

Monthly Bulletin: March 2010

News	2
Publications	4
Training & Events	5

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

The next bulletin will be out in early April. 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 March 2010

Festival of Social Science

This year's Festival, organised again by the Economic and Social Research Council, is on 12-21 March. As in previous years there will be a wide variety of over 130 events: lectures, exhibitions, debates, films and performances. The programme can be found on www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/fss. It can be viewed by region, audience and date.

Economic equality

A panel of academic researchers has published a report *An Anatomy of Economic Equality in the UK*. The panel, chaired by Prof John Hills at LSE, was appointed by Harriet Harman from the Government Equalities Office. It reports a complex picture. Though some gaps have diminished (for example, between men and women, and in the educational qualifications of ethnic groups), many other inequalities seem deep-seated. Differences in outcomes between the more or less advantaged within each social group, however defined, are much greater than the differences between social groups. And many inequalities intensify across the life cycle. The full report, and the Government response to it, are on www.equalities.gov.uk.

Cities review

The Centre for Cities at the Institute for Public Policy Research has just published its annual *Cities Outlook 2010*. This is an annual stocktake, akin to the ONS's Social Trends or the JRF Poverty review. This year it focuses particularly on the impact of the recession which it reports has reinforced the disparities between high and low-performing cities. It also reviews the state of play on formal subregional partnerships between cities. All in all, a valuable new resource for social researchers with an urban dimension to their work. The report is on www.centreforcities.org.

Publication of government social research

The Government Social Research Unit has published guidance on the fraught issue of the publication of the social research it commissions. It sets out five principles (slightly abbreviated here) –

- The products from government social research will be publicly available
- There will be prompt release
- It must be released in a way that promotes public trust
- Clear communication will be in place
- There must be clear responsibility for the release of government social research.

The guidance *Publishing research in government* is at www.civilservice.gov.uk/my-civil-service/networks/gsr/index.asp.

New MRS Code of conduct

The Market Research Society has unveiled a revision of its 2005 Code of conduct following consultation with its members. It reflects technological and methodological changes over recent years. It also includes several new rules, most notable concerning the use of incentives in research interviewing. A full account is on www.mrs.org.uk/standards/codeconduct.htm.

Promoting social science

The Academy of the Social Sciences, with support from the ESRC, has launched a series of booklets showcasing work by social scientists that it believes make a real difference to society. The first is on the theme of Wellbeing and features research on literacy, crime prevention, coping with redundancy, eating and volunteering among other topics. Research on other themes will be covered in further booklets. More on www.acss.org.uk/news.htm.

Parliament checks the evidence

When the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee was re-established last year it decided to undertake a series of inquiries into government use of evidence in policy making. A long list of topics was issued and on each the government was asked two questions: what is the policy? On what evidence is the policy based? Once it had the government's answers, it selected some priority policies for investigation. The Committee has now published its first two reports – on Early Literacy Interventions and on Homeopathy – drawing on written and oral evidence. Government responses are awaited. More info on www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/science_technology

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

25% online discount expires soon!

At the end of March their current online discount of 25% off ALL Policy Press titles will expire, so make sure you buy your copies today! Please find information about our new books and journal issue publishing this month below.

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>

PHOENIX CITIES

The fall and rise of great industrial cities

Anne Power, Jörg Plöger and Astrid Winkler

This book explores economic, social and environmental transformations in Europe and the USA to inform the regeneration of 'weak market cities'.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847426833>

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM IN ENGLAND

David J. Hunter, Linda Marks and Katherine Smith

This timely and wide-ranging book offers an accessible assessment of challenges confronting a public health system, which will appeal to public health professionals and students.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847424624>

LEADERSHIP FOR HEALTHCARE

Jean Hartley and John Benington

It is vital for healthcare leaders to have a clear sense of which leadership ideas and practices are rooted in sound theory and convincing evidence, and which are more speculative. This book provides a coherent framework through which to scrutinise the leadership literature relevant to healthcare.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781847424860>

EMBODYING IDENTITIES

Victor Jeleniewski Seidler

This book shapes a new language of social theory that allows people to embody their differences with a sense of dignity and self-worth, enabling them to come to terms with the complexities of their lived identities in a post-modern globalised world.

