

Monthly Bulletin: June 2010

News	2
Publications	4
Training & Events	6

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

The next bulletin will be out in early June. 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 10th 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

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

The Axeman cometh

The various sources of public funding for social research are clearly under threat from the new government's deficit reduction programme. The Chancellor's announcement on 24 May of £ 6 billion savings from departmental budgets provided little detail. But it seems likely that funding will reduce in a number of ways: in the Science Budget from which the ESRC draws its money; from HEFCE allocations to universities for research; from government departments' research budgets; and from the abolition of some quangos. More will be known from the Budget on 22 June.

New Minister for Universities and Science

The good news might be the appointment of David Willetts as Minister for Science and Universities. Willetts has appeared regularly in the past on social science platforms expressing his commitment to its value for public policy. He drew on much social research in his recent book *The Pinch: How the Baby Boomers Took Their Children's Future - And How They Can Give it Back*. Earlier this year the Guardian described him as 'known as "two brains", and at times too clever by half, David Willetts nonetheless deserves to be cherished as a rare politician who injects rigour into any debate.' Apart from these personal qualities, his appointment is interesting in that he holds both Science and Universities portfolios (always separate hitherto) and will sit in the Cabinet.

Mobile research

The Market Research Society is organising a 2 part webinar (an online seminar) on September 10th and 17th to explore the use of mobile phones in research. It will cover both hard and soft technological advances such as smartphones, as well as increased consumer interaction with social media networks, blogging and news websites. More info on www.mrs.org.uk/training/2010/essential-mr.htm.

Twitter

ESRC and JRF are both now on Twitter. Sign up to <http://twitter.com/esrc> or http://twitter.com/jrf_uk and you will get regular updates on new funding, publications and events.

ESRC Peer Review College

The Economic and Social Research Council has announced the membership of its new Peer Review College from which reviewers will henceforth mainly be drawn. It can be accessed on www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/How/peerreview/. It runs to 500 or more members: half are UK academics in all social science disciplines and drawn from most

HEIs; 10% are overseas researchers; and the remaining 40% non-academic research users. Briefing events will be held over the next few months.

EC funding rules

The European Commission has finally responded to researchers' longstanding complaints about the bureaucracy of its Framework Programme funding regime. In new proposals published at the end of April researchers will be regarded as grant holders rather than contractors, the full costs of projects will be paid upfront, expenses will not need to be so detailed and post-project auditing will be simpler.

Quality assurance

The Research Information Network has published a new guide to quality assurance processes for research – in the funding of projects, teams and institutions, on how research is conducted, on what is published and on what researchers choose to read and quote. The report provides an overview of current QA practices and concerns.

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

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.

EVENTS & TRAINING:

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

SRA training days over the next few months:

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: 21st June 2010

Course: [Making an Impact: Getting Research into Policy and Practice](#)
Level: Advanced
Length: 1 day
Cost: £250 (non members) £175 (members)
Location: London
Date: 30th June 2010

SRA Summer Event – 1st June 2010

We know quality social research is a key ingredient for understanding changes in society, dimensions of policy choices and for sound decision-making. Now, more than ever, the power of impartial, rigorous and objective analysis is of paramount importance in delivering public good. The new government and prevailing economic realities will influence the future of social research. But what will be or should be on the social research agenda? The SRA is bringing together leading figures from the research industry, government social research, local government and academia to explore the challenges and opportunities facing social research.

Traditionally the Summer Event is an opportunity to debate and learn about topical issues. We also hope many of you will be able to stay on for informal networking and the drinks reception. Programme details and the full list of speakers will follow

SRA members £40
Non SRA members £65

The event will take place at the LGA Offices, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

For booking details and more information:
SRA office 020 7388 2391 or www.the-sra.org.uk

Other organizations' courses and events coming up

Selection of NatCen Courses

Introduction to Framework Software – 5th Feb and the 25th June 2010 in London:
<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/course/introduction-to-framework-software> (Other NatCen courses can be found on the website as well).

RSS Events

Anchoring vignettes in social sciences; 17th Nov 2010 – London (Queries to 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. For more information, please visit the event's webpage at

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/s3ri/events/workshops/paradata_symposium_details_dec2010.html

ESRC

The **Modelling Ageing Populations to 2030 (MAP2030) End of Project Conference** is an ESRC-funded study that is concerned with assessing the needs and resources of older people up to 2030 and improving understanding of the causes and consequences of these trends, especially to inform public debate and the development of future long-term care and pensions policy.

The conference is to be held at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the New Academic Building on **Thursday, 17th June** from 10am to 3.30pm, followed by a reception at LSE.

Please address all queries to Daniel Kearns: d.j.kearns@lse.ac.uk

Association Resource

This year's congress focuses on best practice for increasing Return on Investment (ROI) and value for members, delegates and the association itself. Over two days, targeted practical sessions will look at reducing costs, improving efficiency, developing new products and alternative revenue streams, as well as building up and securing your membership base. Highlighted through real examples, each of the sessions and tracks are highly practical, focusing on: balancing the short-term requirements with long-term goals; and surviving in the current economic trading conditions.

A selection of speakers include:

- Isabel Bardinnet, **European Society of Cardiology**
- Ian Adams, **IBIA**
- Anna Hedrzak, **European Wind Energy Association**
- Janice Liverseidge, **Royal Society of Medicine**
- Simon Ray, **The Open University**

- Hellen Beveridge, **Pure Rocket Science**

The event includes:

- Conference & Events stream over two days
- Membership Retention & Association Growth streams
- Six workshops - for concentrated learning
- 12 case studies from leading associations
- International, European & national association speakers
- Structured networking lunches
- Pre-event online networking for delegates & speakers
- Exhibition of specialist suppliers
- Welcome reception & Gala Dinner

LSE Summer School in Survey Methods and Analysis

26th July - 13th August 2010

London School of Economics

Further details can be found [here](#) or by contacting Jonathan Jackson at j.p.jackson@lse.ac.uk or tel: 0044 207 9557652.

Applications to the Summer School can be made [here](#).

Others

Association for Survey Computing

Members/listers may be interested in the following meetings of the [Association for Survey Computing](#) (or at least getting hold of the proceedings).

17 June 2010 [Is the PC dead?](#) Joint meeting with the Market Research Society
 "Come along on Thursday June 17th and seize your right to speak to some of the greatest market research technologists of our time."

30 September 2010 [Pizzazz in Research: Renewing the Rules of Engagement](#)

"The aim of this conference is to mark out the current thinking in respondent and client engagement: The former in the survey methods and survey instrument designs, and the latter in the presentation of survey results (and dare we say it, insights).

Our keynote speaker is Mike Cooke, Global Director of GfK NOP's Online Centre of Excellence responsible for online strategy and research methodology. Mike will present an overview of how the research industry is developing to maintain engagement with respondents and clients."

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.

The consequences of the global economic crisis for social work and social policies: 14-18 June 2010. Anyone interested in participating should send a brief abstract (c.100-200 words) of their proposed presentation and a short cv/resume in English to **Paul Stubbs** by email pstubbs@eizg.hr. The deadline for applications is **26 April 2010** and all applicants will be notified as to whether they have been accepted for the course by **6 May 2010** at the latest.

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

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>



