Research methods

Research methods are central to the work of researchers. Here you will find opportunities to help you extend your knowledge and gain new skills with a wide variety of different research methods.

Workshops and seminars

- Introduction to Narrative research
- Critical appraisal of a Systematic Review
- Co-production in research
- Study Designs Workshop
- Social Sciences Research Methods
- Tactics and praxis

E-learning and online resources

- Creative practice methods
- Filmmaking research practices
- Research Methods in Literature Review
- Research Methods in the Arts and Humanities
- Research Methods in the sciences
- Research Methods in the social sciences
**Introduction to Narrative research**

**Audience:** Any staff and PhD students wishing to learn more about narrative research methodology

**Description:** This session will introduce the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of narrative research, and will provide hands-on guidance to conducting narrative analysis. The session is designed to be interactive and participants will have ample opportunity to ask questions about narrative research and methodology.

**Outcomes:**
By the end of the workshop participants will have:

- An understanding of narrative research methodology
- Experience of how to conduct narrative analysis

**Availability:**
Chelmsford: 21/11/2018 13:00 – 15:30
Cambridge: 05/12/2018 13:00 – 15:30

**Access:**
To book a place please go to [http://researcher-development.eventbrite.com/](http://researcher-development.eventbrite.com/).

**Facilitator:** Dr Nick Caddick, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Veterans and Families Institute for Military Social Research. Nick conducts research with veterans and families from psychological and sociological

**Contribution to your researcher development profile:**
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual – knowledge base, Cognitive abilities

**OECD Transferable skills:** Research competencies - knowledge of research methods and technologies beyond the (PhD) project

**Enquiries:** StaffRDP@anglia.ac.uk
**Critical appraisal of a Systematic Review**

**Target Audience:** ECR/MCR/Senior researchers who would like to learn more about systematic reviews.

**Description:** Participants will learn about the challenges associated with critically appraising a systematic review. From this they will learn much more about systematic reviews and their structure and contents.

**Outcomes:**

By the end of the workshop participants will have:

- Critically appraised a systematic review
- Learned about the structure of a systematic review
- Learned about key concepts in systematic reviews such as systematic searches, inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Learned about the uses of systematic reviews
- Learned about the differences between a systematic review and a narrative, hypothesis-driven review

**Facilitator:** Professor Catherine Meads (FHEMS) Catherine is a senior systematic reviewer and has published numerous systematic reviews and health technology assessments, including music for recuperation after surgery, therapeutic writing in long-term conditions, and in sexual orientation and health.

**Contribution to your researcher development profile:**
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual – knowledge base, Cognitive abilities

**OECD Transferable skills:** Research competencies - knowledge of research methods and technologies beyond the (PhD) project

**Availability:**
Chelmsford 30/01/2018 14:00 – 16:30

**Access:**
To book a place please go to [http://researcher-development.eventbrite.com/](http://researcher-development.eventbrite.com/).
Co-production in research

Co-production is a term increasingly used by researchers and research funders. This interactive workshop will explore how researchers can involve the public in the design and delivery of their research, and what the benefits of this approach can be. It will look at co-production from two perspectives: Two perspectives: mental health service user perspective; academic researchers perspective.

Outcomes:
The session will cover:
- What is co-production?
- What are the principles of co-production?
- Policy and legal context
- Reflections from a service user researcher
- How Experts by Experience can be involved in our teaching, learning and research

Availability: Chelmsford 21st March 2019 10:00 – 12:00

Access: To book a place please go to http://researcher-development.eventbrite.com/

Facilitators:
This session is being provided by the Participatory Inquiry Research Group (Dr Niamh O'Brien, Professor Carol Munn-Giddings, Dr Melanie Boyce and Maxine Nightingale)

Contribution to your researcher development profile:
Researcher Development Framework Domain D: Engagement, influence and impact – Engagement and impact; communication and dissemination; Domain A Knowledge and intellectual – knowledge base, Cognitive abilities

OECD Transferable skills: Interpersonal skill - Networking skills; Communication skills - Communication/presentation skills, written and oral; Research competencies - knowledge of research methods and technologies beyond the (PhD) project

For more information about how you can use the RDF and the OECD Transferable Skills to plan and support your personal, professional and career development please click here.

Enquiries: To express an interest in attending this course in Cambridge, please contact StaffRDP@anglia.ac.uk
Study Designs Workshop

Target Audience: Early Careers, Mid-Career and Senior-Career Researchers who would like to learn more about study designs

Course Description: Participants will learn about the different types of study designs used in research, and how to fit the research question you have into the appropriate type of study design.

