

Monthly Bulletin: January 2010

News	2	We are delighted to present the Jan 2010 issue of the SRA's Monthly Bulletin of news, research funding, publications and events.
Publications	5	Apologies for the delay in getting this issue out which was caused by the departure of Mark Roche who has been a great help to us and we would like to thank him for all he has done.
Training & Events	8	The next bulletin will be out in early February. 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 . Note that events and funding with closing dates earlier than the 10 th day of the first month will rarely be listed, so send these contributions at least a month ahead.
		If you are not a member of the SRA and would like further details about the benefits of membership, please go to the SRA website at www.the-sra.org.uk or email admin@the-sra.org.uk .

Jan 2010 News Items

Research Methods Festival 2010

The 2010 Research Methods Festival will take place from 5-8 July at St Catherine's College, Oxford. The Festival, now in its fourth year, aims to engage social scientists across all disciplines and sectors by showcasing new methods and sharing experiences with them. This year's programme is available on <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/TandE/other/RMF2010>.

Climate Change

Who pays the bill?

What are you prepared to change?

Whose responsibility is it anyway?

In the run up to the Copenhagen conference, the Guardian has teamed up with Research Councils UK to offer a unique online resource dedicated to the climate change debate.

Visit www.guardian.co.uk/climate-change-and-you to interact with leading academics, take part in the online polls and measure your individual lifestyle choices through interactive graphics.

The following report was published on 16 December 2009 : Qualitative evaluation of the Adult Learning Option

The Adult Learning Option (ALO) pilot was one strand of the New Deal for Skills (NDfS) and ran in five Jobcentre Plus districts in England, between September 2006 and August 2008. ALO aimed to provide customers claiming benefit (inactive and Jobseeker's

Allowance) and for whom a lack of skills or qualifications was the main barrier to employment, with the opportunity to take up a NVQ Level 2 training course to improve their chances of finding work.

DWP commissioned British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) to carry out a longitudinal qualitative evaluation of ALO with the aim of informing future Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) initiatives. Specifically, the evaluation explored factors underpinning take-up of ALO, the effectiveness of delivery of ALO, customer impacts and outcomes, the added value of ALO, details of working practices between stakeholder agencies and recommendations to inform IES initiatives. The research was wholly qualitative in nature and comprised 209 depth interviews with ALO customers and professionals responsible for delivering the pilot. The research took place between June 2007 and March 2009.

The full report can be downloaded from our website at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep611.pdf>

Consultation on Science in Policy Making

In the wake of the row following Alan Johnson, the Home Secretary's 'dismissal' in November of Professor David Nutt as Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, the Government Office of Science has announced a consultation on its *Guidelines on Scientific Analysis in Policy Making* which provide a framework for how government obtains and uses science advice. The current Guidelines date from October 2005. More info on www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53585.pdf. Responses are required by 9 February.

The Fifth Freedom

Under this intriguing heading the European Commission is exploring ways in which the free circulation of knowledge within the European Union can be added to the four freedoms – the free circulation of persons, goods, services and capital – to which the EU has been committed since its inception in the 1957 Treaty of Rome. In practical terms its focus is on fostering researcher mobility, extending the use of the web economy and improving interactions across boundaries between research and society. More info on what they are doing is on www.euobserver.com/9/25838

Research Excellence Framework: Impact.

HEFCE is now piloting its proposals for the assessment of research impact in the next REF exercise. The proposals envisage an impact statement on interactions with users, some case studies and indicators on research income and research collaboration. One of the five disciplinary Units of Assessment to be included in the pilots is Social Work a/o Social Policy. Eight HEIs have volunteered for this pilot: Bristol, De Montfort, UEA, Keele, Leeds, LSE, London South Bank and York. More info on www.hefce.ac.uk/research/refd/impact/

Social science in schools

Two schemes, run by the Research Councils, aim to 'catch them young.' Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust support Researchers in Residence providing placements in secondary schools. For the schools it provides an introduction to science and possibly the prospect of scientific careers; for the researchers it provides the challenge of presenting their work to an inquisitive audience, the chance to hone their communication skills and a taster for classroom teaching. More info on www.researchersinresidence.ac.uk.