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISB=9781847423818>

New journal issue publishing this month

THE JOURNAL OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (Volume 18, Number 1)

A new issue of *The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice* (formerly known as Benefits) is now available online: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj>.

If you are not a subscriber to this journal you can sign up for a free online 30-day trial which will allow you to access all content online, including the new articles. For more information go to:

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

Check out The Policy Press blog at <http://policypress.wordpress.com/> and follow us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/policypress>.

The following DWP reports were published recently:

50+ back to work evidence review and indicative guide for secondary data analysis

This report presents findings from a literature review that was commissioned to provide greater insight into how the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) back to work (BTW) provision supports the over 50s' return to work. DWP evaluation reports that were published between January 2000 and December 2008 were included in the exercise and covered ten separate pilots or programmes of provision such as New Deal programmes (New Deal 25+, New Deal 50+, New Deal for Disabled People, New Deal for Partners), Work Based Learning for Adults and the IB Pathways to Work programme. Prospective datasets were also identified for their potential to address knowledge gaps in welfare-to-work interventions at different stages of life. The research was commissioned by the DWP and carried out by the Policy Studies Institute.

The full report can be downloaded from their website at

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep615.pdf>

Non-participation in the Employment Retention & Advancement Study: Implications for the experimental first year impact estimates

The Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) programme has been evaluated by random assignment. The aim of this report is to explore how the findings from the experimental research relate to the impacts that would have been experienced, on average, by all the people who were eligible for the programme, had they participated in the study.

The full report can be downloaded from their website at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP77.pdf>

EVENTS & TRAINING:

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

SRA training days over the next few months:

Course: [Consultancy Skills for Social Researchers](#)

Level: Advanced

Length: 1 Day

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

Location: Manchester

Date: 22nd April 2010

Course: [Introduction to Evaluations](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

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

Location: Leeds

Date: 29th April 2010

Course: [Cognitive Methods for Testing Survey Questions](#)

Level: Introductory

Length: 1 Day

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

Location: Manchester

Date: 6th May 2010

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

SRA Courses in Ireland

Knowledge Transfer Strategy by Annette Boaz and William Solesbury

Researchers are increasingly under pressure – from their employers or from research funders – to communicate their research to practitioners who might benefit from its application to their work, a process now known as knowledge transfer. This requirement may apply to an individual researcher, a research team, research centre or agency. They then need see organisations and need to develop a strategy for knowledge transfer which can guide a range of communication activities by themselves and colleagues.

This Advanced course focuses on the development of such a strategy..

Content includes:

- concepts of knowledge transfer
- the varied ways in which research may influence policy and practice
- methods for identifying and prioritising possible audiences for research
- the pros and cons of different media and modes of communication
- methods for monitoring and evaluating research impact

By the end of the workshop, delegates will:

- understand the concept of knowledge transfer
- develop a framework for a knowledge transfer strategy
- acquire tools and techniques for expressing the messages of research, identifying potential audiences and communicating effectively with them

learn approaches for assessing the impact of their research.

To book a place on this course please e-mail: sra.ireland@gmail.com

SRA Events

International Dimension in Social Research Training Event

In association with the London School of Economics, the SRA has received funding for a suite of international ESRC Researchers Development Initiative for a suite of International Social Research Training workshops.

To launch the training programme, we are organising a late afternoon event designed to raise awareness of the importance of the international dimension in social research and to identify training needs that can be fed into the training modules scheduled for the autumn.

17 May 2010 at 16-19.00 at the British Library in London

Speakers drawn largely from SRA and Academy of Social Sciences memberships will talk about their varied experience of international social research in academic and non-academic sectors, including:

- Researching in international settings, individually or in national teams operating in countries other than their own
- Coordinating research projects carried out by international teams
- Managing research in international organisations
- Carrying out research for international organisations
- Achieving and maintaining professionalism and international standards
- Using international comparators in public policy

We are writing to invite expressions of interest in the launch event from senior researchers in academic and non-academic organisations, who recognise the need to enhance the research skills in their institutions by adding an international dimension, and who would want their researchers to participate in the training programme.

The event is free of charge for SRA members.

As the number of places will be strictly limited, please contact MakiD@the-sra.org.uk as soon as possible, and no later than 30 March 2010, to reserve a place at the event. To reserve a place please complete and return the booking form.

