

SRA Monthly Bulletin:
February 2011



News	2
Publications	4
Training & Events	9

If you have any items for possible inclusion regarding News and Publications should be sent to Dorothy.williams@the-sra.org.uk and anything relating to Research Funding/ Training + Events to MakiD@the-sra.org.uk.

Please see the SRA website at www.the-sra.org.uk for more regarding what we have lined up ahead.

Best wishes from SRA London

SRA News items February 2011

Quality-Related Funding in New Danger

By 2014-15, quality-related research funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England will have fallen to £1057 billion, 3 per cent less than the £1.6bn total in 2010-11, and less still after inflation. The annual grant letter to HEFCE from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asks the funding council to make efficiency savings from the QR of £16m in 2011-12, £45m in 2012-13, £73m in 2013-14, and £104m in 2014-15, to be reinvested in research. The Higher Education Innovation Fund, which supports university-business interactions, has been frozen at £150m per year.

Medical Research Review Calls for Single Body Regulatory Body

A high-profile review recommends streamlining medical research regulation to speed up clinical trials and make the UK more attractive for research. Michael Rawlins, chairman of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, who chaired the Academy of Medical Sciences' regulation and governance review, said present arrangements were 'a mess of ...to the disadvantage of the public, patients and the economy.' The AMS suggests combining ethics and governance bodies under the Health Research Agency, covering any research that involves human participants, tissue or data.

Careers Funding Must Continue Says Independent Review

Research Councils UK should ensure that there is specific funding to develop researcher' skills and careers and that all funders contribute. This was found in an independent review of progress in achieving goals set out in the 2002 Roberts review led by the CBI Inter-Company Academic Relations head Alison Hodge. However, RCUK's annual £20m so-called Roberts funding will disappear from March and it remains unclear whether the government intends to commit any specific funding for the Roberts agenda.

Scottish Universities Keep '3* and 4*' Support as Teaching Funds Fall

The Scottish Funding Council is to maintain research funding for universities in the next academic year, even as teaching grants fall by 10 per cent. In an 'indicative' grants letter to universities on 20 December, the SFC said that it would maintain the real value of support for research graded 3* or 4* in the last Research Assessment Exercise, but remove support for 1* work. The changes will affect newer universities with strong industrial links, such as the Edinburgh Napier and Abertay, whose research allocations will fall by about 7 per cent as a result.

Engineers Open Five Doctorate Training Centres

Science Minister David Willetts has announced plans for five more centers to boost doctorate training in engineering. They will focus on advanced manufacturing in automotive and aerospace engineering, each funded by £1.25 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and industry contributions. Each centre will support up to 100 doctorate students over four years.

Cabinet Office Needs Minister to Monitor Sustainable Development

In a report published on the 10th January, the Environmental Audit Committee recommended creating a minister for sustainable development, based in the Cabinet Office. The minister would hold departments to account when they fail to deliver on green targets and, with the help of the Treasury, consider financial sanctions for poor sustainability performance.

Spain and the UK to Collaborate in Cancer Research

The Santander Bank Foundation and the Spanish National Centre for Cancer Research have signed an agreement under which talented young cancer researchers from the UK can join the Madrid centre for up to 24 months and participate in collaborative projects.

Changes in BBSRC Grants Procedures and Processes

As you will know, in 2010 BBSRC published *The Age of Bioscience - Strategic Plan 2010- 2015*. Following the recent spending review settlement it is known that the resources they will have available to them to deliver the vision in that document over the coming years. While the settlement is, given the current circumstances, a very generous one they will need to focus resources very carefully to meet the ambitions of the Strategic Plan.

In March there will be a substantial change in management of the research grants process, as BBSRC follows other Research Councils in transferring a significant amount of grant processing activity to the RCUK Shared Services Centre. This will involve some temporary slowing of normal service, and to allow for this grant closing dates will be altered. At the same time the BBSRC are also introducing a number of other modifications.

Many of these changes are intended to try and keep the demand for research funding in realistic balance with the available funds and to prevent success rates falling below the level where peer review functions effectively. In addition to these demand management measures, further changes seek to reinforce the importance of ensuring that grant holders explore the potential impact of their work, and to maintain the balance of the workload in their committee system. Further information about these changes will appear on our website as they are implemented. If you have any queries please contact alf.game@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Economic & Social Research Council Studentships 2011-12

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has recently awarded the KISS-DTC more than £5.2 million to support postgraduate studentships and training in the social sciences. Studentships will commence in **September 2011** and will cover tuition fees as well as a maintenance grant and an additional Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) for three years for full-time students and six years for part-time students. Applicants for ESRC studentship funding must have applied for or already been accepted for admission to MPhil/PhD study in the social sciences at King's, starting in 2011/12.

