ESRC IMPACT ACCELERATION ACCOUNT

Maximising Impact, Knowledge Exchange and External Engagement

Impact Report — 2019/2020

LEEDS SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE
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I am delighted to introduce this report which showcases some of the range of activities and outcomes from the Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) run by the Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI). It represents the first year of the new phase of funding from the ESRC. Building upon our established track record, commitment and vision. Our exciting four year plans for social science impact and engagement ensured that we were able to secure the largest ESRC IAA grant in the UK (£1.3 million from April 2019-23). With this new funding, we have expanded both the scope and scale of the interdisciplinary research activities, dissemination plans and application strategies that we are able to support and advance.

Novel elements of this new strategy, reported here, include: our rapid action fund, public engagement activities, data science internships, policy engagement initiatives, international strategic partnerships and our expanded contribution to the Festival of Social Sciences. Other new dimensions of our work that will be developed further over the forthcoming years include innovation forums and our ‘interdisciplinary basecamps’ that aim to foster novel research networks and partnerships, as well as the business engagement activities cultivated by additional resources secured from the ESRC/National Productivity Investment Fund.

Under our policy engagement portfolio we have been strengthening and deepening our relations with national government bodies and policy communities, using the Areas of Research Interest (ARI) documents – that government departments have been producing – as valuable meeting points for collaborative conversations and networking. We have also been using IAA funds to review and strengthen our established research-policy relations with Leeds City Council. We plan to enhance our joint research relations and deepen our strategic partnership over the forthcoming years.

While much of the work reported here was conducted across the year 2019, inevitably our more recent focus has been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of thinking through: first, how the IAA continues to operate effectively and deliver valuable impacts under government restrictions and remote working conditions; and secondly, how social scientists can be supported to contribute to understanding the pandemic and informing unfolding policies and professional practices. It has been gratifying that we have been able to deploy in agile and flexible ways our rapid action fund to support COVID-19 related projects.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has raised fundamental questions and presented deep challenges for social scientists as to how best to engage with external partners and how best to foster research informed policies and practices. These are challenges that we are embracing and we will continue to develop and adapt our responses and practices.

Nonetheless, what is abundantly clear is that the role of the social sciences in understanding the implications of, and social responses to, the pandemic and in fostering societal change are as vital and pressing as ever.

Fundamental to our work through the IAA is a philosophy of co-production that embeds early stage engagement with external stakeholders in the knowledge production process from inception to implementation. At its heart is the belief that co-designed projects and solutions are more likely to be adopted if those who are going to use the knowledge are engaged in the processes of its production. Hopefully, the work outlined in this report provides a flavour of the important contributions that social scientists at Leeds are making to delivering societal benefits from research.

Inevitably, we are most grateful to our sponsors, notably the ESRC, as well as members of our IAA Award Panel – both from within and outside the university - that assist us so ably in assessing, targeting and allocating our funding resources. Finally, I am also tremendously grateful to Hannah Crow who manages the IAA funds diligently, effectively and thoughtfully.

Professor Adam Crawford
Director of the Leeds Social Sciences Institute
The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) awarded the Leeds Social Sciences Institute £1.3m of funding through an Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) in April 2019 – April 2023.

IAAs are institutional awards provided by the ESRC to deliver funding mechanisms for Universities to deliver funding mechanisms for social science knowledge exchange and impact activities at a regional, national and international level.

The IAA is a unique funding model that allows us to support Leeds researchers across multiple schools and faculties in the social sciences to maximise the impact and influence of their research.

The IAA has four key aims, for each of these aims we have delivered different mechanisms and funding models to support their delivery.

1. Build relationships and networks with potential users of research to facilitate co-production of research and maximise impact.

2. Support researchers to build networks with potential users of the products of their research, and further work to establish proof of concept for their innovations.

3. Improve engagement with the public sector, policy sector, civil society, industry (including SMEs and local business) and the public.

4. To embed the social science IAA within wider interdisciplinary institutional impact activities and programmes, including those aligned to EPSRC/NERC, the University Themes/Platforms and NEXUS Building.

