

UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING SOCIAL CHANGE

These are exciting and challenging times for the social sciences. Responding to global challenges, engaging with the UK Industrial Strategy and enhancing the impact of research around the world as well as within the local region are all prominent priorities.

At a time of uncertainty and shifting political realities, the task of social science in understanding and addressing societal change is as vital and urgent as ever.

The prominent research questions of our time are evidently ones that require the strengths of diverse disciplines and sustained engagement with external stakeholders outside the academy. It is incumbent upon the social sciences to play a pivotal role in framing and shaping the research questions and methodologies, as well as forging the cross-disciplinary capabilities to harness curiosity-led, challenge-driven and outcome-oriented research partnerships.

Leeds Social Sciences Institute has a dynamic responsibility to foster and support the relations and networks that sustain cross-disciplinary and inter-professional conversations, exchange and knowledge generation.

This document reflects the passion, values and commitment of social scientists at Leeds to shape societal change through research excellence. Our response to the uncertainties of Brexit has been to forge closer international strategic research partnerships both with institutions within the European Community and with a small number of targeted institute of social science excellence in diverse regions across the globe.

Our long-term vision is for the social sciences to play a more significant – and where appropriate, leading – role in framing novel interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research collaborations that combine the physical and life sciences, as well as the arts and humanities, harnessed around particular fields of research. Within this, LSSI aims to be an incubator of new transdisciplinary approaches that establish or reshape research agendas and so transform our understanding of significant contemporary societal changes.

It is our ambition that the University of Leeds becomes a globally recognised powerhouse for social science research excellence with societal impact working closely with our international partners. We are advancing these aims by:

- Proactively developing large-scale multi-disciplinary grant applications.
- Enhancing the impact of existing Leeds research by forging new pathways to impact through engagement with external partners and utilising the Impact Acceleration Account.
- Training the next generation of social scientists in methodological skills and leadership.
- Building international collaborations with academic and non-academic partners.

Professor Adam Crawford,
LSSI Director



Leeds Social Sciences Institute Team, from left to right; Professor Adrian Favell, Deputy Director; Karen Lucas, Deputy Director; Rebecca Johnson, Industrial Strategy Partnerships Manager; Hannah Crow, Coordinator; Adam Crawford, Director; Alison Lundbeck, Research and Innovation Development Manager; Katie Barclay, Communications and Graduate Coordinator.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AT LEEDS

Research Excellence

LSSI works across the University to support curiosity-driven, cross-disciplinary research within and beyond the social sciences. We drive forward the integration of the social sciences into a wide range of challenge-led research areas, working closely with the University themes; Cities, Climate, Health, Energy, Water, Food and Culture. LSSI works proactively to foster and develop new networks of interdisciplinary research, but also to support existing interdisciplinary strengths around four key focus areas, which complement- but sit outside of- the existing university interdisciplinary themes...

INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Inequalities are prevalent features of social, economic, political and health relations across the globe and understanding their causes and how to address them is a major societal challenge. Exploring the causes and consequences of inequalities raises questions about social justice within societies wherein principles of justice, inclusivity, equality and fairness are key. Reducing inequalities and promoting

social justice through law, regulation, economics, politics, social security and welfare are critical aspects of social cohesion. Our commitment to addressing issues of inequality and social justice reflect the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and constitute a key area of focus for many governmental, charitable and other stakeholders. Research within this theme includes around 20 centres or research groups. LSSI supports the Inequalities Research Network, bringing together scholars from across the university with external partners, resulting in a number of successful Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) awards.



MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

International migration and human mobility is a growing phenomenon, both in scope and in complexity, affecting most countries in the world. With forced migration, refugee crises and Brexit, as well as debates around social and economic mobility, this theme deals with issues of contention and high levels of political uncertainty. Policy makers are increasingly calling for the third sector and funders to understand and respond effectively, particularly to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises. LSSI has supported the launch of a cross-campus Migration Research Network, bringing together around 60 Leeds academics with external partners and stakeholders to address these pressing issues.



SOCIAL SCIENCES AT LEEDS

Research Excellence

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Many countries across the world face urgent social, economic and environmental challenges, the scale of which demand long-term sustainable responses and solutions. Such solutions will need to consider different world religions, cultures and societies and will have a lasting impact on both the societies and the individuals who live there. The social sciences are fundamental to creating sustainable change in response to global challenges, both through the creation of new knowledge, and through understanding how to successfully implement technical innovation. The exceptional breadth and quality of Leeds research relating

to sustainability is reflected in our position as one of the most successful UK universities for our GCRF research addressing critical problems in developing countries across the world. Research within this theme goes beyond achieving “Sustainable Development Goals”, encompassing multiple disciplines and 15 research centres and institutes. LSSI works to enhance cross-disciplinary opportunities in liaison with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP), the Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) and sustainability research linked to the Bauman Institute.