Outcomes:
By the end of the workshop participants will have:

- Learned about the different types of study designs
- Learned about what types of questions we ask in research
- Learned about how to match the research question to an appropriate study design
- Gained an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the different types of study designs

Availability:
Cambridge: Wednesday 10th October 2018, 14:00 – 16.30

Access:
To book a place please go to http://researcher-development.eventbrite.com/. Where dates are not scheduled or you're unable to attend the scheduled dates you can register your interest by emailing StaffRDP@anglia.ac.uk

Facilitator: Professor Catherine Meads (FHEMS) Catherine is a senior systematic reviewer and has published numerous systematic reviews and health technology assessments, including music for recuperation after surgery, therapeutic writing in long-term conditions, and in sexual orientation and health.

Contribution to your researcher development profile
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual – knowledge base, Cognitive abilities

OECD Transferable skills: Research competencies - knowledge of research methods and technologies beyond the (PhD) project
**Social Sciences Research Methods (Cambridge University)**

**Target audience:** available to staff and postgraduate students of ARU, free

**Description:**
The Social Sciences Research Methods Centre (SSRMC) runs an extensive range of statistics training, and many of these are available to staff and postgraduate students of ARU, free.

**Facilitator:**
SSMRC is interdisciplinary centre at Cambridge University providing research methods training to University of Cambridge staff and postgraduate students at MPhil and PhD level. Courses cover qualitative, and quantitative research methods, from basic training to advanced statistical analysis.

**Contribution to your researcher development profile:**
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual – knowledge base, Cognitive abilities

**OECD Transferable skills:** Research competencies - knowledge of research methods and technologies beyond the (PhD) project

**Access:**
Please book via the dedicated External Participants’ portal. NB. If no courses are currently available, this link will not work. If you wish to make a booking once the courses are posted online, we recommend joining our mailing list - those on the mailing list get notified once courses go live.

Prospective external participants can arrange to be contacted as soon as places become available on our courses by joining the SSRMC mailing list.

Once you have booked a place as an external participant, you will be given access to Moodle, the online repository for course materials. If your course is taught in a computer lab, you will receive a guest login. Guest access to wireless networks is also available in University buildings.

**Availability:**
Modules in the Basic Statistics stream are very heavily subscribed; places on these modules are therefore restricted to students and staff at Cambridge University. All other modules are open to external participants, though places are limited.
**Tactics and Praxis (Cambridge University)**

An interdisciplinary seminar and workshop series on academic ‘outputs’ and creativity in the era of the ‘achievement society’

**Target audience:** available to staff and postgraduate students of ARU, free

**Description:**
This series of seminar workshops aims to inspire creative approaches to academic work for its participants, including informing tactics for reading, writing, creative practice and practice-based research. Open to all, we aim to conceptualise and foster spaces within the constraints of institutional demands for creativity, play, slowness and pleasure.

Each of the seminars will bring together, in dialogue, a short presentation from an invited speaker on their own research and practice in areas relating to modern languages and culture, with a pre-circulated reading raising theoretical questions of tactics and praxis in academic work. The readings will be circulated in advance and briefly presented by one of the convenors or another participant to ensure accessibility of the discussion to those who may not have found the time to read it.

It is also intended to generate and nurture informal networks among academics working in different disciplines and periods and with different materials, as well as with creative practitioners.

**Availability:**
Seminars will be held at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, CB2 1, in lunchtimes.

**Access:** Email Dr Isabelle McNeill imm21@cam.ac.uk

**Convenors:** Dr Isabelle McNeill, Dr Georgina Evans, Dr Louise Haywood

**Contribution to your researcher development profile:**
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual – creativity; cognitive abilities; knowledge base

**OECD Transferable skills:** Research competencies - knowledge of research methods and technologies beyond the (PhD) project
**Research Methods in the Arts and Humanities**

**Target audience:** ECR in the Arts and Humanities

**Description:**
This online course is a module of the Epigeum Research Methods course. It aims to develop an awareness of the practical and conceptual skills that support effective independent scholarly research in the arts and humanities. The end goal is to help researchers to understand the issues involved in making an informed choice about the methodology and approach most suitable for their own specific project.

**Outcomes:**
This course aims to help you be able to:

- Understand the meaning of 'research' and 'research methodology' in the humanities
- Understand the dynamic relationships between your chosen research questions and your research methodology
- Recognise different research methodologies, and be able to select those relevant or appropriate for your research topic and questions
- Understand the need for appropriate research methodologies for different kinds of research material
- Understand the place of different research methodologies in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts
- Understand the difference between critical thinking and a theoretical approach.