Through the course of this brochure we will be demonstrating:

• What funding mechanisms and activities we have put in place to achieve the goals above and how you can get involved,

• Showcase examples of the breadth and depth of the impact and engagement that has been achieved through the IAA throughout 2019 – 2020,

• Details of what is to come for the next couple of years with the IAA and the unique activities and future opportunities that will be available.
# THE IMPACT ACCELERATION ACCOUNT

**YEAR 1 2019 – 2020**

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<th><strong>£360K</strong></th>
<th><strong>£440K</strong></th>
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<td>funding awarded</td>
<td>external funding leveraged</td>
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| **5** | **51** | **32** | **59%** |
| calls for applications | applications | applications awarded | success rate |

| **23** | **3** | **1** |
| Responsive Mode Projects | Knowledge Exchange Fellowships | Public Engagement award |

| **3** | **2** | **7** |
| Rapid Action Funds | Leeds Institute of Data Analytics Data Science Internships | Festival of Social Science events |

| **40** |
| external partners involved in projects, secondments and events |

## IMPACT BREAKDOWN

- 53% National
- 10% Regional
- 37% International
ESRC IAA
FUNDING AND AWARD PROCESS

There will be up to four open Calls for Proposals per academic year for the ESRC IAA.

Applications will be reviewed by representatives from the five social science faculties at the University and the Research Innovation Service as well as representatives from the private, public and third sector partners.

The funding types that are available via these calls are show on the adjacent page.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

For full details of all these funding opportunities and to access the guidance and application forms please visit https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/esrc-iaa/

If you have any questions please contact IAA Manager Hannah Crow
H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk
The aim of the Knowledge Exchange Fellowship scheme is to facilitate interactions between external organisations and the University which build and strengthen relationships and facilitate knowledge exchange.

The scheme will provide academic staff with an opportunity to work with a non-academic partner at their site, or for a non-academic partner to work on a project at the University for up to 12 months on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Knowledge Exchange Fellowships

Providing flexible funding of up to: £10,000

The purpose of the fund is to provide flexible funding for cross disciplinary projects that demonstrate strong user engagement with potential to impact on policy and/or practice in the private, public and third sectors.

The fund will support activities such as building relationships and networks with non-academic partners; the development of activities designed to apply previously completed research to policy and practice issues; the co-production of knowledge; or, policy or evidence seminars/workshops.

Responsive Mode Impact Fund

Providing flexible funding of up to: £15,000*

* (In exceptional circumstances, where a strong rationale is given, grants of over £15k may be awarded)

Rapid Action Fund

Providing flexible funding of up to: £2,000

The Rapid Action Fund will allow social scientists to react quickly to influence governmental, national and international debate, or respond to tactical, urgent and pressing opportunities in short timescales.

This funding could be used for but not limited to:

- The creation of short term impact projects,
- Workshops, events, conferences or meetings that may inform impact,
- Travel to meet with national policy departments (this does not include travel to attend conferences),
- Developing and pitching ideas for broadcast media.

Public Engagement Fund

Providing flexible funding of up to: £5,000

To stimulate a broad range of suitable approaches to impact, the Public Engagement Fund will seek to support public engagement within the social sciences and promote the public understanding of social science and the impacts of research on cultural life.

This fund will aim to promote accessible forms of dissemination and knowledge exchange both face-to-face and through social media.
Community participation in the governance of protected areas: Sharing lessons across Africa to inform establishment of a transboundary biosphere reserve

Protected areas are an important tool to conserve biodiversity globally. However, they change the way people use the environment, and can cause negative impacts on local communities whose resource use activities are curtailed.

Research by Leeds PhD students in Zimbabwe and Madagascar characterised the sorts of local stakeholder participation that is needed from the start of protected area creation, therefore reducing potential negative impacts and creating positive effects.

This project works with The Platform of Civil Society Organisations for the Safeguard of Mountains (PSM) which is an initiative of Civil Society Organisations, committed to protecting nature and the environment in Togo, Ghana and Benin.

Their work not only considers biodiversity conservation, but also local governance and sustainable land management, with a view to harnessing social and economic benefits from conservation.

Through this partnership that shares and uses these research findings to try and establish a new transboundary biosphere reserve across Ghana and Togo.

