand the social world which seek to mimic the linear approaches of the conventional 'hard sciences' are mostly useless given the complex systems character of society in all its aspects. This book draws on a synthesis of critical realism and complexity theory to examine how social science is applied now and how it might be applied in the future in relation to social transformation in a time of crisis. A central argument is that there is no such thing as a 'pure' science of the social and that a recognition of the inevitability of application imposes obligations on social scientists wherever they work which challenge the passivity of most in the face of inequality and injustice.

**About the author:** David Byrne is Professor of Sociology and Social Policy in the School of Applied Social Sciences in Durham University. He has worked as an academic and in community development, and has been an inner-city municipal councillor. His interests are in the transition from industrial to post-industrial society and in the methodological programme of the social sciences as this can be applied to understanding social issues and helping social action, and he has published widely on these subjects.

#### **What the book covers:** Introduction

The methodological foundations of applied social science

Constructing evidence: the development of knowledge which is to be applied

Surveying the social world: assembling knowledge as a basis for action

Evaluating: determining the worth of social interventions

Legitimizing: the selective use of social science in justifying policy and practice

Consulting: the role of social research in relation to new modes of governance

Modelling: representing the world in order to understand how it works

Acting

The Academy and beyond: applied social research in the real world

Concluding

### **Systematic Action Research by Danny Burns**

**Summary:** Systemic action research works with real social and organisational issues to uncover their complex dynamics, often revealing unexpected opportunities. This book shows how this process can be integrated, in any context, to the process of social and organisational development and change. The book explains how systemic thinking works and how systemic action research can be embedded into organisational structures and processes to catalyse

sustainable change and critical local interventions. Practically written, it details how to design a programme and build it directly into policy and practice development, extending the possibilities of action research beyond the 'individual' and the 'group' to work across whole organisations, multi-agency governance arenas and networks. The book is filled with illustrative stories and pictures which bring the concepts to life enabling the reader to develop a clear picture of how to put it into practice. Systemic action research programmes are now being adopted in Government and local governance contexts as well as in national and international NGOs. This book will be invaluable for experienced action researchers as well as social science and social policy researchers who will benefit from an approach to qualitative research which is participative, grounded in practice and allows systemic understandings of complex problems. Policy makers and practitioners will appreciate a process which generates meaningful evidence about the dynamics of change and offers a tangible system for continuously integrating that learning into both formal and informal decision-making.

**About the author:** Danny Burns is Professor of Social and Organisational Learning at the University of the West of England and Director of SOLAR (Social and Organisational Learning as Action Research).

**What the book covers:** Introduction

Action research

A systemic perspective

Working across systems

Some systemic action research projects explored

Some design principles for systemic action research

Practices of systemic action inquiry

Issues for action research facilitators

Quality and ethics in systemic action research

Systemic action research in policy and politics

A final reflection.

## SRA Training Courses and Events:

For more information please visit: <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/training.htm>

All 1-day courses are £250 for non members and £175 for members; 2-day courses are £450 for non members and 350 for members.

SRA training days over the next few months:

Course: [Cognitive Interviewing](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 1 day

Location: London

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Course: [Essentials of Survey Research Design](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: Manchester

Date: 2nd Mar 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 28th January 2011

Course: [Introduction to Survey Sampling](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: Manchester

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 28th January 2011

Course: [In Depth Interviewing](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 24th February 2011

Course: [Research into Policy and Practice](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 21st Jun 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 20th May 2011

Course: [Grounded Theory and Research Method](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 5<sup>th</sup> March

Course: [Survey Research and Data Privacy](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: ½ day

Location: London

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 21st April 2011

Course: [Introduction to Research Project Management](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 day

Location: London

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and Confirmation: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Course: [Making an Impact: Getting Research into Policy and Practice](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 1 day

Location: London

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and Confirmation: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Course: [Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 day

Location: London / Cardiff

Date: TBC

**Deadline for Bookings TBC**

## [2011-2012 Programme](#)

Course: [Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 2 day

Location: London

Date: 28+29<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and Confirmation: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

Course: [Essentials of Survey Research Design](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 day

Location: London

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and Confirmation: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Course: [Ethics in Social Research](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: ½ day

Location: London / Cardiff

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and Confirmation: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

## **Forthcoming SRA Events**

### **Developments in the analysis of qualitative data**

Best of the Research Methods Festival 2010

NCRM and SRA joint event series in 2011

Wednesday 16 March 2011, 2-5pm; Wednesday 11 May, 2-5pm.

The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3JS.

