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Welcome to the May 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 bulletin

May 2010 News Items

Election promises

While social research did not feature in the party manifestos, science in the broadest sense did. *Research Fortnight* magazine analysed the offers –

- Funding – both Labour and the Lib Dems promised to ‘ring fence’ research in the next spending review.
- Evidence and policy – Labour’s sacking of Professor David Nutt as drugs adviser a few months back put scientific advice to government on the agenda; the Tories would have sacked him too. Only the Lib Dems pledged to support the independence of such advice.
- Knowledge transfer – both Labour and Tories wanted a bigger push to get universities to commercialise their research.
- The proposed REF - no party speaks up in support.
- Libel – the Lib Dems proposed protecting peer-reviewed research from libel action.
- MPs – the Lib Dems also talked about training new MPS in scientific understanding.

ESRC training awards

The Economic and Social Research Council is offering awards of up to £1000 for social scientists in universities, including contract researchers, to update their research skills. Masters or PhD courses, courses at the applicant’s own institution and conference attendance are excepted. But there is no prescribed list of accepted training courses. Applications can be submitted at anytime. More info on www.ncrm.ac.uk/funding/training.

Information retrieval

The Information Retrieval Unit (IRU), a new partnership between Matrix Evidence and the Centre for Evidence and Policy at Kings College London, can provide clients with timely access to reviews of prevailing evidence across sectors such as health and social care, criminal justice, policing and security, technology, business, transport and the environment. The IRU has access to a wide range of bibliographic resources and is able to respond speedily to support Rapid Evidence Assessments and Systematic Reviews. Details are available from alan.gomersall@kcl.ac.uk or chris.1.cooper@kcl.ac.uk.

New joint heads for GSRU

Following the departure of Professor Paul Wiles as Director of Research at the Home Office and Head of the Government Social Research Unit, the latter role has been taken jointly by Richard Bartholomew in DCSF and Jenny Dibden in DWP.

iPhone app for research jobs

The Market Research Society has launched a free Research Jobfinder app to give information on employment opportunities as soon as they are announced. It will allow users to save search criteria and view jobs by title, salary and location. More info on www.mrs.org.uk/media/2010/20apr10.htm.

The Application of Alternative Modes of Data Collection in UK Government Social Surveys

Peter Betts, Office for National Statistics, describes a project conducted for the Government Statistical Service

Declining response rates, budgetary pressures and technological advancements provide three tempting reasons for government social survey researchers (and indeed those in other sectors) to consider using modes of data collection alternative to expensive face-to-face interviewing. A project co-sponsored by the Office for National Statistics and the Home Office has reviewed methodological and survey management issues relating to the potential for mixed-mode designs making greater use of telephone, internet and mail modes alongside face-to-face interviewing, the mode currently predominant.

The project concluded that while there is potential for mixed mode designs on government surveys, a number of methodological and management issues and areas of uncertainty need to be considered by survey managers before making changes to existing surveys or when designing new ones.

Three outputs have been published which may be of interest to the wider research community.

1. A report for the Government Statistical Service (GSS). This report which summarises the context in which the project arose and consolidates the detailed findings from the other reports. It provides GSS survey managers and researchers with information regarding the scope for using mixed-mode surveys, the implications for data quality and survey costs and the need for research and development.
2. A report on a literature review and consultation with National Statistical Institutes. This report provides further information about the context, and the detailed findings relating to investigation of a range of methodological and survey management issues:
 - survey modes and mixed mode designs;
 - sampling, response and estimation;
 - mode effects on measurement error and approaches to mixed mode questionnaire design;
 - survey management, infrastructure and logistics; and
 - moving toward application of alternative/mixed mode designs.
3. A report on a workshop held at the office for National Statistics in December 2009. This workshop involved academic/international expert researchers and survey managers, researchers and methodologists from across the GSS, including the devolved governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The objectives were to share information about the likely success of alternative or mixed modes on UK government social surveys, drawing on others' experience, and to consider the scope for adopting this way forward or what we needed to study further.

The reports can be downloaded from <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/data-collection-methodology/reports-and-publications/alternative-modes-of-data-collection/index.html>

Launch of New Homeless Link website

Many thanks to Elizabeth Schertler one of our SRA members who kindly informed us of the new Homeless Link website How does Homeless Pages help?

- saves the time of researchers, service providers and policy makers locating information already published and helps them develop the evidence, good practice and research to tackle homelessness
- helps agencies offer the best services to homeless people by ensuring staff have the latest information and research on homelessness
- helps organisations disseminate details of their publications and research to the widest possible audience.

Today, Homeless Link, the national organisation for frontline agencies working to end homelessness, is relaunching Homeless Pages. This is the leading source of publications and research on homelessness in the UK. First established in 1998, it now has many new features and easy access to all the latest information about homelessness.