This project allowed local communities to gain meaningful participation in the establishment, management and governance of this new protected area.

Meetings and workshops were organised to share the research findings on how local communities can participate, and why this is important. Working with PSM a programme of research on the protected area was developed which combines social science research with ecological research to ensure the long-term sustainability of the protected area whilst empowering local communities, creating benefits and opportunities for them.
RESPONSIVE MODE IMPACT FUND

CASE STUDY
Developing employees’ verbal conflict de-escalation skills to prevent bullying and harassment

The UK government has made ‘Good Work’ a priority in its Industrial Strategy. Good work involves creating healthy workplaces by ensuring that early conflict resolution occurs when things go wrong (Taylor Review). This in turn reduces the likelihood of conflict escalating into bullying and harassment.

The aim of this project was to develop a verbal conflict de-escalation process working with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS). ACAS are widely recognised as Britain’s leading authority on workplace relationships and specialise in conflict resolution at all organisational levels.

A workshop was organised to improve employees’ abilities to initiate conversations that resolve conflict situations. It was developed using conflict management theory, but rather than being an ‘off the shelf’ solution, the workshop was designed so that procedures for having difficult conversations are co-produced with participating organisations.

Employees, organisations and society benefit when conflict is addressed early. When conflict becomes bullying, it impairs employee well-being, organisational productivity and damages society through its impact on medical costs, premature retirement and unemployment. By working with ACAS and its clients, this project aimed to shape the way that employees approach conflict in their human resource strategies going forward.
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIPS

CASE STUDY
BITC: Redesigning ‘The Times Top 50 Employers for Women List’ assessment process

The Knowledge Exchange Fellowship focused on the translation and application of previous research to the Business in the Community (BITC)’s highly profiled annual listing of employers championing gender equality in the workplace (Times Top 50); this involves a comprehensive submission and assessment process and attracts a range of employers with over 3.9m people.

This partnership worked to provide evidence-based tools that better assess organisational practice around equality and inclusion. To do this the creative and innovative methodology is designed to assess policy performance and change, using benchmarking techniques with graphical analysis to assess the policy against an optimal model, using theoretically-informed scoring and benchmark algorithms.

The secondary focus was to develop a strategy for aligning this with other reporting mechanisms and processes. It is anticipated that the design for the Times Top 50 Employers for Women application and assessment process will be improved following this work. A training programme was also developed with specifications and assessment skills for diversity advisers and assessors of a new service.

This fellowship enabled a strong basis for a long-term partnership between the Leeds University Business School and BITC, with significant research impact on public policy and business’ organisational practices.
As cities around the world declare climate emergencies and produce zero-carbon roadmaps, it is essential that citizens have resources so they can understand and co-produce solutions.

The ‘Climate Emergency and Civic Coproduction’ project emerged to respond to this context. It is a joint partnership between Makertopia CIC and Paul Chatterton (Professor of Urban Futures and author of unlockingsustainablecities.org). It used interactive models of urban streets and neighbourhoods to explore positive and practical actions that can be taken to create liveable and sustainable communities by 2030.

Drawing directly on Unlocking Sustainable Cities, the models will foreground social and economic justice, allowing participants to co-create a vision of inclusive climate action. Each model ‘block’ will be assigned scores for how well it performs across a range of environmental, economic and social categories. Participants will also be able to make their own models and assign scores and evidence.

Through engagements with researchers at the University of Leeds and workshops with public audiences, the project team refined the model and created supporting resources that launched during the Leeds 2020 International Festival. The aim was to inform, create and motivate citizenry support in a rapid and inclusive way around climate action.

The project was both an educational tool and campaigning resource, enabling diverse participants to have direct societal impact by coproducing ways to rapidly reduce emissions.
Following the Grenfell Tower disaster, the UK government put out for consultation proposals for far-reaching reforms to the regulation of high-rise residential building safety in England, and at the same time issued a call for evidence about how well fire safety legislation was working with respect to multi-occupied buildings with a deadline of 31 July 2019 for responses.

