

## February 2017 edition

### ESRC Scholars Annual Conference—Research Careers in an Uncertain World Friday 21st April 2017

Registration is now open for this year's ESRC Scholar's conference, 'Research careers in an uncertain world'.

**Date: 21st April 2017**

**Time: 10:00-17:00, followed by a reception**

**Venue: Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens**

The conference this year will focus on professional skills in a rapidly changing academic and research environment. The keynote speaker will be Prof. Alistair Buchan, who is head of the University's Brexit strategy. There will also be sessions led by academics from across the Social Sciences Division on getting published; running a major research project; dealing with the media; and more.

The main format for your participation in the conference will be 'Three Minute Thesis' (3MT) presentations. We used this format at previous conferences, to great success, and 'pitching' your research is itself a key professional skill. You can choose to either present your thesis or, if you are at an earlier stage in your research, you can pitch your project as if to potential funders. All in the requisite three minutes, of course!

There will of course be a free lunch and, in all likelihood, cake and wine at the end of the day.

**Please register with [melanie.goodchild@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.goodchild@socsci.ox.ac.uk) asap, indicating:**

- (a) if you wish to do a three minute thesis presentation (and if so what will be the title); and**  
**(b) any dietary requirements**

Slots for three minute theses will be limited, and awarded on a first-come-first-served basis.

Finally, if you have any ideas for further content for the conference please get in contact with Ben Bradford ([ben.bradford@crim.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ben.bradford@crim.ox.ac.uk)).

### Internship Support Scheme—eligibility changes for Masters students

Following an evaluation of the internship support scheme by both the DTC Director and DTC Deputy Director, the decision has been taken to broaden eligibility for the scheme to allow for students on 2 year Masters programmes to apply to the scheme for support for internships that take place during the summer vacation period in either the first year of their programme, or the summer vacation period immediately preceding the beginning of the DPhil phase of a studentship.

The revised eligibility criteria is outlined in the guidance available under the internship support scheme section on the DTP website at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-current-award-holders>.

### Grand Union DTP Student Profiles

Thanks to all of you who have sent in student profiles. We have now completed the process of making your profiles searchable - see more at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/our-scholars>. If there are additional classifications (or changes that you would like to make to existing classifications) within the categories provided that you would like to add to your profile, please do get in touch and let us know.

### Reminder: RTSG claims - ensuring that you use the correct version of the expenses claim form

As a reminder from last month's newsletter, the University Finance Division have indicated to us that **as of 1st January 2017, they will no longer process any expenses claims that use versions of the expenses claim form with an effective date prior to August 2016**. Any claims submitted with a form dated prior to August 2016 will be rejected, and students will be asked to complete and submit the correct version of the form. The effective date for expenses claim forms can be found in the top left section:

#### CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Effective August 2016

ORACLE SUPPLIER / PAYEE CODE:

Please provide the Oracle Supplier Code (if known) - this will help speed up the processing of your req

#### CLAIMANT PERSONAL DETAILS

Department Name:

Therefore, as recommended in the RTSG processes overview document available under the RTSG section of the DTP website at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>,

please always ensure that when submitting a new claim, you download a fresh copy of the expenses claim form from the Finance Division website (specifically from the right hand side of the webpage at <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/epp/expenses/>), and **do not reuse saved versions of forms used for previous claims**. This will minimise the risk of using incorrect versions of the form which could lead to potential delays in obtaining reimbursement.

### Wellcome Trust Internship Opportunity

The Understanding Patient Data team is looking to recruit one PhD student to undertake a 3-month internship (April - June 2017) based at the [Wellcome Trust](http://www.wellcome-trust.org) in London. The internship provides an exceptional opportunity to play a central role in the development of work that will feed directly into policy and communications in an important area for major research funders and the healthcare system. This is a full time project that will primarily map out emerging and anticipated developments in digital technologies in healthcare, and new applications using health-related data. It will involve reviewing existing academic, grey literature and media reporting, reaching out to key stakeholders including healthcare and digital technology companies, and identifying potential case studies.

Wellcome Trust are looking for one PhD student who matches the following specification:

- Academic background in social science, Science and Technology Studies, health technology or health policy.
- excellent written and verbal skills;
- excellent desk research and analytical skills;
- the ability to communicate complex ideas effectively to a range of audiences;
- the ability to work well in partnerships, with well-developed interpersonal skills.

Applicants should contact their Doctoral Training Centre in the first instance to discuss funding opportunities.

For more information, please see email attachment: 'WT internship.pdf'.

If you would like to apply for this position please send a CV and cover letter outlining why you'd be a good fit for this role to Natalie Banner at [n.banner@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:n.banner@wellcome.ac.uk).

The deadline for applications is **8th March 2017**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview.

### Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC) Masters Research Dissertation Programme

The CDRC Masters Research Dissertation Programme is now accepting applicants for dissertation projects available in 2017. Masters students from all disciplines and UK institutions with an interest in retail data and working on real world problems are invited to visit the CDRC website ([www.cdrc.ac.uk/retail-masters/](http://www.cdrc.ac.uk/retail-masters/)) to browse the dissertation topics which have been proposed by major companies.

A very brief overview of the programme is outlined below.

- Students apply to projects proposed by retail companies which are advertised on the CDRC website: <http://www.cdrc.ac.uk/retail-masters/>
- Successful applicants undertake their dissertations between May and August 2017, with regular supervisory meetings with their retail sponsors
- Retail sponsors usually provide £500 in sponsorship, plus travel expenses, to be paid upon successful project completion
- Participating students submit PDF copies of (completed) dissertations to their retail sponsor and also to the CDRC at the start of September 2017
- Each dissertation is considered for a cash prize (£500, £250 and £250) to be awarded at the Demographics User Group Conference, held in London, in October
- Students will be invited to produce A1 posters of their work and also present these at the conference
- In addition, students will also be invited to produce a 600 word extended abstract for their projects to be published online

Summaries of dissertations from previous years can be found here: <https://www.cdrc.ac.uk/retail-masters/archive/>

To apply, students will need to download an application form from the CDRC website and then submit a completed version (which includes a cover letter) with a copy of their CV to [projects@cdrc.ac.uk](mailto:projects@cdrc.ac.uk). As only limited positions are available it is highly recommended that students carefully read the application guidance provided on our website before submitting an application. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and it is recommended that they should be submitted early to avoid disappointment.

Please visit the details for students page for more information: <https://www.cdrc.ac.uk/retail-masters/details-for-students/>.

### UKDS/CDRC Webinars

The UK Data Service and the ESRC Consumer Data Research Centre are co-hosting two introductory webinars in February 2017:

- On 21 February 2017, the "[Creating Top Metric Maps](http://www.cdrc.ac.uk/webinars/creating-top-metric-maps)" webinar will unveil the process of creating "Top Metric" demographic maps, such as the Top Industry map seen on the [CDRC Maps platform](http://www.cdrc.ac.uk/webinars/cdrc-maps-platform).
- On 22 February 2017, the "[Bringing new forms of data to the study of cities](http://www.cdrc.ac.uk/webinars/bringing-new-forms-of-data-to-the-study-of-cities)" webinar will examine changing urban cities and the opportunities and challenges presented through the explosion in new sources of data.

### CLS Webinar: Introduction to the Millennium Cohort Study and the Age 14 Survey

Hosted by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS), this session introduces the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) to both first-time and more experienced users, focusing on the newly-available data from the age 14 survey. Now that the study participants are entering young adulthood much of what happens to them at this age will influence the paths they take later in life. The age 14 data includes extensive responses and valuable insights into the cohort members' lives at this pivotal time.

This webinar will be held on **28 February 2017** and is suitable for:

- Those new to MCS
- Experienced users interested in learning about the age 14 data
- Researchers looking to find out more about new features of the study, such as the use of activity monitors and time-use records, as well as the collection of biological samples.

Click [HERE](http://www.cls.ac.uk/webinars) for more information and to book a place on this free webinar. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact Jennie Blows ([j.blows@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.blows@ucl.ac.uk)).

### Understanding Society: competition for early access to EU referendum data

Understanding Society is offering researchers the chance of accessing early data from wave 8 (which began in January 2016), which captures participant responses to the question of whether the UK should leave the EU. In order to better inform policy and public debate, the data generated from the EU Referendum question will be made available to a limited number of researchers in April 2017. The initial data made available to successful applicants will include interviews from the first year of wave 8 (2016). Proposals for research projects are invited which will use this data to advance the understanding of the decision to leave the EU or its consequences.

Further details of the competition are available on the [Understanding Society website](http://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk) – the deadline for proposals is **13th March 2017**.

Please do get in touch with [Nicole Martin](mailto:Nicole.Martin@understandingsociety.ac.uk), if you would like to discuss a proposal further.

### Funding guidance reminders

Full funding guidance, covering all of the schemes available to DTC students such as RTSG, OFE, DLT, OIVs, etc, is regularly updated at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>.

### 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.

### Interdisciplinary Funding

The DTC provides funding for interdisciplinary projects - such as workshops, seminars or small conferences, etc – on a rolling basis, and you can apply for funds at any point. Now is the time to plan an event for next year.

Full guidance is available under the interdisciplinary funding section on the DTC website at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>.

Applications should be sent to Melanie Goodchild ([melanie.goodchild@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.goodchild@socsci.ox.ac.uk)). Please note that the scheme is open to applications from students currently enrolled on DPhil programmes only.

<http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>