Homeless Pages (www.homelesspages.org.uk) helps people working to tackle homelessness understand the issues and offer the best services to homeless people. It ensures they have easy access to the latest published information and research on a whole range of issues relevant to homelessness. The website also helps organisations to share their publications and research to have impact on the widest possible audience. Homeless Pages is supported by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) and CRASH, the construction industry's charity to help homeless people.

Jenny Edwards, Chief Executive of Homeless Link, said, "It is important that everyone involved in the ambition to end homelessness has access to key information. We can only make the progress we need if we have an up to date knowledge centre where people can test past assumptions against real evidence. Homeless Pages holds the evidence, good practice and research to tackle homelessness. We urge everyone with an interest in influencing policy or developing good practice to visit our new site, to give feedback and suggestions on new material to add. "

Francesca Roberts, Chief Executive of CRASH, said "Quality research and access to that research is essential not just for agencies providing frontline help and resources, but also for grant givers. We were delighted when CRASH was asked to support the development of the new Homeless Pages. The result has brought together the excellent resources and research that has been undertaken in the UK sector since 1998 and made it readily accessible in one place to the widest possible audience.

CRASH is a practical charity that focuses the professional skills and materials of the construction industry to help homelessness agencies with their building needs. Homeless Pages is another practical and original resource that will help agencies and individuals by making a wide range of quality research and information accessible quickly and easily.

Please click on www.homelesspages.org.uk for more information.

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

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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: [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: 21st 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).

University of East Anglia

CONNECTIONS, EMOTIONS, EMPATHY: HOW DO WE CONCEPTUALISE AND USE AFFECT AND EMOTIONS IN QUALITATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH? Sixth Colloquium in Qualitative Health Research, 6th - 7th May 2010, University of East Anglia, Norwich

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS: Veronica James, Jill Robinson,

AIM: Qualitative health and social science research emphasises the need to conceptualise connections, relations and divisions between healthcare practitioners, technologies, patients and researchers. Affect and emotions are major research topics, leading to questions about how human connections and relations influence qualitative research. This two day colloquium welcomes health and social care professionals and social scientists researching health, illness and medicine, to examine these.

FEES: £200 (2 days), £100 (1 day) Reduced student fee £150 (2 days), £75 (1 day)

TO APPLY: please contact: Mrs Joanne Durrant : Tel: 00 44 (0)1603 591846

Email: joanne.durrant@uea.ac.uk

DETAILED INFO, ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND BOOKING FORM:

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/ahp/courses/Short+Courses>

WORKSHOP ON USER INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH

29th April, 2010 – 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., University of East Anglia

Session Leaders Dr Fiona Poland and Dr Laura Bowater

Sponsored by Community University Engagement in the East (CUE East) & NIHR East of England Research Design Service (RDS),

There is growing recognition that involving service users, carers and members of the public in research processes can help improve practice, making research more relevant to peoples' lives and concerns ensuring that research findings will be used in the future.

This one day workshop has been designed for researchers and people planning research, who want to find out more about how to begin to involve the public within their research. It will use a mixture of information-giving, real-life examples and experience-sharing with other researchers and service users involved in research to introduce the concepts of involving service

users, carers and members of the public in research. This course will provide researchers with skills they can use to start applying these concepts in their own research and to involve the public and people who use services at different stages of the research process.

This workshop is open to researchers, research students and health and social care professionals involved in health-related research

Currently £158 unless funded by an NHS Trust via the Eastern Region Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Post Registration Contract. Reduced student fee £75.

Please refer to our website to find out if you are eligible for one of the SHA-funded and Trust Supported places <http://www.uea.ac.uk/ahp/courses/Short+Courses>

However, for those not covered through the normal SHA Post Registration Contract, there may be other monies available. **TO APPLY: please contact**
For information email – Sandra Horn - s.horn@uea.ac.uk.

Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector (ARVAC) Annual Lecture

Making Voices Count: Towards A Theory Of User Control And Community: Integration In Voluntary Action Research

30 April 2010 14.00-17.00 UEA London, 102 Middlesex street, London, E1 7EZ

ARVAC and Community University Engagement East (CUE-East) are jointly hosting this event which aims to actively engage academics, practitioners and policymakers in community research with this important topic. Lectures include:

- **Carl Milofsky** 'How It Works - User Control, Democracy, And Entrepreneurship'
- **Peter Beresford** 'Why It Works - User And Disabled People's Movements' Responses will be led by: **Peter Halfpenny**, Voluntary Sector Studies Network and **Cathy Pharoah**, Centre For Charitable Giving And Philanthropy. Attendance is free but places are limited. Please register and book a place by contacting: Jane Eade on community@uea.ac.uk or 01603 591567