Proposed reforms included mechanisms to put residents at the heart of the new system such as access to building and fire safety information they need or request, and a fast-track route to a new Building Safety Regulator if their safety concerns are not dealt with effectively by building owners or landlords. The aim of this project was to enable high-rise resident groups to properly scrutinise and inform the government’s proposals based on their vital lived experience.

Partnering with key stakeholders - Tower Blocks UK, London Tenants Federation and Manchester Sustainable Communities – the project brought together high-rise residents in a series of consultation events in London. A resident-focused briefing paper was produced on the proposals with guidance on how to respond to the consultation before the deadline, and the views of residents were incorporated into a formal response.

There is no doubt that this proposal has influenced emerging national and international debates on the management of high rise building safety in a post-Grenfell world, and ensured that major tenant organisations are supporting the call for the end of ‘stay put’ as the default evacuation strategy. Series of other proposals were also produced that would amend existing regulatory proposals to strengthen the role and voice of residents.

On the new Rapid Action Fund Dr Hodkinson stated ‘Rapid action responses to government consultations can be very fruitful. With just a modest expenditure, we probably managed to reach hundreds of people with a well-informed analysis and proposed responses so that the general public could engage and respond.’
The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in students being pulled from their classroom communities. Students, teachers and parents are grappling with new routines and technologies – creating uncertainty, anxiety, and fears.

These social and emotional shifts are likely to increase the mental ill health epidemic, exacerbate pre-existing mental problems and negatively impact on long term education. Moreover, the evidence suggests that these problems will disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged members of our community.

The COVID-19 crisis is a unique situation but there have been many previous disasters that have resulted in school closures and created emotional difficulties for children (particularly those with vulnerabilities). Science gives us the opportunity to learn from the past. This project will review the scientific literature on interventions that have followed previous disasters so that we can ensure local and central government follow the best possible evidence when attempting to mitigate the problems created by the COVID-19 crisis.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?
For the full details please visit lssi.leeds.ac.uk/esrc-iaa/activities/rapidaction/
The ESRC IAA has committed to supporting the well-established Leeds Institute of Data Analytics (LIDA) Internship Scheme.

This programme originated as a keystone of LIDA’s commitment to developing data science capability and driving multidisciplinary data analytics with the aim of tackling real-world challenges. Now in its fourth year, the Programme has supported a number of interns, drawn from a wide range of academic disciplines and backgrounds, who are passionate about finding data science solutions to complex, real-world challenges.

The Internship Programme provides the opportunity for interns to:

• Own delivery of a data science project and get hands-on experience using real data,
• Establish links with project partners and work to provide solutions to real world challenges,
• Build skills and knowledge in advanced analytics,
• Participate in on-site and external training opportunities in statistical analysis, visualisation, research methods and computer programming,
• Work alongside leading scholars as part of the LIDA team and gain valuable work experience.

In 2019 we supported two internships via this scheme:

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?
For the full details and application process please visit lida.leeds.ac.uk/study-training/data-science-internship-scheme/
Advancing Analytics for Police Resource Deployment

To date, predictive policing analytics have concentrated on identifying locations at an increased risk of future crime events.

The implicit assumption of these techniques is that all crimes are created equal in terms of prospective resource allocation. However, the practical allocation of crime reduction resources is a considerably more nuanced enterprise which requires practitioners to balance multiple constraints including crime risk, seriousness/harm, and resourcing impact of response.

Building on the ongoing N8 PRP Project - Analytics for Resource Deployment, this project aims to develop new predictive policing analytics capable of incorporating event-weighting schema into spatio-temporal forecasts of crime. These techniques will allow forecasted crime risks to be weighted based on a range of crime and harm reduction priorities. For example, serious offences against the person may be weighted more strongly than property crimes. This approach will also produce multiple forecasts; the second half of the internship will explore how forecasts might be combined using ensemble approaches to solve multiple constraints problems. These efforts will support the design and evaluation of new decision support systems that better reflect the diverse demands of police and their partners.

Data Science for Low-Carbon Cities

Building on the existing work of the ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy and the new ESRC Place Based Climate Action Network this work will leverage the new data sets that have been created by those projects.

It will identify, map, and visualise the opportunities for energy and carbon saving in different sectors across two cities: Leeds and Belfast.