The Economic and Social Research Council has launched a new website for teachers *Social Science in Schools* with news of research findings, research resources, other useful website and (though still under development) details of career paths for social science graduates. It's at www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/sfs/links

Other news - The UK Statistics Authority released their interim monitoring report "Overcoming barriers to trust in crime Statistics - England and Wales" yesterday. The report can be found on the Authority website at:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring-reports/index.html

Workplace pension market model

This report sets out the methodological details of the Workplace Pension Market model Charles River Associates developed for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The model assesses whether or not it is profitable for private sector providers to offer a new pension to a particular type of firm.

This work was commissioned as part of a programme of research and analysis carried out by DWP to inform policy development, implementation and estimation of the likely impacts of the workplace pension reforms.

The full report can be downloaded from our website at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP74.pdf>

The following report was published on 15 December

Employer attitudes to defined contribution pension schemes

This report presents findings of a qualitative study carried out in 2009 to examine employer attitudes to, and understanding of, collective defined contribution pension schemes as well as their willingness to adopt the scheme, should it be enabled in the UK. The research was carried out on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions by BMRB Qualitative Research

The full report can be downloaded from our website at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep623.pdf>

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 Dorothy Williams at Dorothy.williams@the-sra.org.uk to receive a copy of the book and speak to Carolyn Roberts at: carolyn.roberts@samh.org.uk to inform her that they wish to review and submit their entries to her.

Policy Press

THE PETER TOWNSEND READER

Section Editors: Alan Walker, David Gordon, Ruth Levitas, Peter Phillimore, Chris Phillipson, Margot E. Salomon and Nicola Yeates

This reader brings together for the first time a collection of Peter Townsend's most distinctive work, allowing readers to review the changes that have taken place over the past six decades, and reflect on issues that have returned to the fore today.

Our Price: £18.74

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847424044>

EVIDENCE & POLICY (Volume 5, Number 4)

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/ep/2009/00000005/00000004>

The first peer-reviewed journal dedicated to comprehensive and critical assessment of the relationship between research evidence and the concerns of policy makers and practitioners, as well as researchers.

We are currently offering a free online trial for our journals during which time you can access all online content, as available to subscribers. For more information go to:

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp>

Ageing a Consumer Society

From Active to Passive Consumption in Britain

Ian Rees Jones, Martin Hyde, Christina R Victor, Richard D Wiggins, Chris Gilleard and Paul Higgs
Policy Press 2008

Welfare and well-being, Social value in public policy,

Bill Jordan

Policy Press 2008

Contemporary Social Evils,
Edited by David Utting (foreword by Nicholas Timmins)
Joseph Rowntree Foundation/Policy Press, 2009

Palgrave Macmillan

The Undergraduate Research Handbook
Gina Wisker
Palgrave Macmillan 2009

Doing a Successful Research Project
Martin Brett Davies
Palgrave Macmillan 2007

Developing Research Questions
Patrick White
Palgrave Macmillan 2008

Research with People
Nigel Halt et al
Palgrave Macmillan 2009

Designing Randomised Trials
in Health, Education and the
Social Sciences
David J. Torgerson et al.
Palgrave Macmillan 2008

Social Research Methodology
Roger Gomm
Palgrave Macmillan 2008

SPSS for Social Scientists
Claran Acton et al.
Palgrave Macmillan 2009

International Comparative Research
Linda Hantrais
Palgrave Macmillan 2008

Qualitative Research and Social Change; European Contexts,
Edited by Pat Cox, Thomas Geisen and Roger Green
Palgrave Macmillan,2008

Ethical Decision-Making in Social Research,
Ron Iphofen

Palgrave Macmillan, 2009

For more information about titles from Palgrave visit their website on: www.palgrave.com

Other Title(s)

Well-being of Older People in Ageing Societies
(Part of Public and Social Welfare Societies)
Asghar Zaidi
Ashgate Publicities 2008

Writing Up Qualitative Research (Third Edition)
Harry F. Wolcott
Sage, 2009

Qualitative Research: Good decision making through understanding people, cultures and markets
Sheila Keegan
Kogan Page, 2009

Online Interviewing,
Nalita James and Hugh Busher
Sage, 2009

Researching with Children and Young People; Research Design, Methods and Analysis
Kay Tisdall, John Davis and Michael Gallagher
Sage Publications, 2009

Calendar and Time Diary Methods in Life Course Research,
Robert F. Belli, Frank P. Stafford and Duane F Alwin
Sage, 2009

Course: [Designing a Qualitative Study](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Cost: £250 (non members) £175 (members)

Location: Cardiff

Date: 11th May 2010

Course: [In-depth Interviewing](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Cost: £250 (non members) £175 (members)