SECURITY AND CONFLICT

Security and conflict encompasses a broad range of social issues and challenges of varying scope and scale. From interpersonal or inter-group dynamics to national and international concerns, it often involves interplay between micro, meso and macro level issues. (In)Security and conflict can also directly relate to and impact specific disciplinary spheres, such as food production or use of the internet to communicate and transact. Social insecurity across different contexts is an increasingly prevalent issue. The inability of some paid employment to effectively provide secure and reasonable life conditions, and the growth of unstable,

precarious and flexible forms of work are examples of this. These trends have repercussions across all aspects of life, including life planning and health and wellbeing. LSSI works closely with the European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (ECR2P), the N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP), and the Cyber-Security research hub to enhance opportunities for cross-disciplinary research collaboration. This theme seeks to explore and understand the complex, contested and context-specific bases of a wide range of conflict and insecurity issues, helping develop effective approaches and tools for conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

CASE STUDY Understanding and Enhancing the Community Value of Traditional Retail Markets in UK Cities

Principal Investigators: Dr Sara Gonzáles, School of Geography
External Partner: National Market Traders Federation, New Economics Foundation

Traditional markets have played a significant role in the UK’s towns and cities for centuries, particularly in providing affordable food, start-up business opportunities, and fostering social inclusion in increasingly diverse areas. However, their central community role is being threatened by radical changes in retail trends and public sector cuts. An interdisciplinary ESRC project brings industry experts, a think tank, and academics working with critical urban studies, together with retail analytics and local economic development approaches to analyse the current situation of traditional markets. The study will provide a new way to understand the community value which traditional markets offer, whilst connecting existing academic and policy literature and suggesting best practice.

Dr Sara González explains “There is increasing evidence about the economic value of markets, largely thanks to industry efforts, but comparatively little evidence about the social and cultural value of markets. Because of this, there is a risk that the holistic community value of markets may be ignored or damaged if it is not well documented, particularly in the process of remodeling and redevelopment of markets”.

By working with stakeholders at all levels, from traders to policy makers, the team hopes to have broad impact, sharing data, targeted policy recommendations and toolkits for implementing its findings.

As the project progresses, further information and updates can be found by visiting trmcommunityvalue.leeds.ac.uk/



Areas of cross-disciplinary research that LSSI has supported include: children, young people and families; disability studies; mental health and wellbeing; financialisation and global development. In addition, LSSI supports methodological innovation and data exploitation, building on the established strengths at Leeds of realist methods, life-course and longitudinal studies and ‘big data’ analysis – notably in collaboration with the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics.



LEEDS SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE



The ways in which we know and represent the world (both nature and society) are both inseparable from the ways in which we chose to live in it. Knowledge and its material embodiments are at once products of social work and constitutive of forms of social life; society cannot function without knowledge any more than knowledge can exist without appropriate social supports. Scientific knowledge, in particular, is not a transcendent mirror of reality. It both embeds and is embedded in social practices, identities, norms, conventions, discourses, instruments and institutions, in short, in all the building blocks of what we call the social.

Sheila Jasanoff (2004) *States of knowledge: The co-production of science and the social order*, London: Routledge, p. 2-3



Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI) is committed to fostering collaborations that can produce ‘research with impact’. The LSSI is a cross-disciplinary platform and a key component in the University’s Research and Innovation delivery plan, providing cross-faculty support for the social sciences, targeted in three key areas:

- 1 Developing and promoting interdisciplinary research excellence
- 2 Maximising impact, knowledge exchange, and user engagement
- 3 Delivering skills training and capacity building in order to equip the next generation of researchers.

2003
LSSI first established as an interdisciplinary Institute supported by 5 university faculties; Leeds Business School; Education, Social Sciences and Law; Arts & Humanities; Medicine & Health; and environment.

2012
White Rose Social Science Doctoral Training Centre established with ESRC funding (in collaboration with the universities of Sheffield and York).

2014
After consultation, the Social Sciences Research Strategy is agreed with governance via the Social Sciences Research Oversight Group.

2015
Launch of the Social Sciences Impact Acceleration Account (IAA), allied with the ESRC IAA network which allocates new funds of £125k per annum.

2016
LSSI recognised as a key Interdisciplinary Platform in support of the University’s *Research & Innovation Delivery Plan* alongside the seven cross-disciplinary Themes.

2017
White Rose Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership established with renewed ESRC funding (in collaboration with Sheffield and York as well as Bradford, Hull, Manchester Metropolitan, and Sheffield Hallam universities).

2018
LSSI Impact Event and Report, showcasing research excellence with impact.

The University of Leeds is the lead organisation for active ESRC grants of almost £15m, including:

- Active grants across 11 schools and five faculties
- Over 450 researchers associated with the Leeds Social Sciences Institute
- £17m of research grants for the 2016/17 academic year

The University hosts two ESRC Centres:

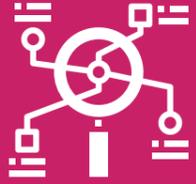
- The Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC)
- Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP)

Leeds plays a major role in two significant and ongoing HEFCE (now Research England) Catalyst Fund projects in collaboration with the N8 Research Partnership:

- The N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP)
- The N8 Agri-Food programme

Both have considerable social science impact and knowledge exchange dimensions:

- Leeds has the third highest amount of Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) funding of any UK HEI from a wide range of funders. Both of the £8m ‘growing research capacity’ proposals led by the University have significant social science embedded within them and Leeds leads 2 ESRC funded GCRF networks.