The main aim for this project will be to analyse the data in order to identify which low-carbon measures will be the most beneficial and, importantly, create tools to allow others to re-produce the analysis. In effect Leeds will act as a pilot to develop a framework that can be applied in other cities.

The second project will leverage these findings, and the new software tools, to repeat the analysis in Belfast. The required data have not yet been analysed to the same extent in Belfast, so the initial data analysis will form a more challenging part of the work. As the tools will have already been developed, these can be applied to the new datasets once they have been cleaned and prepared.

The project will initially focus on housing, with a particular emphasis on the social housing stock. This work will thereby enable Leeds City Council to prioritise its significant investments in upgrading the social housing stock to reduce energy use, carbon emissions, and deprivation/poverty and to improve public health. By combining data on energy use, energy saving opportunities and socio-economic data the project will develop a new capability for targeting/prioritising investments and policy interventions.
At the Leeds Social Science Institute we facilitate a PGR Placement that we run alongside the Impact Acceleration Account.

The scheme enables our Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) to partner and collaborate with non-academic organisations. Through collaboration, both the PGR and the partner organisation can gain expertise, share knowledge, gain appreciation of different professional values and cultures, and explore the application of research in professional practice.

The scheme runs in two ways, either student led or external partner led.

**Aims of the scheme:**

- To provide PGRs with the opportunities to develop their professional skills and collaborative understanding of research users and their needs through research-based engagement with businesses/organisations.
- To provide organisations with access to innovative ideas, knowledge and research that could improve policy or practice and enhance organisational learning and performance.
- To foster the development of collaborative partnerships between businesses/organisations and researchers at the University of Leeds.
- To enhance the take-up and application of evidence-based knowledge and maximise the impact of social science research within the business community.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?**

For the full details please visit lssi.leeds.ac.uk/pgr-placements
Example of student led placement

Placement in the Centre for Ageing Better: scoping study for integrated door-to-door transport services for older people in Leeds

Older people face many barriers in their access to essential activities and opportunities, such as healthcare, shopping and connecting to their friends and family due to inadequate mobility options in car dependent environments.

This comes as a result of compounding health and mobility issues as people age, driving cessation and the lack of good quality walking environments and public transport alternatives.

The scope of this project within the Centre for Ageing Better was to understand unmet mobility needs to health, social care and other activity destinations, and use this to improve door-to-door transport services for older people to support these needs in a case study pilot area in Leeds. This includes scoping of the pilot area in terms of public transport coverage and a mapping analysis to evaluate the accessibility of older people in the area to public transport services (e.g. bus stops), the existence of healthcare and other social care centres where older people want to go.

The preliminary analysis was used to identify some essential destinations that the door-to-door transport services need to cover and offers a detailed analysis which will be useful both in the marketing of the service initially and also as evidence to develop a full business case.

Example of an external organisation led placement

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) is an independent social change organisation working to solve UK poverty.

Through research, policy, collaboration and practical solutions, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation aims to inspire action and change to create a prosperous UK without poverty.

This project placement involves working within the Policy and Partnerships (PP) team who are responsible for supporting the application of JRF’s evidence base to public policy. The PP team has three main areas of focus which underpins the entirety of their work in this endeavour: housing, social security and work. The placement will be based in the area of ‘Work’ and the work carried out is intended to support a larger-scale, extended project which aims to support policy positions around the labour market in post-industrial locations. Through this work and wider project, JRF hope to help government decide what real action can be taken to improve employment prospects of the communities there and solve in-work poverty.

The placement activity will include conducting a literature review project exploring and analysing where policy has supported opportunities within the UK labour market for communities in post-industrial locations. This project may also involve scoping out international examples of these efforts in order to learn from others’ best practice.
In November 2019, the ESRC IAA supported a series of events as part of the annual ‘ESRC Festival of Social Science’.

The events in Leeds contributed to the 475 events that took place across the UK. The festival events spanned a wide range of topics engaging diverse audiences and offers an insight into some of the country’s leading social science research and how it can influence our social, economic, and political lives – both now and in the future.

In 2019 the Leeds programme featured 7 events on a variety of themes including sustainable cities, net zero, people at work, automation, language and recreation. We had presentations, interactive workshops, debates, drop-ins, exhibitions, film screenings, participatory research and story-telling workshops.

