

## Monthly Bulletin: July 2010

News	2
Publications	5
Training & Events	9

Welcome to the July 2010 issue of the SRA's Monthly Bulletin of news, research funding, publications and events.

The next bulletin will be out in early August. Items for possible inclusion 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 [MakiD@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:MakiD@the-sra.org.uk). Note that events and funding with closing dates earlier than the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.the-sra.org.uk) or email [admin@the-sra.org.uk](mailto:admin@the-sra.org.uk)

As always we appreciate the time you take to get back to us as it helps us build upon your ideas of what you want to see the SRA do.

Best wishes from SRA London

## **SRA News items**

### **June 2010**

#### **Wales withdraws from JISC capital funding**

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales has announced it is withdrawing its capital funding contributions to the Joint Information Systems Committee for 2010-11. The decision means Welsh Universities will no longer be eligible for to lead capital funded projects. Funding will be withdrawn immediately, until at least March 2011. HEFC says the move is the result of the current financial climate and pressures on funding, and that it will use the money saved to further its own technology strategy.

#### **MRC to review mental health funding**

UK mental-health researchers should focus on the prevention of medical disorders based on a better understanding of causes and risk levels, concludes a six-month Medical Research Council review of funding. The review, published in the Lancet on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, found gaps in current research, as well as strengths and priority areas, and has framed recommendations to guide future research.

#### **Willet gets first outing in Europe**

The universities and science minister, Davis Willets, used his first Brussels meeting with his European counterparts to stress the importance of research in economic recovery. But he also told the Competitiveness Council meeting of 27 EU research ministers, 'As the third biggest area of expenditure in the EU budget it's also important that we make every penny count.' We will be working very hard to ensure that costs are controlled and that the research budget delivers the practical solutions needed to drive our economic recovery.'

#### **Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority**

The HFEA hold a huge wealth of data on fertility treatments and outcomes that could be of enormous value to social science and medical researchers.

Recently they launched an online anonymised version<<http://www.hfea.gov.uk/5874.html>> of the HFEA database. This allows researchers to access a large and rich data set, but one that does not identify any patients, or children born as a result of treatment.

The anonymised version is designed for those working in the IVF sector and professional researchers, or research organisations, with an interest in the epidemiology of fertility treatment.

Researchers can also apply to the HFEA<<http://www.hfea.gov.uk/5447.html>> to use its fertility treatment data to link with other healthcare datasets. It opens up the exciting prospect of carrying out new and groundbreaking research into the safety and effectiveness of fertility treatments as well as developing new treatment and storage techniques. Social scientists could also exploit the important research potential of our data. For example, they could investigate the demographic characteristics of those who seek fertility treatment, patients' treatment experience or the effect of national policies such as the HFEA multiple births policy. They wholeheartedly support these new opportunities for researchers to gain access and exploit the research potential of HFEA data. More research into fertility treatment is always welcomed as it could help to lead to improvements in treatment and better outcomes for women receiving treatment as well as those born as a result.

Going forward, to help promote wider understanding and the value of this data for researchers, they will publish lay summaries of approved research applications on our website. More about the information they hold, what data can be accessed and the rules governing this can be found at <http://www.hfea.gov.uk/5447.html>

#### SFC funds university - business collaboration

The Scottish Funding Council plans to invest £8.1 million in a programme to drive knowledge exchange between universities and business. The funding will be split between projects at 10 universities, in fields including life services, creative industries, energy, financial services and food and drink. Support will last for three and will come from the SFC's horizon fund through the strategic priority investments in research and innovation grants.

#### NERC offers up policy experience for PhD Students.

The National Environmental Research Council is to fund internships at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in London, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in London, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in London, the Scottish Parliament Information Centre in Edinburgh or the Members' Research Service in Cardiff. POST may also arrange an additional placement with a Westminster select committee, reports NERC.

#### Up to £10m for ageing related UK research

The Medical Research Council is offering up to £10 million to support ageing-related research. The aim of this joint call is to support multi disciplinary research into the ageing – related challenges the UK faces this century. A further £2.5m will be available to fund up to 10 pilot studies in the same field for up to two years.

## Councils seek engaging researchers

Research Councils UK is calling for researchers who are active in public engagement to take part in a project about their work. Early career researchers are asked to submit profiles about themselves to feature in a booklet being put together by the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement and Vitae, the researchers' career association.

The Office for National Statistics is consulting on user engagement. They have sent the following message:

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), the UK's largest producer of official statistics, today launches the consultation draft of its User Engagement Strategy. By getting involved in the consultation process, you can help to shape the strategy, and ultimately tell us what you need from us.

It's more important than ever that we understand what you, as a user of ONS statistics, want so we can ensure our statistical outputs reflect these priorities and we provide the very best service possible. To find out more, and comment on our User Engagement Strategy, visit <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/open-consultations/index.html>

The Academy will be making a submission on behalf of its member learned societies and hopes that you will be able to help by gathering responses to the attached documents (downloaded from the ONS link in their message) by 1 August in order to give us enough time to assemble a representative submission.

