



Social Research Association North presents...

Careers in Social Research

12 May 2021

Host: Georgina Culliford, Qa Research



Event Structure

1

Louise Starks, Starks Consulting, Freelance researcher

2

Emma Wincup, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Charity research

3

Bev Bishop, Department of Health and Social Care,
Government research

4

Q&A

5

Closing & key resources



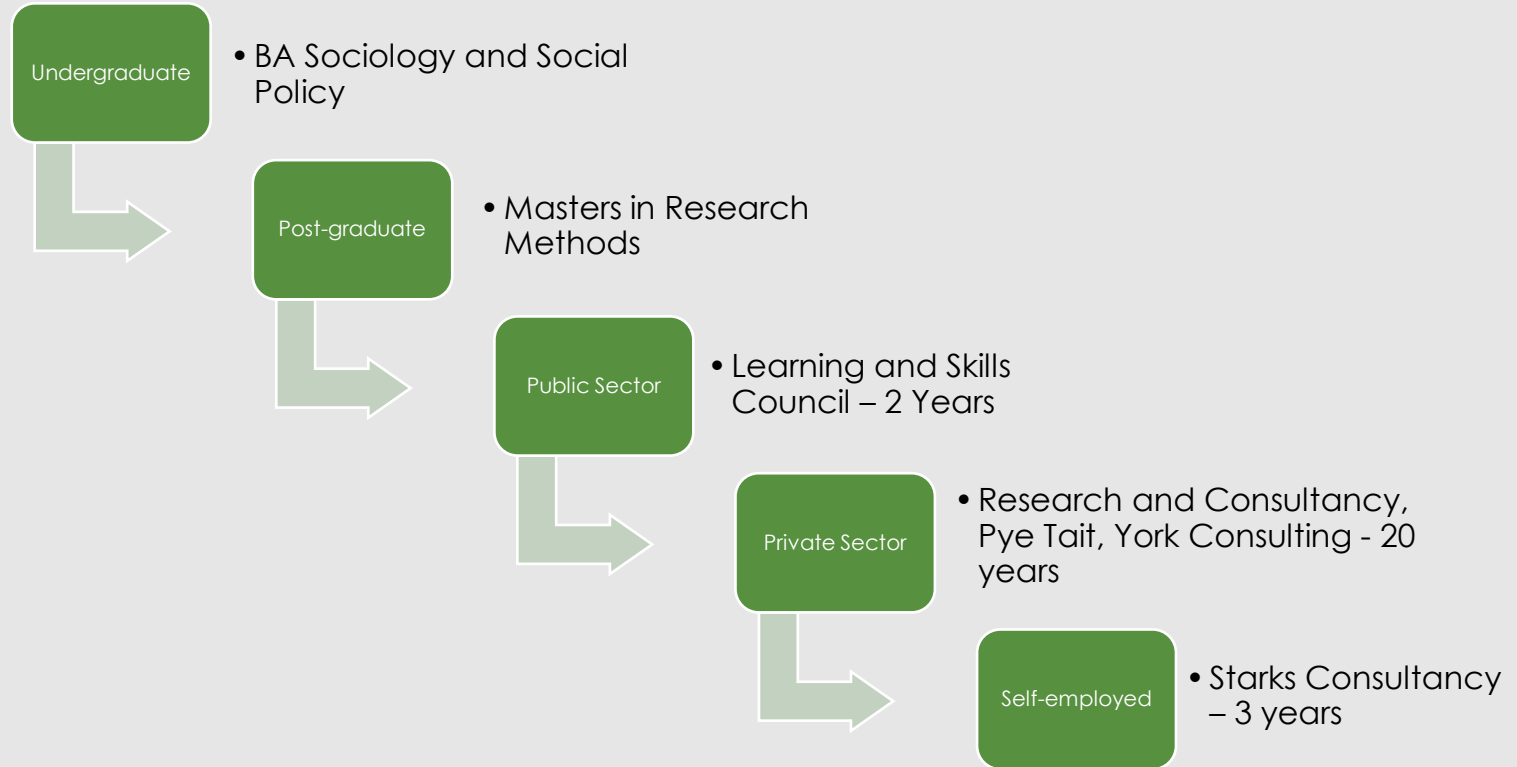


BECOMING A SOCIAL RESEARCHER

Louise Starks

www.starksconsulting.co.uk

My Research Career Path



Areas of Interest

- School Improvement
- Vulnerable Young People and Families



Department
for Education



Skills needed...



Research in the charitable sector

Dr Emma Wincup
Research Manager (Qualitative)

Presentation to SRA North ECR event
12th May 2021



Journey of a research career

From academic research to applied research

Postgraduate student

- Worked on two local surveys
- PhD research

Academic career

- First post as a part-time research fellow
- Followed by over 20 years as an L/SL

Research manager

- Research manager at JRF since 2019

About JRF

From research foundation to social change organisation



A day in the life of a research manager

Key responsibilities

Commissioning
research

Conducting
research

Providing
research support
to colleagues

External project
advisory work

Sharing research
evidence

Working as a research manager at JRF

Three reflections

Variety of work

- Different aspects of poverty and solutions to it
- Range of methodologies

Working alongside different specialists

- Within my team
- Across JRF teams

Being part of a wider network

- Collaborations with other charities
- Still part of the academic community

Becoming a researcher

Three top tips

1. Use your research skills to explore the wide range of career options available to you
2. Take advantage of all opportunities to develop your research skills: create them if you need to
3. Make sure you are aware of the latest developments in research methodologies





GOVERNMENT SOCIAL RESEARCH

Bev Bishop, Head of Variants Assessment,
Joint Biosecurity Centre

Getting in

- BA European Studies (French/Politics)
- MA West European Government
- Five year in Japan
- PhD in the Impact of Globalization on Women Working in Japan
- Local recruitment into Department for Education and Skills

Career to date

- 2002-2004 Senior Research Officer at Department for Education and Skills
- 2004-2005 Project Manager, Health and Disability, Centre for Social Research and Evaluation, NZ Ministry of Social Development
- 2005-2009 Senior research consultant, GHK Consulting
- 2009 – 2020 Health and Safety Executive
 - Principal Research Officer
 - Temporary promotion to Head of Human Factors team
 - Chief Social Researcher
- August 2020 – February 2021: Evaluation Lead NHS Covid-19 App
- February 2021 – Present Head of Variants Assessment, Joint Biosecurity Centre

A comparison

Academic Research

- Independence
- Specialist
- Researcher
- Depth
- Critical perspective
- Time

Government Social Research

- Team working
- Generalist
- Intelligent customer
- Impact
- Resources
- "Your best guess"
- Policy-based evidence making?

Questions



Key resources

- Social Research Association: <https://the-sra.org.uk/>
 - Examples of career journeys, Job board, Advice
 - Membership (£25 for a student) gives you discount training and other benefits
- Starks Consulting: <https://www.starksconsulting.co.uk/>
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/>
 - Sign up to newsletter (vacancies advertised)
- Civil Service: <https://www.faststream.gov.uk/>

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