The full programme of speakers and details of the venue will be posted in mid-March.

If you are unable to attend but are interested in knowing more about the training programme, and contributing your views and suggestions, we should be pleased to hear from you.

Julia Brannen [J.Brannen@ioe.ac.uk] and Linda Hantrais [L.Hantrais@lse.ac.uk]
Consultants for the International Social Research Training Programme

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)

Statistical Issues in Child Protection: 16th March 2010 (Queries to conference@rss.org.uk)
16 March 2010, 2:00-6.00pm, at the Royal Statistical Society

Public debate about child protection – placing children perceived to be vulnerable on a register or taking them into care – is repeatedly reinforced by cases that suggest that the existing systems are not working well. This debate is not, however, as well-informed as it might be if quantitative evidence and statistical issues were further to the fore. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss, from a range of perspectives, the available evidence and its implications for the important decisions that have to be taken about children's futures.

Speakers:

2.00 – 2.40 Neil Jackson (Head of Edinburgh Office, UK Statistics Authority) and Iain Bradley (Department for Children, Schools & Families).
Review of statistics in the area of Child Protection.

2.40 – 3.20 Charlie Owen and June Statham (Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education). Black and Minority Ethnic group children on child protection registers.

3.20 – 3.40 Refreshments

3.40 – 4.20 Lorraine Radford (NSPCC). Methodological issues on measuring the prevalence of child maltreatment.

4.20 – 5.00 Lawrence Sherman (Institute of Criminology Cambridge). Applying risk modelling to child protection.

5.00 – 5.30 Discussion: Harriet Ward (Director, Centre for Child and Family Research, Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University) and Jane Tunstill (Director, Implementation Evaluation Module, National Evaluation of Sure Start, Royal Holloway, University of London).

Advanced registration (with payment) is required. Booking forms can be downloaded from www.rss.org.uk/events or requested by email conference@rss.org.uk

Fees starting at £20 for RSS Student Fellows up to £40 for non-RSS members

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

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>

ESRC Event

The ESRC Festival of Social Science is on from 12-21 March 2010 as part of National Science and Engineering Week. To find out more about what's in store for this year's festival, follow the link below:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/FSS/About/default.aspx>

People can apply to join the seminar by e-mailing crcadmin@ruralcommunities.gov.uk Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

Social Policy Courses

General Household Survey (General Lifestyle Survey) user meeting

Royal Statistical Society, London
Wednesday 17 March 2010

This meeting will provide a forum for data users and producers to meet and discuss new developments and exchange information about the General Household Survey (GHS).

To view the programme and book a place please go to
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2010-03-17/index.html>

Sample data from surveys and the Census: data sources and resources for health analysts

University of Manchester
Thursday 15 April 2010

This day will provide an introduction to some key national data sources for health analysts: the health surveys (e.g. Health Survey for England) and the Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs) from the Census. The day will introduce the data themselves, case studies of use in academic and policy settings and the ways in which the data are obtainable. Access routes described will include the data services which hold these data (the SARs team and the Economic and Social Data Service) and Methodbox; a software project to help health researchers access data and share expertise more easily.

Hands on sessions will look at access tools from ESDS, SARs and Methodbox. SPSS may be used but prior experience of the software is not required.

To view the programme and book a place please go to
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2010-04-15/index.html>

Introductory Workshop: Analysing Complex Sample Design in ESDS Government Datasets

Basement Computer Lab, Humanities Bridgeford Street, University of Manchester
Thursday 27 May 2010

Standard statistical software commands typically treat data as simple random samples. A large proportion of Government surveys however employ complex sample design features such as stratification and clustering. Rather than treating such data as simple random samples, techniques, or approaches to analysis are required that take into account these design features. Focussing on design-based approaches, this introductory workshop provides grounding in elementary concepts in complex sample design and the analysis of survey data using Stata.

To view the programme and book a place please go to
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2010-05-27/index.html>

CALLS FOR PAPERS: Family Resources Survey user meeting and Health surveys user meeting

The next Family Resources Survey user meeting is being organised by ESDS Government for Thursday 10 June 2010 at the Royal Statistical Society, London. The FRS programme will contain a mixture of papers from data producers and researchers. We would like to invite offers of presentations based on analysis of the FRS. Presenters will have 20 minutes for their talk followed by 10 minutes for questions.

