

Introductory event for ESRC Research Methods Programme
Monday 19 May - Tuesday 20 May 2003

PROGRAMME

Monday 19 May

16.00 Library & Main Foyer
Arrival and tea

16.30 Chatsworth Room
Welcome and brief introduction to the programme
Chair of Advisory Committee: Professor Paul Atkinson
Chair of Commissioning Panel: Dr Jackie Scott
Programme Director: Angela Dale

17.15 - 18.30 Chatsworth Room
Hazel Genn, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, UCL and recently chair of ESRC Grants Board
Assessing the quality of social and economic research
Chair: Patricia Broadfoot, Chair, RRB and Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Bristol

19.00 High Peak Suite
Drinks and poster display of projects funded under the programme

19.30 High Peak Suite
Dinner
followed by Ian Diamond, Chief Executive ESRC on:
Future research directions for the ESRC

Tuesday 20 May

0.730 - Main Dining Room
0.830 **Breakfast**

09.00 Haddon Room
Open discussion groups, facilitated by members of Advisory Committee

1. Board Room (First Floor)
The quality of reviewing – facilitated by Julia Brannen and Steve Pudney
Short presentation from James Carpenter (LSHTM) on an experiment to establish whether training journal reviewers makes a difference

2. Haddon Room
Social research and government - facilitated by Ceridwen Roberts and Paul Atkinson
Short presentation from Sue Duncan

3. Peveril Room
Taking a long-term perspective on research methods: the role of the ESRC and other agencies -
facilitated by Jackie Scott (RRB), Ray Hudson (Training Board), Nigel Thrift (Priorities Board)

10.00 Haddon Room
Report back from each group

10.20 Library & Main Foyer
Coffee

10.45 - Haddon Room
12.30 ***Round-table on assessing the quality of evidence;***
how is it assessed in peer review?
how is it assessed by government?
how can assessment be improved?

Format: 15 minute presentations by:
Martyn Hammersley, Harvey Goldstein, Ray Pawson, Simon Burgess

Chair: Janet Finch, Vice Chancellor, University of Keele
Discussant: Sue Duncan, Government Chief Social Researcher,
Prime Minister's Strategy Unit

followed by open discussion

Concluding remarks

Anne Harrop, Research Director, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

12.45 - Main Dining Room
13.30 **Buffet lunch**

13.30 Haddon Room
Prompt **Business meeting for project teams**

Brief papers for these items have been circulated and suggestions from project teams will be welcome

- i. Events for research staff
 - annual 2-day workshop
 - staff exchanges between projects
 - exchanges between researchers in government and academia
- ii. Exploratory topic-based workshops
 - To discuss work in progress, explore issues, share knowledge
- iii. Dissemination activities
 - Julia Brannen: Editor, International Journal for Social Research Methods
- iv. Conferences
 - Programme streams at conferences
 - International conference organised by Methods Programme
- v. Publications
 - Proposal for Sage methods series – Kay Bridger
- vi. Theme for next meeting:
 - Proposal: Establishing causality in social research
- vii. AOB

15.00 The meeting will end promptly to facilitate participants' travel arrangements