#### **Programme on 16 March 2011**

##### **Developments in the analysis of qualitative data**

14.00 Nigel Goldie (SRA), brief introduction to the session

14.05 Kandy Woodfield, Natcen, 'What is Framework?'

14.50 Christine Rivers, 'Developments in the analysis of visual data'

15.35 refreshment break

15.55 Graham Hughes, 'Analysing open-ended questions using CAQDAS'

16.45 Closing general discussion of developments in the analysis of qualitative data.

17.00 Close

*Programme details for Multilevel modelling: methodology and applications (11 May 2011): TBC*

#### **Booking**

Places are limited and booking is essential to secure a place. To reserve a place please go to <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/events.htm> and fill in the booking form. Please complete the form and email it to [makiD@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:makiD@the-sra.org.uk). There will be charge of £5.00 to cover refreshment costs which will be collected at the event. Receipts can be provided if required.

#### **What Makes You Happy?**

##### **Office for National Statistics: Consultation on National Well Being Survey**

Tuesday 29th March, 2.00 - 4.00pm

Venue: SRA, 24 – 32 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HX

Booking by email to [makiD@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:makiD@the-sra.org.uk)

This is a free event but booking is essential as there are limited spaces.

The purpose of this event is to gather together practicing social researchers to explore in some depth the methodological issues facing ONS

**Managing and sharing social science research data: legal and ethical issues**

Friday April 8th 2011, 10.00 – 2.30pm  
British Library, London.

As part of its current Researcher Development Initiative (RDI) grant, the UK Data Archive will host a workshop on managing and sharing research data for quantitative and qualitative social science research. The workshop is aimed at social researchers at all stages of their career - from new to experienced - and will cover key legal and ethical issues surrounding the managing and sharing of data in research with people (surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations and ethnography). The workshop will provide guidance and practical exercises and discussions focusing on:

- ethical and legal issues in data sharing and re-use
- handling and sharing confidential information and personal data
- informed consent and data sharing
- anonymising data

Content is based on advice and guidance provided by the UK Data Archive to researchers and aims to help researchers plan data management strategies for projects and consider data sharing and archiving as part of ethical review procedures.

Email [MakiD@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:MakiD@the-sra.org.uk) for further information and check [www.the-sra.org.uk](http://www.the-sra.org.uk)  
We are currently finalising the programme, including fee for attending. This information will be posted on the website by December 22nd. If you wish to be on a priority booking list please email Maki with your contact details with title of the event.

**Multilevel Modelling: methodology and applications**  
**Best of the Research Methods Festival 2010**

NCRM and SRA joint event series in 2011

Wednesday 11th May 2011, 2.00 - 5.00pm.

The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3JS.

For further information please contact [MakiD@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:MakiD@the-sra.org.uk) / 020 7388 2416.

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## **Other organizations' courses and events coming up**

### **ARMA Training Events:**

"**Supporting Research in Constrained Times**" which will take place at the Radisson BLU Hotel in Glasgow on Monday afternoon, 6th June.

The seminar addresses the ever-relevant issue of research support structures and looks at case studies of how some institutions have organised their research administration. Particular reference will be made to the challenging budgetary environment in which we are all operating and how we can ensure that our administrative structures provide maximum efficiency and effectiveness at such times, whilst ensuring that key service levels are maintained.

Full details: [https://www.arma.ac.uk/news/expert\\_seminars/es11const.xhtml](https://www.arma.ac.uk/news/expert_seminars/es11const.xhtml)

"**Good Advice for Hard Times**" This ARMA conference is being held at the Radisson BLU Hotel in Glasgow's city centre on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th June.

For full details of the programme, course fees, hotels and the booking link please see News & Events/Current Events <https://www.arma.ac.uk/list-events.xhtml> or follow the links from the Home Page. ARMA members should log in before making their booking; non members can join before registering.

### **'Collaboration and Participation: issues for the voluntary sector' Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

Speakers include: Margaret Harris, Veronique Jochum and Ellie Brodie.

Margaret is Emeritus Professor of Voluntary Sector Organisation, Aston Business School, Birmingham; Visiting Professor at Birkbeck, University of London; and Academic Adviser to IVAR.

Véronique Jochum is Research Manager at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) leading on the research team's work on citizen engagement. Ellie Brodie, also at NCVO, is one of the researchers working on the project; she is responsible for the suburban case study:-

#### **Margaret Harris: Collaboration - a useful concept for voluntary organisations?**

Funders and policy-makers often recommend that voluntary organisations should 'collaborate'. But is this good advice from the point of view of voluntary organisations themselves? This

question is considered in this presentation, drawing on recent research by IVAR and by other voluntary sector researchers.