Details of the previous user meeting can be found at
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/past.shtml#FRS2009>

Please send offers of a paper to Gillian.Meadows@manchester.ac.uk as soon as possible, but by 21 March 2010 at the latest.

The next Health surveys user meeting is being organised by ESDS Government for Wednesday 14 July 2010 at the Royal Statistical Society, London. The programme will contain a mixture of papers from data producers and researchers. We would like to invite offers of presentations based on analysis of the Health Survey for England, the Scottish Health Survey or the Welsh Health Survey. Presenters will have 20 minutes for their talk followed by 10 minutes for questions.

Details of previous user meetings can be found at
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/themes/health/>

Leeds Metropolitan University – Diversity and Equality in Leisure, Sport and Tourism

This conference is intended for researchers, policy-makers and professionals with interest in matters of equality. As societies across the globe become characterized by greater diversity, and with growing interest in narrative in hybridity, increasing recognition is being given to the opportunities and challenges presented by diversity. Presenters are invited to disseminate findings on the (potential) role of leisure, sport and tourism in promoting and constraining equality. An interesting and dynamic range of internationally renowned keynote speakers will be contributing to the following conference themes:

- Shifting policy agendas around equality
- Inclusion and exclusion
- Globalisation and hybridity
- Listening to alternative voices
- Peace and reconciliation

Please e-mail your proposal as early as possible to the Conference Committee c/o LSA2010@leedsmet.ac.uk. Please submit according to LSA's Guidelines for proposals (see www.leisure-studies-association.info). The deadline for submission of abstracts will be 12 noon on Monday, March 15th 2010. You will be notified of the acceptance of your paper by 19th March 2010. Please visit the conference website at www.leedsmet.ac.uk/lisa2010/ for further information.

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.

The Academy is joining with AREC (Association of Research Ethics Committees) and the Social Research Association to hold a meeting to explore the possibility of formulating basic principles as a basis for a revised set of Ethical Guidelines.

The meeting will take place on Monday 22nd March from 11.30-2.30 at 30 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4UE (venue now confirmed).

If you are interested in attending or are aware of someone within your society who would like to come, please complete the form and return it to **Jackie Maull, Chief of Operations for AREC** [jackiemau@arec.org.uk] cc'd to Janet Lewis [janet.d.lewis@btinternet.com].

ARMA Clinical Trials Seminar

Bookings are now being taken for a new one-day training seminar "Clinical Trials", taking place at the Concorde Club in Southampton on Friday 5th March.

This seminar is designed both for members of contract teams and for research managers. It will provide an insight to the history and application of relevant regulations and good practice guidance within clinical research, especially those governed by the Medicines for Human Use Act (clinical trials) 2004. Delegates will be introduced to the principles of Research Governance and Good Clinical Practice and will be equipped with the skills to advise researchers on the good conduct of clinical research. A combination of presentations and interactive workshops will be used. A comprehensive delegate pack will be provided.

Objectives: by the end of the day delegates will:

- * be familiar with the regulatory aspects of conducting clinical research
- * be familiar with the approvals systems of R & D, Ethics and the regulatory bodies, such as MHRA

For more details and a copy of the programme please see:

https://www.arma.ac.uk/news/training/training_seminars/CT1.xhtml

Bookings must be made online <https://www.arma.ac.uk/list-events.xhtml> Please remember to log in before making your booking.

Network of Excellence Recwowe (Reconciling work and Welfare in Europe) is organising a Doctoral Workshop on the "Politics of employment-friendly welfare reforms". It will take place in Menton (South of France) from 28th to 30th of October 2010.

The deadline for submission is May 14th.

Call for application can be found on the Recwowe Webpage :

<http://recwowe.vitamib.com/>

NIHR School for Social Care Research's Annual Conference: 30th March 2010 at LSE. (Queries to <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NIHRSSCR/events.htm>)

UKCGE and ARMA: 24 – 25th March 2010. (Queries to <http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/events/eventsarea/residential2010>)

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>

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>

KT EQUAL workshop on Digital Identity now available on the SPARC/KT-EQUAL website www.sparc.ac.uk. The workshop will be held in Reading on the 16th April 2010. It has a very interesting programme which will draw on the latest research and developments in practice.

SHORT COURSES AT CASS, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

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

.....