For further details please see: <http://www.arvac.org.uk/docs/making%20voices%20count.pdf>

University of Westminster - MA/ MSc Applied Market and Social Research

The course focuses on issues and skills that are fundamental to becoming a well-rounded researcher or research manager in a wide variety of contexts. To gain the 180 credits necessary for the Masters award you will need to successfully pass the following modules:

1. Applied Social and Market Research in Context (year-long)
2. Research Design, Ethics and Management
3. Introduction to Qualitative and Quantitative Research

4. Qualitative Research Methods and Data Analysis
5. Quantitative Research Methods and Data Analysis
6. Research Practice and Assessment
7. Dissertation (those undertaking a predominantly quantitative dissertation will be awarded the MSc and those undertaking a predominantly qualitative one will be awarded the MA).

For more information:

<http://courses.westminster.ac.uk/CourseInfo.aspx?coursecode=D09FPAMS>

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>

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

National Child Development Study and 1970 British Cohort Study: Introductory workshop – Focusing on new data from the 2008 surveys

Institute of Education, University of London

Thursday 27th May 2010

This workshop will introduce the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) and the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70), focusing on the newly available data from the surveys carried out in 2008 when the study members were aged 50 and 38 years respectively.

For more information: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/news/eventdetail.asp?id=2441>

ESDS Government are running the following series of events:

Learning and teaching with real data: data and resources

This workshop is designed for current and future HE teachers interested in using real data in their teaching.

Where: University of Manchester

When: Tuesday 4 May 2010

More info: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2010-05-04/>

Introductory Workshop: Analysing Complex Sample Design in ESDS Government Datasets

This workshop provides grounding in elementary concepts in complex sample design and the analysis of survey data using Stata.

Where: University of Manchester

When: Thursday 27 May 2010

More info: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2010-05-27/>

Workshop: Health and mortality with microdata

This workshop will offer an introduction to the services available under the ESRC Census Programme, including the Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs microdata) and the three census-based longitudinal studies (England and Wales; Northern Ireland; and Scotland). Unfortunately, only academics can get access to SARs, so parts of the workshop will not be relevant to others.

Where: Queens University Belfast

When: 29 April 2010

More info: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/news/eventdetail.asp?id=2408>

The ESDS Government events above are free to attend and lunch is provided. Booking is required as places are limited and because of this a £20 cancellation fee will be imposed for

non-attendance at the workshops or for less than 48 hours notice of cancellation. More about the ESDS Government can be found on the following link: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/Government/>

2. BURISA annual conference 'Tomorrow's World: Forecasting and Projections'
This year's BURISA conference will examine forecasting sources and methods; the results, their uses and limitations. What is the future for forecasting, we might ask?

Where: RSS, Errol St

When: 14 May 2010

More info: <http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=1321&event=805>

3. **New Health Information Specialists Conference**
A two-day learning/professional development event on working with Health Information and Statistics, answering questions such as: Why do we need health data? How are health data collected and held? Where can I access health data and how can it be used?

Where: RSS, Errol St

When: 5/6 July 2010

More info: <http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=1321&event=818>

Policy Research Institute event: Leadership Development in Children's Services: 21st
April at the Rose Bowl, Leeds Metropolitan University in Leeds, LS1 3HB. For more information and to book a place please contact: n.bohan@leedsmet.ac.uk

Personal Social Services Research Unit and Social Care Institute for Excellence's

Supporting the use of research evidence in social care management and policymaking: Lessons from the health sector

Date: Monday 12 April 2010

Time: 10.30am-12pm

Venue: U8, Tower One

Speaker: Dr John Lavis

This seminar forms part of the HEIF 4 Funding Knowledge Transfer in Social Care Research Project. This seminar will address the following questions: 1) what do we know about supporting research use by managers and policymakers? 2) what are the challenges that efforts to support research use are striving to overcome? 3) what are some of the innovative strategies that are being developed and evaluated in the health sector?

John N. Lavis, MD PhD, is the Director of the McMaster Health Forum (www.mcmasterhealthforum.org), Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Transfer and Exchange, a Professor (in both the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Department of Political Science), and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy

Analysis at McMaster University. His principal research interests include knowledge transfer and exchange in public policymaking environments and the politics of health systems.

This event is free and open to all but registration in advance is required by email to pssru@lse.ac.uk. Entry is on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, contact Anji Mehta or Dan Kearns at PSSRU by email pssru@lse.ac.uk, phone 020 7955 6238 or visit the [PSSRU](http://pssru.ac.uk) website.

