



Expert development workshops – May to November 2008

The programme of expert development workshops has been developed with funding from the ESRC's Researcher Development Initiative (RDI). They are aimed at mid-career and senior researchers who want to stay at the cutting edge of developments in their profession or develop expertise in new areas of social research. They will be of interest and use to social researchers working across a range of different sectors including:

- Local and regional government
- Central government, the devolved administrations
- Government agencies
- Voluntary organisations
- Colleges, universities and research institutes
- Private and independent sector.

Each workshop will address current issues of importance to social research in a way that will bring colleagues up to date with the latest developments and also encourage critical debate and discussion. Courses will cost £390 for non SRA Members (includes 1 year membership) or £330 for SRA members. To book a place on a course or for queries email mark.roche@the-sra.org.uk.

Ethics in social research 17th – 18th June, Leeds, The Carriageworks

This two day workshop will provide an opportunity to reflect on the ethical dilemmas and issues that researchers face during their day to day experiences of research. The workshop will be led by experienced applied policy researchers from the National Centre for Social Research. An interactive format will encourage participants to bring their own experiences and learning to the discussion. Issues covered will include: informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity, disclosure of harm and research participants' own views of the key ethical issues in research participation.

Developing a knowledge transfer strategy: (one day course with preparatory work & follow up): 12th June, London & 25th September, Glasgow

Research organisations increasingly need to develop a strategy for knowledge transfer which can guide a range of communication activities by colleagues. The objective of the course is to help managers of research enterprises, either directors or administrators, to

- understand how research may influence policy and practice
- acquire tools and techniques for a knowledge transfer strategy
- choose methods for evaluating the impact of research.

At the heart of the course will be a one day session at which no more than 12 participants work singly and in groups in exploring the application to them of the components of a knowledge transfer strategy: expressing research messages, identifying audiences, choosing media, evaluating impacts. This day will be preceded and succeeded by email or phone contact between a tutor and individual participants. *In the month beforehand* the tutors will familiarise themselves with the research undertaken by the participants' organisations and the participants will be encouraged to think about its potential application – through a brief survey for completion and return to their tutor. *Afterwards, for a period of three months*, the tutors will be available to participants to discuss the development of their knowledge transfer strategy and/or to comment on draft documents. The tutors will be Annette Boaz and William Solesbury. Both have experience – much of it working together – in research, training and consultancy on aspects of knowledge transfer for a wide range of academic, government and non-profit clients.

Interpretation and explanation in social enquiry: 25th – 26th June, London & October , Cardiff (Exact Date TBC)

Interpretation and explanation - whether based on quantitative or qualitative approaches - raise important questions about the contribution of social research to the development of knowledge about the social world. Facilitated by Liz Spencer and Anne-Marie Aish, this highly interactive two-day course, will cover

- How interpretation and explanation are understood in quantitative and qualitative approaches
- How interpretive and explanatory aims come into play at different stages of the research process
- How different types of research strategy (inductive, deductive, retroductive, abductive) and research question (what, why and how) are linked to different kinds of research design, and to different methods of data collection and analysis
- How the choice and use of different procedures and/or statistical techniques should be carefully reviewed in order to facilitate the overall interpretation and assessment of findings

Based on many examples, the course will provide participants with a range of opportunities to bring their own experience to the group and to practice the art of interpretation and explanation at different stages of the research processes.

Liz Spencer is a Research Associate of the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex and a partner in New Perspectives consultancy. She has specialised in qualitative research since 1973. Anne-Marie Aish is an independent research consultant and a Visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong. She has specialised in quantitative methods since 1970

Advanced qualitative data analysis: 17th-18th July, London, 20th-21st November, Newcastle

This two-day course is aimed at mid career social research professionals with specialist experience of conducting qualitative research. It will cover five key areas: the principles of qualitative data analysis; the challenges of managing qualitative data; moving beyond description; integrating multiple data and analysis for policy. The course will involve a combination of contributions from experts and facilitators which present key ideas and questions, discussion groups to enable reflection and an exchange of ideas and experiences and practical exercises focused on problem solving and real world dilemmas

By the end of the training participants will have developed:

- A clear understanding and appreciation of the principles which underpin high quality qualitative data analysis in a range of contexts
- The ability to make informed choices and decisions about the management of qualitative data
- The ability to plan and implement qualitative data analysis that facilitates explanation and, where appropriate, generalisation
- The ability to conduct and manage high quality qualitative data analysis in the context of multiple sets and forms of data including how to manage the interface with complementary quantitative datasets
- The ability to articulate the principles and challenges of qualitative analysis to a policy and practice audience.

This course will be delivered by NatCen Learning, part of the National Centre *for* Social Research. William O'Connor, Director of the Qualitative Research Unit (QRU) and Chris Creegan, Deputy Director of the Unit will lead the training team. Both William and Chris have extensive research experience, working with a range of different qualitative datasets. High profile guest speakers both from NatCen and other research settings will also present sessions offering their unique perspectives on qualitative data analysis.

SRA Training Forum

The SRA Training Forum is open to all those with an interest in the training and professional development of social researchers. The next meeting will take place on [Monday, 23rd June, 3.00-5.00pm](#) at the SRA offices, 24-32 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HX. The focus for discussion will be Innovative Approaches to training and professional development. Participants are invited to bring along examples of innovative approaches with which they are familiar. If you would like to attend please email: janie.percy-smith@the-sra.org.uk