DEVELOPING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



CURIOSITY-DRIVEN RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

As a University-wide, cross-disciplinary institute, LSSI works closely with other University Themes and Platforms in fulfilling the University's Research & Innovation Delivery Plan. It enables and promotes curiosity-driven research excellence that cuts across disciplinary boundaries and is outward-looking in its engagement with external partners. It seeks to position the social sciences at the heart of problem-oriented interdisciplinary research working in collaboration with scholars across life sciences, technology, engineering, medicine, and arts & humanities.

ADDRESSING PROMINENT SOCIAL ISSUES THROUGH PUBLIC DEBATE

Aligned with its objectives to support and showcase interdisciplinary research, engender informed debate and foster external relations, LSSI organises and facilitates major events that address topical issues of the day, encouraging collaboration, knowledge exchange and public engagement.

'Reimagining the future of urban space' was a cross-disciplinary event hosted by LSSI in June 2017. Attended by over 110 delegates, the event sought to identify the current challenges facing urban public space and explore ways of reinvigorating it. It brought together academics, practitioners and members of the public to explore a number of contemporary

themes in relation to different types of urban public space, including parks, marketplaces, commercial and retail districts, transport hubs, University campuses and regeneration sites. Themes of regulation, sustainability, co-production, multifunctionality and liveability were explored across the day. The event included keynote presentations from Professor Sophie Watson from the Open University and Allison Dutoit of Gehl Architects, as well as a roundtable discussion with contributions from Anna Minton (Journalist/Author), Matthew Bradbury (Parks Alliance), Irena Bauman (Architect), Angela Barnicle (Leeds South Bank Development), and Paul Chatterton (University of Leeds). The event's public exhibition and networking reception brought together researchers from across the Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities at Leeds to explore future research collaborations and possibly to propose new experiments in the form and uses of public space across the city of Leeds.



▲ Keynote speaker, Allison Dutoit of Gehl Architects

Social Sciences and the Industrial Strategy



WHAT IS THE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY?

The Industrial Strategy white paper, launched by the government in November 2017, aims to boost productivity and earning power in key industrial sectors in the UK. To achieve this, £4.7 billion in research and development funding will be mobilised over four years to address **four grand challenge missions**:

- **Artificial Intelligence and data:** Putting the UK at the forefront of the AI and data revolution.

- **Ageing society:** Harnessing the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society.
- **Clean growth:** Maximising the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth.
- **Future of mobility:** Becoming a world leader in the way people, goods and services move.

Opportunities will be channelled through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) and will be delivered by UK Research and Innovation, launched through regular waves of calls for applications. Central to these funding opportunities will be collaborative working between researchers and business.

WHY SOCIAL SCIENCES ARE KEY IN DELIVERING THE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

At the core of the industrial strategy are five foundations of productivity: *ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places*. It is only through the engagement with the social sciences that the relationship between these foundations and the grand challenges can be fully understood. The social sciences have a key role to play in both demonstrating impact at individual, sectoral and societal levels, and ensuring engagement from those expected to use new technologies or services.

Successfully responding to the grand challenge missions requires more than the sciences and technology disciplines alone. For example, in developing AI technologies, garnering user experiences and expectations, as well as anticipating the effects on workforces will be important in delivering the desired improvements to productivity.

Business engagement will be a crucial component in securing funding linked to the ISCF. In 2015/16 only 16% of ESRC grants included industry partnerships, emphasising a potential gap in business engagement with social science research. Hence, partnership building efforts are needed to strengthen existing and develop new relationships with industrial collaborators.

WHAT IS THE LSSI DOING?

Through support from ESRC's 'Business Boost' fund, across 2018/19 the LSSI will lay the foundations for improved industrial engagement in social science research, particularly focused on regional partners. Enabling social scientists to better respond to collaborative funding opportunities such as the ISCF, will help to ensure that the social sciences are at the heart of industrial developments.

This work is being advanced by the appointment of an Industrial Strategy Partnerships Manager - Rebecca Johnson - and includes comprehensive mapping of current partnerships and future opportunities for industrial collaboration, the delivery of partner building workshops, business engagement training, a collaboration showcase event, and supporting impact activities through business focused IAA grants.

The work at Leeds will be complemented by similar activities at the Universities of Sheffield and York, encouraging cross-institutional, as well as interdisciplinary research across the whole of the White Rose Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership.



Find out more
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▲ Science Tower, Graz. The Science Tower incorporates many energy efficient and renewable generation technologies, hosts space to start-up businesses, and is home to the Green Tech Cluster Organisation which is one of the project's partners.

