

# NCRM Annual Lecture

Introduction by Prof. Gabriele Durrant (Director)

**Director's welcome**

# National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM)

- Provides high-quality training in cutting-edge research methods
- From exploration / horizon scanning activities to delivery of a comprehensive training programme and creation of impact
- Consortium of three core Universities (University of Southampton, Manchester, Edinburgh) and 9 Centre Partners across the UK
- First phase of NCRM was funded in 2004; 4 phases of funding
- Next year 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration
- [www.ncrm.ac.uk](http://www.ncrm.ac.uk)

# Importance of Research Methods Training

- Application and use of high-quality and appropriate research methods is essential in all ways of research and life; to improve evidence based policy and decision making
- Aim: train researchers to a high standard in using appropriate and often innovative RM - across a wide range of backgrounds (RM areas; career stages; sectors; disciplines; within and beyond the social sciences); in a fast changing environment
- Serving the research community and the common good
- Very experienced, committed, passionate NCRM team

# A changing landscape

- Research methods and training landscape undergoing major changes, for example:
  - Technological changes
  - Societal changes
  - Changes in the data landscape
  - New tools/ research methods/ techniques are being developed
  - Changes to teaching and online learning environments
  - ESRC / UKRI / funding landscape is changing

## Therefore there is a need for ...

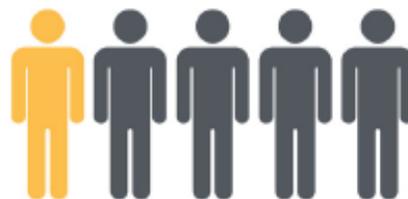
- Social scientists to be equipped to lead on cross-science agenda, to work collaboratively and flexibly with other disciplines, and beyond the academic sector with government, business and industry.
- Hence, training social scientists to a high standard in using appropriate and often innovative research methods, and via flexible delivery formats, is of vital / increasing importance.

# NCRM successes and highlights

- Wide range of training and capacity building (TCB) activities; diverse set of flexible TCB formats; advocating a much more fluid transition between research and training; creative; innovative; advanced; ambitious
- >7,500 course and event participants; >1m website users; from across all sectors, ESRC disciplines, career lifecourse, within and beyond the Social Sciences
- Achieved all KPIs; more than doubled previous TCB provision
- Impact:
  - More than 14 impact case studies
  - Feedback from participants; high-quality

## 2020-2023 training highlights

152 courses  
3,111 participants



One in five participants  
from outside the social  
sciences



More than  
4,000  
event participants

Feedback from  
NCRM users:

“ As a practitioner of social media listening/ analytics over the last decade, this video inspired me to structure my own potential academic research proposal. ”

“ My knowledge has moved on and I am able to use that enriched knowledge in my teaching and supervision. ”

# NCRM training activities in research methods

- Portal (rich online databases and services; enabling infrastructure)
- A comprehensive programme of cutting-edge training
  - in-person/ online courses
  - online learning resources
- Spring/Autumn schools, Bootcamps
- Series of large-scale training events (e.g. train the trainers/ pedagogy workstream; collaborative events; innovation fora; MethodsCon)
- Research Methods e-Festival (RMeF, Nov 2023)
- Networks, Community of Practice, Methodological Special Interest Groups (pedagogy, DRTN, SDC-Net)

# Introducing speakers

- Speaker: Prof. Elizabeth Stokoe
- Discussant: Dr Jon Sutton

Collaboration  
Methodological practice  
Agility **NCRM** Innovation  
Impact  
Stakeholders Interdisciplinarity High quality  
Advanced methods  
Resources  
Users Training and capacity building One stop shop  
Strategy Responding to needs Vision  
Infrastructure  
ESRC investments Communication Synergies  
Cross sector  
Social sciences and beyond  
Engagement  
Methods teaching  
Interconnectivity  
Pedagogical excellence  
Good practice

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