

April 2016 edition

DTC Summer Conference 2016

Registration is now open for the ESRC Summer Conference. Held on the **13th June and hosted by the Department of Education**, the Summer Conference is your space to network, explore and present. This is an all-day event that will last from **10:00—16:00**.

There are two basic formats for participation in the conference. The first is based on the Three Minute Thesis format (<http://threeminutethesis.org>) - short, snappy presentations on your DPhil, or some part of it, to 'plenary' sessions of the conference.

Parallel sessions will also run through the day. These can be topic-based, interdisciplinary or methodological in nature and will give participants the chance to give longer presentations, host debates, or invite experts to talk or hold workshops. These sessions will allow for longer presentations based on a more expansive discussion of your thesis if you find the 3 minute format overly constraining! You are strongly encouraged to convene parallel sessions around a theme, topic area or method, apply for funds to host fringe events or invite visiting speakers, or just put in an abstract for a longer presentation.

An exciting range of workshops and talks are being planned, including sessions on data visualisation, traumatic fieldwork, mining social media and research reproducibility.

To register for the conference please contact Robin McGahey (robin.mcgahey@socsci.ox.ac.uk). Please also let us know if you would like to talk at one of the plenary sessions (remembering you will only have three minutes in which to do so!). If you would like to host a parallel session please contact Ben Bradford (ben.bradford@crim.ox.ac.uk).

The closing date for proposals for longer presentations/sessions is **Friday 13th May 2016**.

ESRC National Conference

The next ESRC National Conference will take place on **16th-17th June 2016**, and will be hosted by the North West DTC and take place at [ACC Liverpool](#). Please visit the [conference website](#) for further details including how to book your place, and do note that **booking closes on 1st June**. Enquiries can be sent to nwdtc@liverpool.ac.uk.

Funding guidance reminders

Full funding guidance is regularly updated at <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/current-students/ressource-and-funding-guidelines>.

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Training

For information on available training courses, please see the training website at <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/>.

Don't forget to check the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) portal at <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/> for training courses available nationally.

NCRM Research Methods Festival 5-7 July

The National Centre for Research Methods will be holding their 7th biennial Research Methods Festival from the 5-7 July at the University of Bath. Bookings are now open and the programme and further information can be found [here](#).

Purdah guidance for ESRC investments for May 2016 elections

On Thursday 5 May 2016, elections will be taking place to the Scottish Parliament; the National Assembly for Wales; the Northern Ireland Assembly; some local authorities in England, including for the directly elected Mayors of London, Bristol, Liverpool and Salford; and for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales (excluding London and Greater Manchester - subject to legislation). As a non-departmental public body the ESRC is bound by purdah during a pre-election period.

Please see the attached document for guidance and please note these guidelines only relate to the elections taking place on Thursday 5 May.

Purdah guidance for the EU referendum on Thursday 23 June 2016 will be provided as soon as we receive it. The provisional date for purdah to begin is Thursday 26 May 2016. If you have any questions during the purdah period please contact Sarah Nichols: Sarah.Nichols@esrc.ac.uk

ESRC Festival of Social Science

The call for this year's Festival of Social Science is now open and will take place from 5-12 November. The closing dates are 13 May for applications for sponsorship and 20 May for those not requesting sponsorship. Full details can be found on our website at www.esrc.ac.uk/festival

Are you ready to face the media?

Did you know that the ESRC offer free media training to ESRC-funded academics who are working on news-worthy research projects?

The one-day training session is an opportunity for researchers, no matter what stage of their career, to develop their skills and feel comfortable handling media interviews. Whether a PhD student, postdoctoral researcher or senior fellow, the new practical media training session provides the guidance needed to engage the media with confidence – and plenty of opportunity to practice.

In small group settings run by [journalists](#), the sessions are full of simulations providing each delegate with expert advice, allowing them to develop their interview technique, explain the findings of their research, and pitch their story. The course is tailor-made for academics with interesting research projects, worth shouting about – no matter the amount of experience you have with interacting with the media.

For further information see the [Media training booking form](#) and the [Media training terms and conditions](#). For anything else please contact esrcmediatraining@esrc.ac.uk

Software Sustainability Institute - Open call to support development of research software

If you write code as part of your research, then you can get help to improve it - free of charge - through the Software Sustainability Institute's Open Call for Projects. The call closes on April 29 2016. Apply at <http://bit.ly/ssi-open-call-projects>

You can ask for our help to improve your research software, your development practices, or your community of users and contributors (or all three!).

You may want to improve the sustainability or reproducibility of your software, and need an assessment to see what to do next. Perhaps you need guidance or development effort to help improve specific aspects or make better use of infrastructure.

We accept submissions from any discipline, in relation to research software at any level of maturity, and are particularly keen to attract applications from BBSRC and ESRC funding areas. You can submit an application to the Open Call at any time, which only takes a few minutes, at <http://bit.ly/ssi-open-call-projects>.

We're also interested in partnering on proposals. If you would like to know more about the Open Call, or explore options for partnership, please get in touch with us at info@software.ac.uk.