ESRC Business Boost Fund – Impact Acceleration Account Projects

CASE STUDY Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy Knowledge Exchange

Principal Investigators: Dr Jonathan Busch, School of Environment
External Partner: West Yorkshire Combined Authority / Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership & Green Tech Cluster Styria

Led by Jonathan Busch, Research Fellow in the University's Department of Environment, the University of Leeds will facilitate a Decision Theatre Workshop and Knowledge Exchange Missions to the city of Graz in Styria to support the development of the Leeds City Region LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnership) local inclusive Industrial Strategy.

Over the last 20 years, the state of Styria has become one of Europe's premier regions for energy and environmental innovation. The Styrian public sector has extensive experience in collaborating with local industry clusters and implementing public policy that supports the development of innovative industries, creating a high quality of life for the people of Styria.

The Leeds City Region and the City of Graz share important characteristics in their regional industrial expertise and in the environmental and social challenges they face in relation to industrial development. As a result, this collaboration brings together the Leeds City Region LEP, the Styrian regional Government, and City of Graz and Styrian Cluster Organisations for knowledge exchange.

In the short-term, the project will support the LEPs development of a Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy by learning from the Styrian experience. Looking ahead, the project will facilitate the fostering of relationships between the two regions to facilitate future knowledge exchange and as the basis for future joint projects.

CASE STUDY Key metrics for supporting national and local government waste policy improvements

Principal Investigators: Dr Eleni Lacovidou and Professor Andrew Brown, Leeds Business School
External Partner: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

The UK has aims of becoming a 'zero-avoidable waste' economy by 2050. However, currently many opportunities for sustainable management of wastes and increased recovery, reuse and recycling of valuable materials are missed. The knowledge that effective management of resources is essential for economic and social prosperity and an increased quality of life has sparked collaboration between the School of Civil Engineering, the Leeds Business School and DEFRA.

This project will apply Complex Value Optimisation for Resource Recovery (CVORR) research, using the plastic packaging system as a case study, in order to aid the selection of metrics to assess resource recovery systems.

The projects intentions are two-fold:

1. Apply the CVORR approach to assess the social, economic, environmental and technical drivers, as well as the role of key actors in the production, use, and end-of-life management of plastic packaging. This will also be used to identify metrics that can be used to support multi-dimensional valuation of the plastic packaging system.
2. Aid the selection of key metrics for the plastic packaging system evaluation by using the CVORR metrics selection framework, supporting waste policy changes that generate long-term impact in the UK.

The result of this project will be a report, co-produced with DEFRA, supporting public policy improvements at both local and national level with the aim of helping the UK become a 'zero-avoidable waste' economy by 2050.



MAXIMISING IMPACT

ESRC Top Up Awards – Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and International Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF)

LSSI were invited, as part of The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA), to apply to explore opportunities for data reuse within Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and implementation agencies that operate in an Official Development Assistance (ODA) context. This activity is related to the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

Potentially valuable data on developing countries are held by NGOs, though much of it is currently unavailable or unknown to researchers. Challenges around making use of this data include lack of awareness of its existence, lack of confidence in its quality and provenance, and lack of understanding around its appropriateness for use in different contexts.

This IAA additional funding stream enables existing partnerships or the development of new partnerships with NGOs/agencies operating in an ODA context. It provides the opportunity to discover the extent and quality of the data being held, explore potential for further research projects, and realise impacts from the data that could benefit low and middle income countries.

CASE STUDY Collaborative Innovation for Community-based Rehabilitation in India

Principal Investigators: Dr Lena Jaspersen, Leeds Business School, and Dr Samit Chakrabarty, School of Biomedical Sciences. Project supported by Q-Steps student, Zainab Khan.

External Partners: Mobility India, the Association of People with Disability (APD), and Birla Institute of Technology and Science

Approximately one billion people around the world live with disabilities, with 80% of these living in low and lower-middle income countries. In India, two thirds of those with a disability reside in rural areas where access to healthcare and assistive devices is limited. Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programmes can enhance social inclusion and quality of life. However, there is a lack of data available on persons with disabilities living in rural India, on the challenges they face, and on the relative impact of different CBR initiatives.

This project creates dialogue between Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) delivering CBR, clinicians and academics in an effort to build a shared data repository and to develop a strategy for collaborative innovation in CBR.

The project aims to strengthen emerging partnerships between an inter-disciplinary team of academics from the University of Leeds and partner organisations in India working in CBR in low-resource areas.

Collaborative innovation ensures those in the community are provided with the right tools to enable viable and long-lasting innovative change. In short, changing the way people work together to address a problem can have a positive impact on people with disabilities and the communities in which they live around the world.