LSE Health and Social Care 2010 Annual Lecture

Trust, Transparency and Care

Date: Monday 17 May 2010

Time: 6-7pm

Venue: New Theatre, East Building

Speaker: Sir Christopher Kelly

Chair: Professor Julian Le Grand

The lecture will discuss some of the issues facing the health and social care system following the election. The lecture is followed by a reception.

Sir Christopher Kelly is chair of the NSPCC, of the Committee on Standards in Public Life and of the Financial Ombudsman Service. In October 2010 when he stands down from the NSPCC after 9 years he will become chair of the Kings Fund. He was Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health from 1997 to 2000 and head of the Policy Group at the then Department of Social Security 1995-97. Before that he spent 25 years in HM Treasury, finally as Director of Monetary and Fiscal Policy and then Director of the Budget and PSBR. He has also been a board member of the National Consumer Council and chaired various inquiries and advisory groups, including one on long-term care for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Julian Le Grand is Richard Titmuss Professor of Social Policy at LSE, Chairman of LSE Health and Chairman of Health England: the National Reference Group for Health and Well Being for the UK Department of Health.

This event is free and open to all but pre registration is required by email to pssru@lse.ac.uk.

For more information, contact Anji Mehta (020 7955 6238) or Dan Kearns (020 7849 4665), email pssru@lse.ac.uk or visit the [LSE Health and Social Care](http://lse.ac.uk/health-social-care) website

CCSR Short Courses (University of Manchester)

Multiple Linear Regression

26th April 2010

£175 (£125 for those from academic institutions)

Further information and booking: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/multipleRegression/>

Contact: katey.matthews@manchester.ac.uk

Understanding Statistics

27th April 2010

£175 (£125 for those from academic institutions)

Further information and booking: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/list/understandingstats.htm>

Contact: Katey.matthews@manchester.ac.uk

Logistic Regression

28th April 2010

£175 (£125 for those from academic institutions)

Further information and booking: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/logisticRegression/>

Contact: Katey.matthews@manchester.ac.uk

Data Reduction and Classification

10th May 2010

£175 (£125 for those from academic institutions)

Further information and booking: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/dataReduction/>

Contact: Katey.matthews@manchester.ac.uk

Multilevel Modelling

14th May 2010

£175 (£125 for those from academic institutions)

Further information and booking: <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/mlm.htm>

Contact: Katey.matthews@manchester.ac.uk

HEEPI (Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement) have just launched a free newsletter on sustainable lab issues, and have a number of new events planned. All events are free, and the Edinburgh and Oxford events will be of particular interest to lab and research managers and administrators:

Greening STEM - Sustainability in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, University of Bradford, 22 April

Opportunities for embedding sustainability within STEM disciplines and operations. Featuring Dr. Michael Grove, Director of the £21 million National HE Stem Initiative.

Laboratory Environmental Improvement: UK/US Best Practice Examples and Processes, University of Edinburgh, 23 April

Featuring presentations on lab auditing and better chemical management.

Sustainable Clean Rooms, Cranfield University, 26 April

Focusing on physical science facilities, with particular emphasis on clean rooms. Also featuring Cranfield's introduction of an ISO 14001 compliant environmental management system in its School of Applied Sciences.

Good Laboratory Housekeeping - Reducing Environmental Impacts, Costs and Safety Risks, University of Oxford, 27 April

This interactive workshop will highlight the environmental benefits of good housekeeping and

discuss how it can be achieved.

Sustainable Laboratory Chemistry - New Challenges and Effective Responses, University of York,
14 June

Featuring the Green Chemistry Network, micro-scale chemistry, chemistry lab auditing and
operational improvement, and greening the chemistry curriculum.

To book a place contact: l.m.hopkinson@bradford.ac.uk

ESRC Event

Social Policy Courses

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/>

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

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

Centre for Longitudinal Studies - Understanding Ageing Conference: 14-16 April at St. Catherine's College Oxford. For more information please call Richard Bull on 020 7612 6804

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.

ARMA - Research, VAT and Other Taxing Issues, which will take place at Holywell Park, Loughborough University on Thursday 13th May. The seminar is designed for research administrators with financial responsibilities (but who are not expected to be VAT experts).

Delegates will receive a comprehensive grounding in a wide variety of scenarios involving the interaction of VAT on universities and the research they carry out. They will then be better placed to understand the often complex requirements of their finance offices in dealing with, and accounting, for VAT and will gain confidence in dealing with VAT issues that may be raised by their researcher communities.

For full details of the programme please see:

https://www.arma.ac.uk/news/training/training_seminars/ts_vat.shtml

To book: <https://www.arma.ac.uk/list-events.shtml>

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.

How best can the criminal justice system and agencies meet the needs of older offenders – at the Royal Commonwealth Society, 16th April 2010. **To book:** seminars@cppseminars.org.uk

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

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