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

## Policy Press

New titles include:

### FERRARIS FOR ALL

In defence of economic progress

Daniel Ben-Ami

In *Ferraris for all*, Daniel Ben-Ami argues that society as a whole benefits from greater affluence and action is needed to increase and spread global prosperity.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847423467>

### VOYAGE TO UTOPIAS

A fictional guide through social philosophy

Tony Fitzpatrick

This fascinating fictional account introduces key ideas in social and political philosophy in a funny, informative and entertaining way. The reader will learn about freedom, responsibility, justice and fairness and see how these are played out in the different utopian futures of a range of socio-political regimes.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/resources/fitzpatrick/index.asp?>

### AGEING, HEALTH AND CARE

Christina R. Victor

The ageing of the population has enormous policy implications for health care. This important new textbook, written by a leader in the field, covers key questions such as the fitness of older people in the future, the widening inequalities in the health of older people and how health in old age reflects habits and behaviour in earlier life.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847420879>

### MULTI-AGENCY WORKING IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Control and care in contemporary correctional practice

Aaron Pycroft, Dennis Gough

A topical textbook for students of probation studies and criminal justice which is the first to cover key areas in multi-agency work for criminal justice practice.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847424532>

#### CRITICAL PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Edited by Martin Robb and Rachel Thomson

This reader provides a critical perspective on work with children and young people at a time of change. It examines the ways that ideas inform practice, explores recent changes in the organisation of services and addresses what it means to be a critical, reflective practitioner.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847426819>

#### ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND COMMUNITY

Maggie O'Neill

Rooted in more than two decades of scholarship, this book uses critical social theory and participatory, biographical and arts-based methods with asylum seekers, refugees and emerging communities to explore the dynamics of the asylum-migration-community nexus.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847422224>

#### IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE

Carol Hayden and Dennis Gough

With the growth in the use of restorative justice and restorative approaches, this book takes an in-depth look at their applicability in the environment of children's residential care homes.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847426482>

#### Journal news this month

\*\*\*\*\*

#### VOLUNTARY SECTOR REVIEW (VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2)

The new issue of *Voluntary Sector Review* - the first European-based journal on third sector research, policy and practice - will soon be available online

(<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/vsr>). Not subscribed? *Voluntary Sector Review* is available online free of charge to institutions in 2010: [sign up here for a free trial](#).

#### THE JOURNAL OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (VOLUME 18, NUMBER 2)

The new issue of *The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice* (formerly known as *Benefits*) is now available online. Not subscribed? You can now sign up for a free online 30-day trial which will allow you to access all content online. For more information go to:

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

#### TOPICAL JOURNAL ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

Following the proposed changes in the education system, read this article on school funding free online until the end of July:

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/pap/2008/00000036/00000002/art00003>

Why not subscribe to their monthly e-Newsletter? It's completely free and you'll receive exclusive subscriber offers. We'd love you to become part of The Policy Press community. It's easy to sign up here: <http://www.policypress.co.uk/subscribe.asp>

## **20% online discount!**

\*\*\*\*\*

All titles on our website are now available with an online discount of 20% so make sure you buy your copies today! See individual book pages for prices.

Why not subscribe to our monthly e-Newsletter? It's completely free and you'll receive exclusive subscriber offers. We'd love you to become part of The Policy Press community. It's easy to sign up here: <http://www.policypress.co.uk/subscribe.asp>

## **New publications**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SOCIAL THEORY FOR BEGINNERS**

Paul Ransome

Aimed at first-year undergraduates studying sociology and related disciplines, this introductory-level textbook presents key ideas and concepts in social theory and an account of their intellectual background.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847426741>

### **RECORDING IN SOCIAL WORK: Not just an administrative task**

Liz O'Rourke

This highly topical book explores the conflicting demands on social workers as they record information on case files, and will stimulate a debate on how to achieve more effective recording in social work.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847427564>

### **REINVENTING SOCIAL SECURITY WORLDWIDE: Back to essentials**

Vladimir Rys

In this timely book, the author, with his life-long experience of international social security, advocates reinstating social insurance by reducing the volume of income redistribution, increasing the transparency of money flows and improving citizen information.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847426406>

### **THE GOVERNANCE OF PROBLEMS: Puzzling, powering and participation**

Robert Hoppe

A compelling new approach to public policy-making as problem processing, bringing together aspects of puzzling, powering and participation and relating them to cultural theory, issues about networks, models of democracy and modes of citizen participation.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847426291>

### **TAKING THE CRIME OUT OF SEX WORK: New Zealand sex workers' fight for decriminalisation**

Gillian Abel, Lisa Fitzgerald and Catherine Healy, with Aline Taylor This book examines the decriminalisation of all sectors of sex work in New Zealand. It provides first hand views and experience on this policy from the point of view of those involved in the sex industry, as well as people involved in developing, implementing, researching and reviewing the policies.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847423344>

### **New journal issues publishing this month**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Policy & Politics Debate piece: Election 2010: a new mood on tax and spend?**

Following the recent election it is timely to highlight the Debate piece - *Election 2010: a new mood on tax and spend?* - by John Curtice in the latest issue of *Policy & Politics* (volume 38, number 2). In it he reviews the links between voters' policy preferences and public policy over the last six general elections and finds a cyclical pattern in public attitudes towards the balance between tax and spending.