In September 2018, a 'Design Thinking' workshop in Goa, led by Dr Lena Jaspersen and supported by Tony Morgan (IBM Innovation Leader & RAEng Visiting Professor) introduced methods and techniques for a more inclusive, evidence-based innovation process. Workshop attendees included NGOs, clinicians and academics. The workshop further explored opportunities for the sharing of data on unmet rehabilitation needs (led by Dr Samit Chakrabarty), and related ethical and data management challenges (led by Zainab Khan). Outputs include a code of conduct for ethical research in CBR, a strategy for collaborative innovation involving multiple stakeholders benefitting Indian communities, and future innovation projects in CBR. The workshop further facilitated the creation of design briefings for the development of low-cost assistive technologies and corresponding interventions and rehabilitation therapies.

The design briefings will inform a 'Design Thinking Hackathon' to be held in February 2019 and designed to stimulate creative problem solving. The hackathon will provide an opportunity for inter-disciplinary groups of students from both India and the UK to develop social and technological innovations for addressing unmet rehabilitation needs in rural India.

▼ Group photo after the 'Design Thinking' workshop in Goa, September 2018.



CASE STUDY Building Collaborations to support sustainable day-care for under 5 year olds in disadvantaged communities in Jharkhand, India

Principal Investigator: Dr Mahua Das and Dr Helen Elsey, Leeds Institute of Health Sciences.

Urban populations are expected to rise rapidly in Africa (62%) and Asia (65%) by 2050. This project is underpinned by ongoing research in urban health and the development of initiatives in health/ community services improving Early Childhood Development (ECD) in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

Despite an ongoing "crèche" intervention in Jharkhand, India, NGOs have made numerous recommendations to the government but have failed to achieve any positive outcomes. This project is to build collaborations with local NGOs implementing the "crèche" intervention in four states. By analysing data in close collaboration with NGOs, this project aims to present its findings to policy makers to advocate for improved opportunities for ECD. This builds on existing work funded by the Medical Research Council to develop day-care intervention in slum neighbourhoods in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The project's planned activities include:

- A five-day workshop in India with NGOs such as policy makers and ECD and Nutrition experts working on day care. This workshop will provide opportunity to explore the NGO's secondary data and agree the way forward for future research and advocacy work. It will also be used to bring together policy makers and other stakeholders facilitating evidence informed policy making.
- Data analysis that feeds into research proposals as well as academic papers, policy briefs and conference presentations.
- A workshop with International NGOs working in the UK on child health and development as well as ECD experts. This workshop will be used as an opportunity to raise awareness of childcare needs in LMICs, build networks and collaborations with international organisations and learn from their experiences. Expected participants include ActionAid and World Vision.

MAXIMISING IMPACT Impact Acceleration Account

LSSI's Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) was established in October 2015 to support social scientists at the University of Leeds to engage with external partners and maximise the influence of their research on society and the economy. The IAA is funded by the University and managed by LSSI in association with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), as part of their wider IAA network.

The research funding provided by the IAA is defined within three categories:

- 1 Responsive Mode impact fund – stimulating new interdisciplinary activities that include strong user engagement to explore some of the most pressing research challenges facing society.
- 2 Knowledge Exchange Fellowships – facilitating the movement of people between external organisations and the University to strengthen relationships and build new collaborations.
- 3 Postgraduate Placements – funding PhD students to work on short-term research projects with external organisations, enabling the students to gain additional employability and bringing innovative ideas into the host organisation.

IAA OBJECTIVES

A key objective of the scheme is to provide match funding to support short-term projects with external, non-academic partners in order to demonstrate applicability of research and develop new relationships. All projects must have at least one external, non-academic partner that is making a contribution to the project (either cash or in-kind). External partners could include national and international businesses, public and third sector organisations, or community bodies.

We are looking to seed new relationships and partnerships with external organisations, although a new partnership is not a requirement for accessing funding. This support is particularly aimed at getting new/early relationships started where:

- The academic PI is new to working with non-academic partners,
- The external partner has not worked with the University of Leeds before, or
- The project will create a step-change in the relationship with an existing partner.



Find out more
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CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

SO FAR, THE IAA HAS SEEN:



13

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS



106

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



53

AWARDED PROJECTS

CULTIVATING COLLABORATION:

- THE IAA HAS ENABLED ACADEMICS TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERS. **29**
- SECURED WORKING RELATIONS WITH NON-ACADEMIC PARTNERS – 11 WITHIN THE LEEDS CITY COUNCIL REGION, 8 WITH NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, AND 6 WITH GCRF-FACING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS. **68**
- TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-ACADEMIC PARTNERS: **146**

MATCH FUNDING:



The IAA has leveraged significant external funding from partners, with a total contribution of **£420k**, including:

- £150k as cash contributions
- £251k of in-kind support

Schools within the University have match-funded IAA awards to a total of **£323k**:

- £170k as cash contributions
- £153k as in-kind support

FIGURES TO DATE SHOW THAT:

56%

Of IAA awards have been made to projects with female Primary Investigators

21%

Of IAA awards have been made to Early Career Researchers (of which 50% are female).

CASE STUDY
Responsive Mode Impact Fund

How do Taylors' brand values contribute to extraordinary flavour?

Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Aaron Meskin, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures
External Partners: Bettys and Taylors Group

Does ethical information about a product influence how you expect it to taste or how you perceive it? How does a company's branding contribute to your experience of its product?

An interdisciplinary team, from Psychology, Philosophy and Marketing, are collaborating with Taylors, to explore the relationship between the ethics and aesthetics of food, and what this means in the eyes – and on the tongues – of consumers. How might the 'extraordinary flavour' of Taylors' coffee be affected by knowledge of the company's sustainable and environmentally responsible values? Does Taylors' work with Rainforest Foundation UK mean its coffee tastes richer? Does its responsible sourcing lend a more distinctive flavour?

This partnership builds on existing research which has demonstrated that ethical information can influence consumer expectations and experience of a product (Meskin, Birtill & Armstrong, In Preparation).

The interdisciplinary team will transport this novel approach to the relationship between food and values from the laboratory into a celebrated regional business. We will demonstrate how ethical information can be included in marketing communications to improve the consumer experience of Taylors products. Understanding the interplay of flavour and values could further catalyse sustainable practices across the food and drink industry.



CASE STUDY
Responsive Mode Impact Fund

Sharing insights on hate crime: new methods and forms of data

Principal Investigator: Dr Carly Lightowlers, Law, & Dr Nick Mallerson, Geography. Project team – Fiona Blair & Natacha Chenevoy.
External Partners: Lancashire Constabulary

Since the EU referendum in June 2016, there has been renewed emphasis on the importance of preventing hate crime and providing support for victims. With this in mind, a partnership through which to drive improvements in policing and service provision for victims of religiously and racially motivated hate crime was set up between academics at the Universities of Leeds and Liverpool, and Lancashire Constabulary, with the support of the N8 Policing Research Partnership.

In order to develop a richer and more nuanced understanding of the dynamic risks to communities, the project exchanged learning between academic and policing partners in methods for finding novel ways to overlay demographic, voting and twitter data with routinely captured police data.

The findings from this research project have been used to re-focus a multi-agency response to tackling hate crime in Lancashire. The project has also assisted crime prevention and community safety partners in developing strategies for preventing hate crime and providing suitable services for victims.

The project included the development of an algorithm to identify incidents of hate crime in social media data (Twitter). The research also examined key characteristics in police recorded hate crime and incident data.

Key findings from the analysis of both the Twitter and routinely captured police data for hate crimes in Lancashire revealed:

- It is possible to create an English language classifier to identify online hate speech on Twitter using machine learning techniques.
- most victims and perpetrators of hate crime in the study were teenagers;
- hate crime offenders and victims tend to live in separate neighbourhoods, with most of the hate incidents occurring in the town centre where the two populations meet;
- Hate crime incidents frequently occur in the workplace.

Work from this project was used to support a conference and workshop in early 2018. This aimed to galvanise partnership activity in tackling hate crime. In addition, the innovative research undertaken by Natacha Chenevoy, a Data Science Intern with the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA), was recognised by an award from the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA). Natacha won the award for her 'outstanding contribution as an intelligence analyst to the achievement of law enforcement objectives' which she received at the IALEIA Annual Conference in Los Angeles.

▼ Scott Keay and Andrew Wright of the Lancashire Constabulary with Natacha Chenevoy at the IALEIA awards presentation in Los Angeles.



CASE STUDY
Postgraduate Research Placement

Towards leaving none behind: internationalising the impact of People's Action for Learning Network data

Principal Investigator: Prof Caroline Dyer, Politics and International Studies
External Partners: The People's Action for Learning Network (PAL Network)

The 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB) agenda recognises that the dignity of the individual is fundamental to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and targets should be met for all nations, people, and segments of society. Integrating the LNOB agenda into education policy and its practices is critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the last decade, the People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network's citizen-led assessments, which have been grounded in the realities of low and middle income countries, have made robust contributions to increasing understanding of the 'learning crisis', and significantly improved knowledge of persisting inequalities in education access and acquisition of foundational skills. However, data from across the 14-country PAL network (where 40% of the world's 61 million out of school primary-aged children are found) contains evidence of intersecting inequalities that are highly relevant to the SDG commitment to leaving none behind, but have not yet been fully exploited. This project mines existing PAL network data to explore its evidence about the reality for such children and to enable a new cross-country perspective on emerging trends. It aims to increase the impact of citizen-generated data at two levels: (i) at a country level, via evidence to inform practice and LNOB-focused national education policy strategies, and (ii), internationally, via cross-country analysis that speaks to global advocacy platforms.

CASE STUDY
Postgraduate Research Placement

Principal Investigator: Nicole Nisbett, Politics and International Studies
External Partners: House of Commons, Westminster

Public engagement is a core area of research and one that has seen increased attention and investment by Parliament in recent years. This project aims to observe several departments within the House of Commons to understand how they work both collaboratively as departments and with members to achieve their strategic targets for public engagement. As a large and complex organisation, Parliament must remain impartial whilst also representing the views of many, making public engagement a challenging element to navigate. Understanding how different teams tackle these challenges, both together and independently, is key to this project.

