

SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH STRATEGY

Maximising the research and innovation potential of the social sciences at Leeds

Our aims are:

- To develop wide ranging and significant societal, economic and environmental impact
- To support social science disciplines in achieving globally-recognised excellence in research
- To become world-renowned for our centres of interdisciplinary social science research and innovative methods
- To train the next generation of social science leaders equipped to tackle global challenges
- To maximise the effectiveness of social science research funding by becoming the focus of significant international and national investment.

To take these aims forward our strategy is to:

- enhance the capacity of social science research to produce knowledge with impact that shapes regional, national and international policy, public debate and professional practice
- promote interdisciplinary research and team-building that afford novel and critical insights to contemporary research challenges
- support and enhance the successful capture of large-scale, problem-focused and complex cross-disciplinary research funding grants
- forge and promote cross-institutional partnerships regionally, nationally and across the globe which add value
- advance the integration of social sciences methodologies and concepts within cross-disciplinary research themes and programmes throughout the University
- further develop our reputation as a world leader in advanced skills and methods training by capacity building for postgraduate and early career researchers.

The distinctive strengths of social sciences at Leeds are notably in:

1. Leading large-scale inter-disciplinary problem-based research on key areas of societal need that transcend disciplines and include multiple stakeholders
2. Advanced quantitative methods for geo-spatial modelling and monitoring of societal trends, connecting analysis of big data with longitudinal, qualitative sources and social theory.

The following interdisciplinary research themes have clear potential for world-leading excellence in social science:

- Global Society and Business

(international relations & security; global trade and business; international law; modes of governance & regulation in global societies; global development & social justice; culture; media & communications)

- Social Sustainability

(economic and sustainable development; social policy; family and community; ethical organisations; work; business, cultural, educational, political, institutional, leadership and legal dimensions)

- Health and Society

(applied health; health services and innovation in health management; health technologies and social practice)

- Cities

(business; urban culture; institutions; social change and social inclusion; policing and criminal justice; infrastructure; sustainable transport)

- Environmental Resources

(social and political impacts of energy; water and food security)

- Climate Change

(social; political and economic implications of climate change; environmental management).