**INTERESTED IN HOLDING YOUR OWN EVENT FOR THE FESTIVAL IN 2020?**

Please visit [https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/](https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/) or contact our Engagement Officer C.J.McCartney@leeds.ac.uk

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1. **Building our future Leeds. An interactive game**

This workshop was based around an interactive game-board in collaboration with Makertopia and Unlocking Sustainable Cities. Participants can use and modify game pieces at a street and city level to figure out how to respond to the Climate Emergency and make Leeds zero carbon by the 2030s. Participants could make your own more sustainable, fairer and liveable city.

2. **What if..?’ Create stories from your favourite texts**

This workshop was for young people who would like to make new stories for popular characters from favourite fictional worlds. Using digital media, photography, animation, craft and design attendees were able to create new events, adventures or characters for their favourite stories. The leaders of the workshop encouraged everybody ask ‘what if?’ to take their ideas in new and unexpected directions. Working either on their own, or in a group participants made and shared their creations.

3. **Harnessing the Vital Role of Social Sciences in Addressing Contemporary Challenges**

This event brought together those who research and teach social sciences with those who benefit from social science knowledge and understanding, as research ‘users’, professionals and (ex-
students. It will addressed a number of questions: What are the challenges that the social sciences now face and need to confront? What do the social sciences have to offer? What are the opportunities for the social sciences to contribute more centrally to addressing today's grand challenges? How can we champion the social sciences was the central theme of the afternoon and was celebrated via a number of sessions from teacher, alumni and professionals.

4  How ready are Cities for Net Zero?

The UK is the first major economy in the world to pass laws to end its contribution to global warming by 2050 – but how ready are our cities and local authorities to actually achieve this? Researchers at the University of Leeds developed a Climate Readiness Index to assess the level of preparedness of places and road-tested this with the audience at this interactive public lecture, which had a special focus on the housing sector.

5  Talking together through tales, toys, and tunes

Caregivers and their 3- to 4-year old children were invited to The Rainbow Factory to participate in a unique storytelling performance where stories are brought to life. Our academic team of language researchers briefly explained to families and nursery staff how activities such as reading, playing with toys, and singing can help caregivers and children to talk together. Families were then invited to join workshops focusing on interactive sensory stories and movement, free play, and a treasure hunt!

6  Automation in Life

What springs to mind when you hear the word Automation? This event showcased robotics amongst the best robotics at Leeds. But automation in Life is about so much more than just demonstrations of robotics. It is a topical theme that will increasingly ‘interact’ with us from driverless vehicles to self-healing cities. The day consisted of a number of demonstrations around the advances that are being made at Leeds around automation and how our futures may look.

7  The Future of Leeds Parks

Public parks have been vital features of our cities since the nineteenth century, providing benefits to people, communities and the environment. But what are their prospects and what’s important to you about their future management? This event detailed how Leeds parks have changed through time based on research by the University of Leeds. This exhibitions showed audiences the challenges and opportunities facing parks today and how you can have your say on a 10-year strategy for the future of Leeds parks and green spaces. This event was hosted in partnership with Leeds City Council and the Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum.
Engaging Public Policy

To fulfil the IAA’s objective of facilitating and enhancing research with impact, the IAA will allow for social scientist to engage with a variety of external partners, organisations and policy makers.

Our aim is to connect high quality social science research taking place inside the University, with the individuals and groups who can utilise the research to create real-world impact.

In order to facilitate this Camilla McCartney joined the Leeds Social Sciences Institute in 2019 as our Engagement Officer to coordinate our activities such as the seminar series with the Department of Work and Pensions, our national policy engagement event such as the one we organised in May 2019 which aimed to bring together Leeds researchers with the wider policy community to focus on routes into engaging with policy. Representatives from Ministry of Justice, The Home Office, Department for Transport and Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology were in attendance and provided us with a forum to build partnerships and learn lessons on how to mutually deliver our research capabilities going forward.