▼ Houses of Parliament





TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS & THE WHITE ROSE SOCIAL SCIENCES DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

As part of its commitment to capacity building, LSSI supports Early Career Researchers in Social Sciences across the University by providing training, support and career development opportunities.

METHODS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

LSSI facilitates methods training and development workshops targeted across different stages of researchers' careers. Designed to create opportunity for engagement with interdisciplinary networks as well as increased collaboration across the social sciences, the events provide various development opportunities to researchers at Leeds.

For example, in 2018, methods training opportunities around the broad theme of inequalities include sessions on: *Methodological Innovations and Challenges in Researching Inequalities*; *Generating 'impact' through Inequalities Research: Success, Failures and Lessons*; and *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Researching Inequality: Barriers and Opportunities*.

STUDENT-LED SEMINAR SERIES

LSSI supports an interdisciplinary seminary series, specifically for postgraduates, providing a space to present and discuss aspects of their work with other postgraduate students in an informal environment. The series includes contributions from students across the social sciences and supports the research and career development of PhD research students.

LSSI PLACEMENT SCHEMES

As part of its Impact Acceleration Account, the Institute offers all full-time PhD students the opportunity to experience a placement during their period of study. This initiative funds students to work in a research capacity on a short-term project with an external organisation. Projects might involve:

- Gathering evidence, writing reports and responding to government consultation exercises or informing policy making
- Surveying or interviewing users or providers of relevant services to identify ways in which they could be improved
- Evaluating a project or scoping out the potential for a new project which aims to bring social or economic benefits to a particular community.

Our students have benefitted from working with organisations such as: Leeds City Council; Business in the Community; West Yorkshire Probation Trust; House of Commons, Westminster; and Chapelton Citizens Advice Bureau. The scheme aims to improve students' employability whilst also injecting innovative ideas into the host organisation.

Training the next generation of researchers

The White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership (formally centre) in Social Sciences was established in January 2011 with an investment from the Economic and Social Research Council. Providing a national training centre for postgraduate researchers, the White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) is a collaboration across the social sciences at the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield, York, Bradford, Sheffield Hallam, Hull and Manchester Metropolitan.

At the University of Leeds, all Postgraduate Researchers within the Social Sciences, regardless of their source of funding, are considered part of the DTP and are invited to take advantage of available training opportunities and events. Opportunities include entire cohort events, such as the annual summer conference, as well as research methods and skills training workshops designed to introduce specific research methodologies and equip Postgraduate Researchers to advance in their field. Pathway specific training sessions focus on advancements in the 7 White Rose thematic pathways and support vital research skills.

65

STUDENTSHIPS AWARDED EVERY YEAR (ON AVERAGE) ACROSS THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

7

DISTINCT THEMATIC PATHWAYS FOR WHITE ROSE DTP RESEARCHERS

14

SCHOOLS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, HAVE SUPPORTED WHITE ROSE DTP RESEARCHERS

30+

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AVAILABLE TO WHITE ROSE DTP RESEARCHERS IN 2018/19 ACROSS THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



Find out more

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INTERNATIONALISATION: FORGING STRATEGIC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS AROUND THE GLOBE

A key objective of LSSI is to foster international research links and build collaborative partnerships with a view to enhancing research impact. As a dynamic, outward-facing Institute, LSSI has been developing an internationalisation agenda to support social science research at Leeds by forging strategic relations with partners around the globe.

High-profile events – such as the International Development Conference hosted by LSSI in collaboration with the Centre for Global Development – help to solidify and showcase global partnerships. Aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the two-day conference explored the theme of ‘vulnerabilities’ with particular regard to health, urban security, migration and gender inequalities. With input from key civil society organisations working in the field of international development across the globe, the conference offered a holistic look at development challenges, ranging from structural obstacles to a reduction in vulnerability and political and social problems, to more technical aspects, such as reducing particular vulnerabilities such as food scarcity, energy shortages or technological gaps. The conference benefited from insights from key international NGOs, such as the UN Habitat Safer Cities Programme, Save the Children, VSO International, as well as in-country research partners, including the African Centre for Migration & Society, African Population and Health Research Centre and Kenya’s National Council for Population & Development. The conference also saw prominent Leeds-based academics exploring the role of interdisciplinary research in advancing sustainable development goals.

Funded by the ESRC Global Challenges Research Fund grant through LSSI’s Impact Acceleration Account, the conference sought to raise awareness and build capacity by engaging social scientists who had not yet worked in the international development field. The conference also allowed successful exploration of new connections and served to strengthen existing relationships with international partners, particularly those in low-middle income countries.



Speakers and Delegates at the International Development Conference

LEEDS SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE – INTERNATIONALISATION PLANS

To support the research intensity of the social sciences at Leeds, LSSI has been developing its internationalisation strategy, designed to raise the international profile of social science research and nurture strong international research collaborations.