Location: Cardiff

Date: 12th May 2010

Course: [Writing Effective Research Reports](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Cost: £250 (non members) £175 (members)

Location: London

Date: 8th June 2010

Course: [Running Focus Groups](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Cost: £250 (non members) £175 (members)

Location: London

Date: 9th June 2010

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

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Cost: £250 (non members) £175 (members) Location: London

Date: 10th June 2010

Course: [Research with People with Disabilities](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Cost: £250 (non members) £175 (members)

Location: Cardiff

Date: TBC

Other organizations' courses and events coming up:

RSS Events

Designing and Evaluating Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: Some Methodological Aspects
(19th Jan 2010) - Dr Marcos Vera-Hernandez

How many adults in England have autism? – Terry Bugha, John Bankart (9th Feb 2010)

Anchoring vignettes in social sciences: 17th Nov 2010 – London (Queries to arnaud.chevalier@rhul.ac.uk)

For more information please contact: meetings@rss.org.uk or by phone (020) 7638 8998

ESRC Event

Changing Parenting Culture – 16th Feb 2010 – London (Queries to H.Reece@lse.ac.uk)

KT-EQUAL Event

Who is the User? - 26th January at Loughborough University (Queries to www.sparc.ac.uk)

Sheffield Hallam University Event

Women on incapacity benefits. Why so many? What can be done? A national workshop for policy makers and practitioners: Sheffield Hallam University 12th Jan 2010 (Queries to e.smith@shu.ac.uk)

Others

LARIA Conference – 14th April 2010, Royal Holloway University (Queries to admin@laria.gov.uk)

Are we getting it right for adolescents in public care? – 17th Mar 2010, BAAF (Queries to conferences@baaf.org.uk)

COMPARATIVE HOUSING RESEARCH: APPROACHES AND POLICY CHALLENGES IN A NEW INTERNATIONAL ERA

24/25 March 2010, Faculty of Architecture, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
For further details please see: www.otb.tudelft.nl/comparativehousing2010

Team Around the Child Seminar - Wednesday March 24th, 2010 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Armada House, Telephone Avenue, Bristol, UK. BS1 4BQ. (Queries to p.limbrick@virgin.net)

International Conference on Evidence-Based Policy in Long-term Care – London School of Economics between the 8th and 11th Sept 2010. Queries to Events Information Line: 020 7955 6043.

Qualitative Research for Policy Making 2010 – 14+15th Jan 2010 – Malta (Queries to <http://www.merlien.org/upcoming-events/qrpm-eu.html>)

'Lifelong Learning and Workspaces', part of an ESRC Seminar Series on 'New Spaces of Education', to be held at the University of Nottingham on 11 Feb 2010. (Queries to r.brooks@SURREY.AC.UK)

DATE: THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2010

TITLE: SPSS (PASW) ONE-DAY SYNTAX WORKSHOP

DURATION: ONE-DAY (9-45am to 4-45pm)
VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF, UK
FURTHER DETAILS: <http://www.spssusers.co.uk/Events/2010/workshopannounce.html>
CONTACT: peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

DATE: FRIDAY 9TH JULY 2010
TITLE: SPSS (PASW) ONE-DAY MACROS AND OMS WORKSHOP
DURATION: ONE-DAY (9-45am to 4-45pm)
VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF, UK
FURTHER DETAILS: <http://www.spssusers.co.uk/Events/2010/workshopannounce.html>
CONTACT: peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

Winter Conference 15.12.2010

The Future of the Research Degree: Diversity, Convergence, Comparability at the British Library
Please contact: <http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/events/eventsarea/wc10.htm>

Introduction to BHPS using Stata taught by [Alita Nandi](#) & [Simonetta Longhi](#) on the 15-16 April 2009. For more details please see: <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/survey/bhps/courses/stata-intro>

SHORT COURSES AT CASS, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Essentials of Survey Research Design and Implementation – Pam Campanelli
January 2010

Data Linkage: An Introduction to Statistical and Methodological Issues – Natalie Shlmo
January 2010

Regression Methods - Dr Denise Silva, January 2010

Survey Data Analysis 1: Introducing Descriptive & Inferential Statistics -
Olga Maslovskaya, February 2010

Questionnaire Design - Dr Pamela Campanelli, March 2010

Survey Data Analysis 2: Introduction to Linear Regression Modelling -
Olga Maslovskaya, April 2010

If you have any further questions please contact cass@southampton.ac.uk or visit www.southampton.ac.uk/cass

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