The debate piece can be viewed online by *Policy & Politics*:

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/pap/2010/00000038/00000002/art00009>

#### **Evidence & Policy (Volume 6, Number 2)**

The new issue of *Evidence & Policy*, 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 will soon be available online. Not subscribed? You can now sign up for a free online 30-day trial which will allow you to access all content online:

[http://www.policypress.co.uk/journals\\_eap.asp](http://www.policypress.co.uk/journals_eap.asp).

## EVENTS & TRAINING:

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: [Introduction to Research Commissioning](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 29th September 2010

**Deadline for Bookings and**

**Confirmation: 20th August 2010**

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

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 14th October 2010

**Deadline for Bookings and**

**Confirmation: 10th September 2010**

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

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 20th October 2010

**Deadline for Bookings and**

**Confirmation: 17th September 2010**

Course: [Consultancy Skills](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 28th October 2010

**Deadline for Bookings and**

**Confirmation: 24th September 2010**

Course: [Designing a Qualitative Study](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 4th November 2010

**Deadline for Bookings and**

**Confirmation: 30th September 2010**

Course: [In Depth Interviewing](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 9th November 2010

**Deadline for Bookings and**

**Confirmation: 30th September 2010**

Course: [Cognitive Interviewing](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 11th November 2010

**Deadline for Bookings and**

**Confirmation: 1st October 2010**

Course: [Introduction to Evaluations](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

Location: London

Date: 25th November 2010  
**Deadline for Bookings and  
Confirmation: 15th October 2010**

Course: **Running Focus Groups**  
Level: Introductory  
Length: 1 Day  
Location: London  
Date: 1st December 2010  
**Deadline for Bookings and  
Confirmation: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Course: **Intro to QDA**  
Level: Introductory  
Length: 1 Day  
Location: London  
Date: 13th Jan 2011  
**Deadline for Bookings and  
Confirmation: 10th December 2010**

## **Forthcoming SRA Events**

### **SRA Event for new/early career researchers**

23rd September 2010 5.00-7pm

GfK NoP, Ludgate House, 245 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 9UL

An annual event providing an opportunity for networking and learning about career opportunities across the varied sectors social researchers work within.

### **SRA/Royal Statistical Society Event: Cathie Marsh Memorial Lecture**

40 years since the Equal Pay Act 1970

16th November 5-7pm (followed by drinks reception), RSS, 12 Errol Street, London, EC1Y 8LZ

Professor Jill Rubery, Manchester Business School, and Professor Alan Manning, London School of Economics will examine the achievements and failures of the Equal Pay Act, which was passed 40 years ago.

### **SRA Annual Conference - Call for Papers**

Making a Difference: Social Research in an era of austerity

Tuesday 7th December, British Library, London.

Other organizations' courses and events coming up

### **RSS Events**

**Anchoring vignettes in social sciences: 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010 – London** (Queries to [arnaud.chevalier@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:arnaud.chevalier@rhul.ac.uk))

**The 2010 International Conference of the Royal Statistical Society** will take place in Brighton from 13-17 September.

This annual conference seeks to bring together statisticians, researchers, analysts and other users of statistics from across the UK and around the world to hear, digest and discuss the latest research and developments in the world of statistics.

Topics for the 2010 Conference include:

- Climate change modelling
- Building trust in statistics
- 2011 UK Census
- National Statistics
- Financial Statistics
- Measuring progress
- Scientific analysis in policy making
- Performance indicators
- Data capture
- Statistics and the Law
- Risk
- Survey Methodology
- Statistical literacy

For a full list please see <http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=3168>

Submissions are now open for contributed sessions, talks and posters on any of the conference topics or any other topic or area of interest related to the study and use of statistics. Submissions from statisticians and users of statistics in the early stages of their careers are positively encouraged.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 31 March.

Full details about submitting an abstract can be found here:

<http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=3167>

### **Recent Advances in the Use of Paradata (Process Data) in Social Survey Research**

One-day research symposium, on Thursday 9 December 2010 at the Royal Statistical Society 12 Errol Street, London, EC1Y 8LX, UK.

The event aims to provide a forum for presenting and discussing recent methodological and practical developments in the use of paradata in sample surveys. Invited speakers include Paul Biemer (RTI), Mick Couper (University of Michigan), Frauke Kreuter (University of Maryland), Jennifer Sinibaldi (NatCen), a representative from Statistics Canada, and others.

If you are interested in attending this event, please complete the attached registration form and return to the S3RI course administrator at [paradata-symposium@lists.soton.ac.uk](mailto:paradata-symposium@lists.soton.ac.uk). For more information, please visit the event's webpage at

[http://www.southampton.ac.uk/s3ri/events/workshops/paradata\\_symposium\\_details\\_dec2010.html](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/s3ri/events/workshops/paradata_symposium_details_dec2010.html)

### **Others**

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

### **SPSS Workshops**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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>