From an initial survey of over 130 international peer institutions, some 85 institutions were reviewed in an extensive mapping exercise in 2016/17 with a view to identify innovative social science institutes with similar interdisciplinary aims and ambitions as LSSI where bilateral collaborations and exchanges might prove mutually valuable. We also sought to identify existing inter-institutional research relations that might be enhanced and deepened. This included Global Challenges Research Fund related partnerships in low and middle income countries and, in the light of Brexit, it also reflected a desire to strengthen our European networks. From this exercise, three initial partners have been identified for initial inter-institution collaboration. These include the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland, and the Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires.

FOSTERING COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

As part of its internationalisation strategy, LSSI has been developing a strategic research partnership with the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland.

To develop this partnership, LSSI Director, Professor Adam Crawford, made an initial visit to UQ in April 2018, visiting the impressive Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) building and meeting with the Institute's Research Director, Professor Mark Western, and his colleagues. Following the meeting Professor Crawford commented:

“I was warmly received and suitably impressed with the ways in which ISSR has been pursuing a similar ambition to LSSI, albeit through a different model of working from which we might learn. The appetite to collaborate, share experiences and forge new opportunities between Leeds and Brisbane was evident from the outset. This is an exciting opportunity and I am delighted that Professor Western has agreed to join the LSSI International Advisory Board.”



Delegation visit to the University of Queensland, May 2018

This was followed by a larger delegation visit, led by Professor Lisa Roberts (Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation) in May 2018. Other members of this delegation included: Jeremy Higham (Dean of Education, Social Sciences and Law), Angharad Beckett (School of Sociology and Social Policy), Lena Jaspersen (Leeds University Business School), Dani Barrington (Faculty of Engineering), and Helen Pickard (Research and Innovation Service). The recent visits to UQ not only provided an opportunity to learn and collaborate with an institution with a similar focus on supporting interdisciplinary research, but also a chance to start building links in areas of research where the Universities of Leeds and Queensland have complementary strengths.

Identifying common areas of research interest can spark useful collaborations. Considering the geographic, social, political, economic and cultural context in which research is carried out and using this for comparison on an international scale can serve to amplify its impact. Helen Pickard explains, “Working internationally tends to bring the added benefit of being able to bring together researchers who don't just have different methodological or disciplinary knowledge but are also familiar with different political and social contexts. So many of the grand challenges social scientists want to look at are global in scope but need to be understood in local contexts so building these partnerships expands our options for conducting excellent research.”

The visit also helped to highlight areas with the potential for ideas-exchange, particularly in regard to strategic initiatives to support social science research impact. Angharad Beckett comments that she was captivated by Queensland's ‘UniQuest’ initiative which facilitates commercialisation

of the University's intellectual property rights to achieve profound commercial, environmental and social benefits – “It was fascinating to learn about how this strategy had been employed with regard to social science research. The University of Queensland has invested in working with its social scientists in this way, recognising that it is not only the STEM disciplines that produce commercializable knowledge and innovations. This was very inspiring!”

“It seems to me that a relationship with the University of Queensland would be mutually beneficial; for example, as we learned from their experiences of running their Institute for Social Science Research, they were fascinated to hear more about the University of Leeds' thematic approach to interdisciplinary research.”

Dani Barrington

We intend to continue to strengthen ties with our international partners. We look forward to welcoming key members of the University of Queensland's Academic staff to Leeds in 2018 and 2019, including a visit from Greg Marsten, Head of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Queensland. In addition, a delegation of researchers from Leeds intend to make a visit to Buenos Aires in early 2019.

WHAT'S NEXT?

ENGAGING WITH PUBLIC POLICY

To advance its objective to emphasise the societal impact of research, LSSI engages with a multitude of different external partners, organisations and policy-makers. Our aim is to connect high-quality social sciences research taking place inside the University, with the individuals and groups who can utilise the research to create real-world outcomes and benefits.

One dominant form of societal impact in the social sciences occurs through influence to and changes in public policies of governmental institutions at international, national and sub-national levels. In recent years, close relations have been forged with Leeds City Council and regional Police and Crime Commissioners. In a similar vein, LSSI has been establishing new collaborations with national UK government departments, including a new research-policy seminar series with the Department for Work and Pensions together with Leeds University Business School.

LINKING LEEDS – SEMINAR SERIES

Engaging with and influencing policy-makers is an important means through which academics can demonstrate and enhance the impact of their research. At the same time, the need for robust evidence with which to inform the policy-making process is more critical than ever.

To help build a richer connection between the worlds of academic research and policy-making, LSSI and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have developed a monthly seminar series – Linking Leeds. The seminars will be presented by social science researchers from the University of Leeds whose research is relevant to the DWP's Areas of Research Interest (ARI). By bringing together social science researchers and policy-makers, we hope that the seminar series will provide space for new collaborations, discovery of areas of common ground, and pave the way for strong working partnerships going forward.



Department
for Work &
Pensions



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