The KISS-DTC is organised around 15 cross-cutting research themes, connecting the social sciences with the humanities, the health sciences and the natural and mathematical sciences. In addition to providing studentships, ESRC funding will enable the KISS-DTC to run a number of placement and knowledge-exchange programmes with organisations across the public and private sectors. A range of advanced doctoral training and summer school courses will also be run collaboratively with learned societies and other universities, including the College's international partners.

Research themes and training pathways:

The research themes of the KISS-DTC build on areas of established excellence, which at King's often lie at the interfaces between social science with other traditions of knowledge and practice. These themes provide a framework to deepen collaborations between subject experts, and each one involves a series of more detailed training 'pathways', enabling students to progress from more than 230 masters programmes at King's into more specialist doctoral research in the broad interdisciplinary areas of:

- [health](#)
- [public services & regulation](#)
- [social change](#)
- [security](#)

Further details are now available on the web and can be accessed either via a link from the KISS-DTC home page, <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/pg/school/KISSDTC.aspx>

Publications

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

[Qualitative Research, Sheila Keegan](#)

[Social Research Methodology, Roger Gomm](#)

[Researching with Children and Young People, Tidall, Davis and Gallagher](#)

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.

Titles of Interest

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

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

The purpose of planning

Creating sustainable towns and cities

Yvonne Rydin

Planning is an important aspect of policy making. This book looks at a range of issues to unlock the purpose of planning, ideal for students and practitioners alike.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847424303>

How social security works

An introduction to benefits in Britain

Paul Spicker

A broad, accessible introduction to the benefit system in Britain which can help readers to make sense of the system in practice.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847428103>

Migration and welfare in the new Europe

Social protection and the challenges of integration

Edited by Emma Carmel, Alfio Cerami and Theodoros Papadopoulos

Providing innovative insights, this book moves the debate on migration and integration policies in the enlarged European Union and its member states onto new terrain.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847426444>

Family policy paradoxes

Gender equality and labour market regulation in Sweden, 1930-2010

by Åsa Lundqvist

This book looks at political attempts to create a 'modern family' and the aspiration to regulate the family and establish gender equality, examining the regulation of the family in Sweden between 1930 and today.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847424556>

Evidence versus politics

Exploiting research in UK drug policy making?

by Mark Monaghan

This book provides a new model for evidence-based policy in UK drug policy and will be essential reading for students and researchers in public policy and criminology.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847426970>

New in paperback this month:

The politics of parental leave policies

Children, parenting, gender and the labour market

Edited by Sheila Kamerman and Peter Moss

The politics of parental leave policies addresses how and why, and by whom, particular policies are created and subsequently developed in particular countries. It examines the factors that bring about variations in leave policy, covering fifteen countries in Europe and beyond, and the European Union.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847429032>

New this month:

THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING

Creating sustainable towns and cities

Yvonne Rydin

For further details visit <http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847424303>

Recommended titles written by Tim May:

Social Research

ISBN: 0335235670

Edition: 04 - **Pub Date:** 01-MAY-11

Situating Social Theory

ISBN: 0335210775

Edition: 02 - **Pub Date:** 01-AUG-08

Social Research 3/E

ISBN: 0335206123

Edition: 03 - **Pub Date:** 01-SEP-01

[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: 23rd Feb 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 28th 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: 3rd Mar 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 28th January 2011

Course: [In Depth Interviewing](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 24th 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: 5th May 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 5th March

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

Level: Advanced

Length: ½ day

Location: London

Date: 18th May 2011

Deadline for Bookings and

Confirmation: 21st April 2011

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

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 day

Location: London

Date: 8th June 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and
Confirmation: 8th May 2011**

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

Level: Advanced

Length: 1 day

Location: London

Date: 21st June 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and
Confirmation: 20th May 2011**

Course: [Advanced Qualitative Data
Analysis](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 2 day

Location: London

Date: 28+29th September 2011

**Deadline for Bookings and
Confirmation: 26th August 2011**

[2011-2012 Programme](#)

Forthcoming SRA Events

Using Social Media in Social Research - Inaugural Conference

23rd February 2011, 10.00 - 4.00pm
Nuffield Foundation, Bedford Square, London WC1

The conference will open with a presentation setting out the key issues to be addressed by social researchers studying social media and using social media as a resource of data and access to respondents.

This will be followed by;

William Solesbury : “Using social media for communicating research: from dissemination to dialogue.”

Richard A Mills, Lancaster University; *Is reddit.com crowd-sourcing the problem of Information Overload, or a mouthpiece for groupthink? Methods for researching Social News, and exploratory analyses*”.