**Veronique Jochum & Ellie Brodie: Participation – taking a broader approach**

People participate in many different ways in their lives, yet studies on participation all too often look at one particular form of participation at isolated points in time. The Pathways through Participation project has chosen to adopt a much broader approach exploring how individuals take part in a wide range of social or civic activities over the course of their lives. What can we learn from it?

The session will be chaired by Linda Milbourne who is Senior Lecturer in Voluntary and Community Sector Studies in the School of Social Sciences at Birkbeck College, University of London, where she is the Director of postgraduate programmes in youth and voluntary sector studies. Her research combines social policy and organisational concerns, with a focus on smaller community organisations and disengaged young people.

The seminar will start between 5.30/6.00pm. Our venues are always close to Euston, but please do check our confirmation a week or so before the event to avoid inconvenience.

If you have not already done so, you can reserve your place now by mailing Diana Wray at IVAR <[diana@ivar.org.uk](mailto:diana@ivar.org.uk)> and please also let her know if you have any dietary, access or other requirements.

**NCRM**

Title: Geographical Data Visualization and Geodemographics

Date: 9 March 2011

Location: University of Manchester

Website: <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/TandE/events2011/0309/index.php>

Established cartographic design principles provide a range of novel ways in which information can be presented visually to the user. Using techniques of geovisualization, GIS provides a far richer and more flexible medium for portraying attribute distributions than traditional paper mapping.

This workshop will develop extended examples that deploy 'geodemographic' analysis – methods of simplifying the complex characteristics of urban areas into groupings of neighbourhoods sharing similar characteristics. The use of geodemographic information about neighbourhoods will be illustrated through numerous examples concerning the delivery of public services. Practical sessions will show how you can apply a geodemographic classification to your data, and how this can be visualised within a GIS.

Course fees: £30 for UK registered postgraduate students; £60 for staff at UK academic institutions, ESRC funded researchers and registered charity organisations; £220 for all other participants.

For further information and to register please go to <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/TandE/events2011/0309/index.php>

### **Campaign for Social Science (CfSS) Roadshow**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**12:30pm – 2pm**

Venue: **University of Sheffield**- The Conference Rm, ICOS Building, 219 Portobello, Sheffield, S1 4DP

Local Hosts: Professor Keith Burnett, Vice Chancellor, Professor Tony Payne PVC for the Social Sciences and Professor Tony Crook AcSS, former DVC, Chair of the Campaign for Social Science

This event is free and for more information please contact: 020 7330 0898/  
[administrator@acss.org.uk](mailto:administrator@acss.org.uk)

### **ESRC - Geographical Data Visualization and Geodemographics to your networks?**

Date and location: 9 March 2011, University of Manchester

Tutors: Professor Paul Longley (UCL) and Dr Alex Singleton (University of Liverpool).

Organiser: National Centre for Research Methods

Further info: <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/TandE/events2011/0309/index.php>

### **Researching Mobilities - BHPS Introductory Training Courses 2011**

**Wednesday 9th March 2011, 3-5pm**

**Lecture Theatre G7, Humanities Bridgeford Street building**

**University of Manchester**

Our three speakers will introduce the different methodological approaches they have taken to researching mobilities. This is followed by discussion and debate from participants, exploring the distinctive research questions, practices, insights and types of knowledge claim that different methodological approaches to researching a topic can offer.

#### **Speakers and titles:**

**What's in focus? A critical discussion of visual methods, mobility and children and young People - Dr John Barker (Brunel University)**

**Watching, talking, writing diaries and counting: exploring technologies and travel - Dr Juliet Jain (The University of the West of England)**

**The use of new technologies to collect data on travel behaviour**

**- Professor Peter Bonsall (Institute of Transport Studies, University of Leeds)**

This workshop is free but you must register online at:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/realities/events](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/realities/events)

[realities@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:realities@manchester.ac.uk) 0161 275 2466

**5-6 May 2011**

**Introduction to BHPS using Stata**

This course is aimed at new users of the BHPS or those who have so far made use only of simpler aspects of the data. The underlying structure of the BHPS is complex, with various different data about individuals and the households in which they live across time. The BHPS team has tried to make this structure as transparent as possible through the way data is organised. However, even the number of different data sets can appear daunting. This course aims to guide the user through these apparent complexities, and ensure that they can effectively make use of as much of the data as they require for their own research projects.

