Natcen Social Research that works for society

Blurring the Boundaries?

The NCRM Network on Social Media and Social Science





Social Research that works for society

We believe that social research has the power to make life better. By really understanding the complexity of people's lives and what they think about the issues that affect them, we give the public a powerful and influential role in shaping decisions and services that can make a difference to everyone. And as an independent, not for profit organisation we're able to put all our time and energy into delivering social research that works for society.





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What is the NCRM network?

A Network for Methodological Innovation

- Funded by ESRC.
- Coordinated by National Centre for Research Methods.
- Synthesising what we know.
- Catalysing new ideas.
- Building communities.
- An opportunity to inform future agendas.



What will the Network do?



Main activities

- Face to face events.
- Online community.
- Blog and discussion threads.



What activities will take place?

Opening event

In person event Plus online

One day

Networking and agenda setting

4 workshops

In person and online

Each focusing on an agreed topic

Closing event

Sharing what we've learned.

Identifying new agendas.

Next steps.

Outputs

Blog, discussion threads and how to guides

Webcasts and follow up events



Timetable

1. Opening event.	May 2012
2. Workshop 1.	July 2012
3. Workshop 2.	Sep 2012
4. Workshop 3.	Nov 2012
5. Workshop 4.	Jan 2013
6. Closing event.	Mar 2013



Who will take part in the Network?



Who is involved?

NatCen

Social Research that works for society









Who is involved and who can take part?

- Core network of 50.
- A much larger community online.
- Needs to be cross-sector to be valuable.
- Please tell us if you would like to be involved.



What should the Network consider?



Initial ideas

The network will be co-produced but ideas include:

- How does social media affect social behaviours and does this represent a fundamental shift?
- How well are we using social media as a tool for generating and interpreting research data?
- How are researchers using social media to engage with their key audiences and stakeholders?
- What are the challenges in terms of ethics and acceptability?



But co-production is key...

What do you think we should consider as part of the Network?



Thank you

If you want further information or would like to join the Network

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