Dr Helene Snee, Research Associate, Sociology, University of Manchester: “Web 2.0 in social science research: a case study in qualitative blog analysis”.

Dr Simon Haslam, FMR Research/University of Strathclyde : “Social media in social research: 2011 survey of SRA members.”

The programme includes discussion groups to explore the issues raised in the earlier presentations.

The conference will commence at 10.00 (registration at 9.30) and close at 4.00.

Further details of the programme and booking form can be found on <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/events.htm>

Costs: SRA members £50 and non members £65.00

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 . There will be charge of £5.00 to cover refreshment costs which will be collected at the event. Receipts can be provided if required.

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 for further information and check 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.

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Other organizations' courses and events coming up

ARMA Training Events:

Fundamentals of Research Administration, February 16th, Aston Conference Centre Birmingham

This intensive one-day course is aimed at Research Administrators who will probably have a maximum of one year's experience in university research centres/institutes or central offices, or in the NHS, or in the offices of sponsors of research.

Research Contracts, 18th March, Newcastle University

This course is targeted at staff in research support roles (whether in departments, faculties or central research offices) who come across research contracts in their day-to-day work and support the contract process but who are not necessarily contracts specialists.

Make your booking online: <https://www.arma.ac.uk/list-events.xhtml>

A property owning democracy – fact or fiction?

Tuesday 1st February 2011, 6.30 – 8.00pm (followed by pay bar) Tickets £6, £4 concessions

Is the growth of home ownership more of a mixed blessing than we assume? What will happen to social housing in the future?

- Chair: Julia Unwin, CBE, Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Professor Christine Whitehead, Director, Cambridge Centre of Housing and Planning Research and Professor of Housing, LSE
- Professor Chris Hamnett, King's College, London
- Gavin Smart, Assistant Director Research & Futures, National Housing Federation

Book your place via the British Library's website: www.bl.uk/whatson or for more information contact: social-sciences-events@bl.uk

'Collaboration and Participation: issues for the voluntary sector' Thursday 3rd 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> 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 9th 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

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

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 16th 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 6th – Friday 8th 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. 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 8th 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**

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Royal Statistical Society Official Statistics Section Meeting

“The Retail Prices Index and the Consumer Price Index”

Tuesday 25th January 2011 5pm

The Retail Prices Index is the traditional measure of retail price inflation, and has been widely used for a range of purposes. Recently the Government has been giving more prominence to an alternative measure, the Consumer Price Index. This meeting will discuss whether the CPI is a better inflation measure than the RPI for all or some

purposes. The ONS is considering how to improve the CPI and in particular how to include housing costs, which are currently excluded.

Attendance is free and open to all, but pre-registration is recommended. You can register by email: meetings@rss.org.uk or by phone (020) 7638 8998. For further information contact Michael Baxter (michael_a_baxter@hotmail.com).

The Royal Statistical Society's next Ordinary Discussion Meeting will take place on January 26th 2011 at 4pm on 'Resource allocation models'.

Two papers will be presented:

"The abuse of regression in the National Health Service allocation formulae: response to the Department of Health's 2007 'Resource allocation research' paper" by J. Galbraith and M. Stone and

"Resource allocation for English local government: a critique of the four-block model" by A. Gibson and S. Asthana.

You can find information about Ordinary Meetings or download the PDF file directly from our website www.rss.org.uk/preprints. If you would prefer a copy or a PDF file sent directly to you please contact journal@rss.org.uk.

We welcome contributions to the discussion following the presentation of the papers. If you would like to contribute, you would be limited to five minutes' speaking time at the meeting. It would be helpful if you could let us know in advance so that your name can be called. Again please e-mail journal@rss.org.uk.

If you cannot attend the meeting we would be happy to receive a written contribution. The written version of such contributions is **strictly** 400 words in length (not including any tables or reference details and figures). Please provide the following information at the beginning of your contribution:

* the author(s) and title of the paper under discussion.

* your name (including your title) and your affiliation, as you would wish it to appear on your printed contribution, e.g. Dr X, University of Y, City Z.

* either a full postal address or an e-mail address where you wish to receive the proofs of your contribution for checking (proofs will be sent out approximately three months after the meeting).

You are not obliged to submit your written contribution before the meeting but if you do it may be read out for discussion during the meeting if there is time.

After the meeting, contributions may be submitted for publication by sending a paper copy or pdf file direct to the Society's address before Wednesday February 9th, 2011. This deadline is

important (i) to help the authors of the paper, who will consider all the contributions and compose a reply, in limited time and (ii) for the production of the journal.

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 or requested by email from conference@rss.org.uk
Meeting contacts: Tarani Chandola (tarani.chandola@manchester.ac.uk) and Jouni Kuha (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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