For more info please see: <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/survey/bhps/courses/stata-intro>

**ESRC RDI Workshops: International Social Research Training**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 2- 5 pm (provisional programme)

CAQDAS

'Methodological and technical innovations in CAWDAS: integrating data and analyses' (NCRM QUIC node)

**British Sociological Association's 2011 Annual Conference**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – London School of Economics

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**NCVO**

NCVO Research supports voluntary and community organizations by developing a strong evidence base on voluntary sector issues.

Find out about the key areas we work in as well as details of all our publications, events and our membership scheme for organizations within civil society at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/research/>

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**The CASS Short Course Programme** for the academic year 2010 can be found at the following website [www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/cass](http://www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/cass). All course content and registration forms for the courses that CASS offers this academic year can also be downloaded from this site.

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**Managing and sharing social science research data: legal and ethical issues**

April Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00 – 2.30 British Library, London.

As part of its current Researcher Development Initiative (RDI) grant, the UK Data Archive will host a workshop on managing and sharing research data for quantitative **Data Management Support Services. University of Essex** and qualitative social science

research. The workshop is aimed at social researchers at all stages of their career – from new to experienced – and will cover key legal and ethical issues surrounding the managing and sharing of data in research with people (surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations and ethnography). The workshop will provide guidance and practical exercises and discussions focusing on:

- ethical and legal issues in data sharing and re-use
- handling and sharing confidential information and personal data
- informed consent and data sharing
- anonymising data

Content is based on advice and guidance provided by the UK Data Archive to researchers and aims to help researchers plan data management strategies for projects and consider data sharing and archiving as part of ethical review procedures.

**Organisers: UK Data Archive Essex University**

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### **Fitting Statistical Models to Complex Survey Data workshop**

The workshop is designed to foster interaction between practitioners and statistical experts in the analysis of complex survey data, by which participants can get advice on the suitability of different approaches for their intended analysis, and the statistical experts can get feedback on what is the 'current practice' regarding the analysis of complex survey data within the UK quantitative social science community, including information on issues and barriers for successful analysis of such data. **Please note that the workshop is free of charge and is limited to 40 places on a first come first served basis. Please complete the attached forms and send to the course administrator at [webcontact-s3ri@lists.soton.ac.uk](mailto:webcontact-s3ri@lists.soton.ac.uk)**

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### **Royal Statistical Society Official Statistics Section Meeting**

#### **Social Network Analysis: State of the art and new developments**

Tuesday 15/3/11, 2-6.30pm at the Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street, London, EC1Y 8LX.

Social network analysis has grown from being a small niche curiosity to a well respected methodology in a relatively short time. This half-day meeting provides an overview of the field and its applications, and a discussion of recent developments. Topics covered include ideas, concepts and the history of the network perspective; multilevel models to analyse network and group dependencies, for example in educational data; models for dynamics in longitudinally observed networks and their use to study peer influence;

using Exponential Random Graph models to explore network structures; and specialist software available for analysing network data.

**Martin G. Everett (University of Manchester)**

*Social Network Analysis: History and Overview*

- Ideas, concepts and history of the network perspective.
- Techniques for visualization and descriptive measures.
- Specialist software available for analyzing network data.

**Mark Tranmer (University of Manchester)**

*Random effects models for social network and group dependencies*

- The "network effects model" and the "network disturbances model".
- Multilevel random effects models for modeling model group dependencies.
- Assessing variation in educational outcomes between pupils and schools, taking into account friendship networks of the pupils in the school.

**Tom A.B. Snijders (Nuffield College, University of Oxford)**

*Modelling dynamics of social networks*

- Stochastic actor-oriented models: a class of continuous-time Markov chain models for representing network dynamics.
- Models of network dynamics for studying peer influence.
- How individual behaviours (adolescent smoking and collaboration between firms) are influenced by their network partners ("peers").

**Johan Koskinen (University of Manchester)**

*Recent advances in Exponential Random Graph Modelling (ERGM) and inference*

- Using ERGM to explore network structures
- Estimating network size and handling heterogeneity in ERGM
- Different approaches to Bayesian estimation for ERGM

Registration with payment is required. Booking forms can be downloaded from

[www.rss.org.uk/events](http://www.rss.org.uk/events) or requested by email from [conference@rss.org.uk](mailto:conference@rss.org.uk)

Meeting contacts: Tarani Chandola ([tarani.chandola@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:tarani.chandola@manchester.ac.uk)) and Jouni Kuha ([j.kuha@lse.ac.uk](mailto:j.kuha@lse.ac.uk))

Registration charges: RSS Student/Retired Fellows - £20; CStats/GradStats - £22;

RSS Fellows - £25; RSS members - £30; none of the above - £35

Please alert colleagues or others you feel may be interested in attending or contributing.

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