**Availability:**
This course is available online and can be completed at any time via Epigeum. To register for Epigeum please go to [http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home](http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home). Enter your Anglia email address, choose a password and select the correct status. Epigeum will send you an activation email following registration. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PAY FOR CONTENT.

**Access:** [http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home](http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home) Navigate to the Research Methods course and choose the module you wish to study.

**Facilitator:**
This is an online course available via Epigeum.

**Contribution to your researcher development profile**
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual abilities – knowledge base:

**OECD Transferable skills:** Research competencies - Knowledge of research methods and technologies
Research Methods in the sciences

Target audience: ECR in the sciences

Description:
This online course begins by looking at what scientific research entails, and the different types of research different scientists undertake. The course then guides participants through the different processes of their research, from identifying and refining a research question to designing and planning your research. The course finishes by offering some thoughts and advice on publishing the results of your research.

Outcomes:
The aims of this course are to help you to:
- Understand the key concepts in scientific research.
- Understand why it is important to formulate a good research question and how to do so.
- Be able to identify, evaluate and select appropriate experimental designs for your research.
- Be able to assess the type and quantity of data needed for your research project, and how to analyse it.
- Be aware of practical problems that can affect your research and be better able to respond to them.

Availability:
This course is available online and can be completed at any time via Epigeum. To register for Epigeum please go to http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home. Enter your Anglia email address, choose a password and select the correct status. Epigeum will send you an activation email following registration. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PAY FOR CONTENT.

Access: http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home Navigate to the Research Methods course and choose the module you wish to study.

Facilitator:
This is an online course available via Epigeum.

Contribution to your researcher development profile
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual abilities – knowledge base:

OECD Transferable skills: Research competencies - Knowledge of research methods and technologies
Research Methods in the social sciences

Target audience: ECR in the social sciences

Description: This online course begins with an examination of different approaches to knowledge in the context of social science research. The course will then guide participants through the different processes of their research, including:
- Framing a research question
- Planning and designing your research
- Data collection and analysis.

The course will finish by offering some advice on how and where participants can go about publishing the results of their research, and suggesting ways in which participants might take their research further.

Outcomes:
Completing this course will help you to:
- Understand the difference between a positivist approach and an interpretative approach in research in the social sciences
- Understand why it is important to frame a good research question, and how to go about developing a good question
- Be aware of the personal values, priorities or contextual factors which might inform or influence your research study
- Be aware of common research designs and be able to select the most appropriate design(s) for your study
- Identify and select appropriate data collection methods
- Describe the different approaches to data analysis in quantitative and qualitative methods
- Be aware of the different venues in which you might publish your research

Availability:
This course is available online and can be completed at any time via Epigeum. To register for Epigeum please go to [http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home](http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home). Enter your Anglia email address, choose a password and select the correct status. Epigeum will send you an activation email following registration. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PAY FOR CONTENT.

Access: [http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home](http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home) Navigate to the Research Methods course and choose the module you wish to study.

Facilitator: This is an online course available via Epigeum.

Contribution to your researcher development profile
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual abilities – knowledge base:

OECD Transferable skills: Research competencies - Knowledge of research methods and technologies
Research Methods in Literature Review

Target audience: ECR

Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the processes involved in putting together a literature review so that you are able to undertake your own comprehensive review, according to the requirements of your academic project. With examples taken from many different disciplines, the course is relevant to all researchers, regardless of academic field.

Outcomes:
Completing this course will help you to:
- Understand why a literature review is important.
- Understand the structure and process of undertaking a literature review.
- Understand the importance of identifying a review question to guide your literature review.
- Develop your ability to identify different types of literature and work out if they are useful to you.
- Develop your ability to search for literature.
- Develop your ability to evaluate and select the relevant literature for your review.
- Understand how to write up your literature review.

Availability:
This course is available online and can be completed at any time via Epigeum. To register for Epigeum please go to [http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home](http://researchskills.epigeum.com/home). Enter your Anglia email address, choose a password and select the correct status. Epigeum will send you an activation email following registration. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PAY FOR CONTENT.

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Facilitator: This is an online course available via Epigeum.

Contribution to your researcher development profile:
Researcher Development Framework Domain A Knowledge and intellectual abilities – knowledge base:

OECD Transferable skills: Research competencies - Knowledge of research methods and technologies