

Professional Skills for Research Leadership –

Doctoral Training Seminar on ‘Developing a Publication Strategy and Navigating REF’

As part of Sheffield Hallam University’s participation in the White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership, and in conjunction with the Sheffield Institute for Policy Studies, we are delighted to announce a new series of training seminars aiming to provide students with the skills required to move beyond successful PhD completion to building a career in the social sciences through post-doctoral positions, securing research funding and managing larger scale research projects.

The first lecture/workshop will take place on Wednesday 10 October in Eric Mensforth Building 3021 between 1-3pm

This session, delivered by **Professor Barry Goodchild** from the Centre for Regional, Economic and Social Research (CRESR) will:

1. Explain how the REF works in relation to academic publications, stressing the need for high quality outputs of 3* star or better and the typical characteristics of such papers, as stated in the guidance.
2. Go through selected publications where Prof Goodchild acted as either the lead or co-author.
3. Indicate some lessons:
 - a) about the context of the work, the importance of knowing your journals; not worrying about the comments of referees, but responding in detail to every single point raised by the referee; persevere with ideas, if necessary switching journals, use independent internal reviewers, be careful in your choice of writing partners;
 - b) about writing style - for example accept that good quality journals require either theory or some methodological excellence; develop a “voice”, based on a clearly defined personal philosophy of research; provide a simple contribution to knowledge; avoid description.

The following sessions will take place later in the year

14 November 2018 - Sarah Pearson, Principal Research Fellow at CRESR will deliver a seminar on Managing Social Research:

This session aims to equip early career researchers with the skills to successfully manage social research projects. It will guide you through the research project lifecycle from project planning and initiation to project closure and cover issues relating to the costing of research projects, managing staff and resources, ethics, health and safety, data management, quality assurance and managing relationships with funders and clients. The session will also address the challenges associated with managing small and large research projects.

The session will begin with an overview of the research project lifecycle. It will then use a number of 'real life' scenarios to help you consider how you would respond to different situations and challenges in managing social research. The session will finish with identification of useful principles and strategies for successful projects, and signposting to further resources.

Cantor 9130 2-4pm

12 December 2018 - Prof Ed Ferrari, Director of CRESR will deliver a seminar on Developing an Academic Profile:

Within professional research careers, increasing focus is placed upon the development of an academic profile through extra-curricular activities and wider 'citizenship' within learned and academic communities. This session will provide an overview of the varied ways that academic researchers at all stages of their careers can contribute to the vitality of the academy whilst enhancing their own research trajectories. Specifically, we will explore: the pros and cons of engaging beyond the walls of the University; the challenges of workplanning and ensuring institutional support; getting involved in learned societies and the running of journals; the benefits and pitfalls of running academic conferences; finding the right register and tone in external engagement; the importance of bibliographic databases and profiles; the use of social media.

Cantor 9130 2-4pm

13 February 2019 – Prof Christina Beatty (CRESR) will deliver a seminar on Communicating with Different Audiences:

The Research Excellence Framework has increasingly put the impact agenda at the heart of funding applications and assessment criteria. This recognises the need for research findings to reach beyond academia and have an '*effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life*' ([Hefce](#), 2016). Effective communication and engagement with a wide variety of audiences is therefore essential if the potential of research to make a difference is to be maximised.

However, often the dissemination of findings is only an afterthought at the end of a research project. Delivering traditional research outputs to traditional audiences - such as weighty reports, academic journals or conference presentations - is frequently the main focus of any dissemination strategy. Instead, engaging with potential end users of research findings should be embedded throughout the research process. This can help shape research questions and methods, as well raise the profile of research findings, and broaden the application of knowledge created.

This session will consider different communication methods for engaging with a variety of audiences including policy makers, practitioners, politicians, the media and wider society. The pros and cons of various methods will be examined including: working with end user groups and networks; utilising social media; using traditional media outlets to raise the profile of research; deploying alternative formats for final outputs such as infographics; utilising research portals; and developing on-going research engagement strategies.

Cantor 9135 2-4pm

13 March 2019 - Prof Peter Wells (Assistant Dean Research, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities) will deliver a seminar on Navigating the Funding Landscape:

This session aims to help doctoral researchers think about and then plan their strategies for securing research funding. The session gives an overview of the different types of funding streams available and how these have evolved over the last decade. It outlines how Universities see different research funding streams and the types of support most universities will make available for early career researchers. The session explains how horizon scanning works and how to shape your research ideas for external funding. The session includes a short exercise where participants are asked to work in groups to peer review a short research proposal and provide critical feedback. The session finishes with the identification of some general lessons but also stresses the importance of developing an individual academic profile and identity.

Cantor 9130 2-4pm

8 May 2019 - Prof Paul Hickman (Department of Psychology, Sociology and Politics) will deliver a seminar on Collaboration with Academic and Non-Academic Partners:

During his time at Sheffield Hallam University, Paul has been involved in a number of collaborations with academic and non-academic partners, including:

- The University of Oxford and Ipsos MORI (the evaluation of the Direct Payment Demonstration Projects for the Department for Work and Pensions)
- University of Sheffield and Qa Research (evaluation of a Family Intervention Project - Cooperative Working - for Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
- Queen's University, the University of Sheffield and Perceptive Insight (a study of resilience for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister)
- 13 partners across the UK led by the University of Glasgow (UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) which is being funded by the ESRC and Joseph Rowntree Foundation <http://housingevidence.ac.uk/>)

This session draws on Paul's experience of being involved in these studies to illuminate: the benefits of collaboration; the challenges associated with it; and key learning

Cantor 9130 2-4pm

These sessions will be open to all doctoral student in the Social Sciences at SHU (i.e. sociology, politics, psychology, urban studies, education, social policy, criminology, geography, business and organisations).

To register your interest simply send an email to – camilla.prince@shu.ac.uk

For all other enquiries please contact the coordinator of these seminars, Dr Bob Jeffery in the Sociology Subject Group – r.f.jeffery@shu.ac.uk