Similar targeted initiatives are planned with other regional and national policy groups and communities will continue and we look forward to working together with Policy Leeds to take this agenda forward.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Please visit lssi.leeds.ac.uk or contact Engagement Officer Camilla McCartney on C.J.McCartney@leeds.ac.uk
Internationalisation

A key objective of the Leeds Social Sciences Institute is to foster international research links and build collaborative partnerships with a view to enhancing research impact.

The IAA is being utilised to further enhance this goal by supporting the development of strategic relations with partners around the globe, notably with the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland and the Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

An example of this was a ‘Enhancing Urban Safety and Crime Prevention through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships’ a three day workshop was hosted by the Gino Germani Institute (IIGG) at the University of Buenos Aires was attended by a number of Leeds scholars. The workshop explored the contribution of differing state and non-state actors in the provision of urban safety. With presentations from Leeds and Argentinian scholars, local civil society actors and PhD researchers, the workshop developed a critical comparative understanding of the complex relations between actors, processes and networks that constitute urban safety.

The workshop also focused on identifying common research themes and developing a programme of future collaborative research between Leeds and Buenos Aires, as well as exploring possible funding opportunities to underpin this. An action plan to take forwards the shared learning and identified research agenda was agreed and the basis for further collaboration set to develop the emergent ideas into actionable projects.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS?

Please visit lssi.leeds.ac.uk/partnerships/internationalisation or contact Alison Lundbeck on A.Lundbeck@leeds.ac.uk
WHAT’S NEXT?

What’s to come next year?

The IAA is a four year initiative, our first year clearly demonstrates the level of impact that this funding can achieve and influence.

Looking ahead we are excited to move into our second year of funding which is set to be our busiest! We will be organising new initiatives that work to provide unique and valuable opportunities for our social scientists here at Leeds.
National Productivity Investment Fund – Accelerating Business Collaborations Fund (NPIF ABC)

In February 2020, the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York were awarded funding from The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to deliver a range of activities across the White Rose Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) to expand opportunities and build the capacity and capability of social science doctoral students and early career researchers to engage with business.

What Opportunities Are Available?

- Placements with priority business partners,
- Industry focused workshops and networking activities,
- Two skills and leadership residentials to upskill doctoral students and early career. Researchers to find, manage and maintain successful external partnerships,
- A training programme addressing business engagement knowledge and skills gaps for social science doctoral students and early career researchers,
- Cross DTP networking to ensure opportunities are available across the region (and between DTPs where relevant).

Collaboration Basecamps

The purpose of each collaboration basecamp is to bring together a group of academics from a wide range of schools across the University around a single complex societal challenge. Each basecamp will allow a new interdisciplinary group to bring together their different perspectives on a complex issue, and explore novel combined approaches which could make for more sustainable positive change to society.

The collaboration basecamp model is based on 3 days of activity: an intensive two days of facilitated workshop (which may be residential), followed by a single day for follow on activity.

We will be holding a number of basecamps around set themes in 2020/21 to find out more please visit lssi.leeds.ac.uk or contact Research Innovation Development Manager Alison Lundbeck on A.Lundbeck@leeds.ac.uk

Innovation Forums

These forums will bring together business professionals, economists, doctors, engineers and policy-makers. The Innovation Forum will facilitate this multidisciplinary structure by fostering synergy between academia, industry and the public/third sector to accelerate the speed of impact for the benefit of the wider society. Innovation Forums foster user engagement, enhance enterprise and provide opportunities for generating new research collaborations with well-developed pathways to impact. Each forum will bring key external stakeholders together with social science researchers, focused on a particular theme or topical issue.

Impact Acceleration Account Showcase

Building on the experience of the LSSI IAA Showcase in February 2018 we will be putting together a showcase to highlight the successes of the first year of the IAA and the significant impacts achieved. The showcase will also be an opportunity to strengthen existing relationships to facilitate new connections with external partners, including business, policymakers, practitioners and third sector organisations across the Leeds City Region.

The best way to keep up to date with everything about the IAA and LSSI is to join our network to ensure you don’t miss anything! https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/join-our-network/
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For further information about the LSSI and the work we do, find us online at www.lssi.leeds.ac.uk and @UoLSSI

For general enquiries, contact LSSI@leeds.ac.uk

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