

Annual Conference Programme 2019

**Blurring boundaries and crossing frontiers
in social research**



**Tuesday
10 December**

Royal College of Physicians
11 St Andrews Place
Regent's Park
London NW1 4LE

Let's talk about real-world impact...

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Proud to sponsor the **SRA Conference**,
supporting the promotion of
social science research and impact.

 **SAGE**
Publishing

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Conference

A warm welcome to our annual conference. This year's theme is 'Blurring boundaries and crossing frontiers in social research', bringing a focus on the value of reaching beyond traditional professional borders, whether to collaborate with experts from new fields, or to connect with the people and communities most impacted by the work we do. Social issues, and the approaches and methods we use to investigate them, are in an almost constant state of flux. It has never felt more important to 'escape the bubble' and see new horizons.

Speaking of making connections, the SRA conference is a great place to informally network with researchers in widely different sectors, as well as catch up with colleagues and friends. Do take advantage of this opportunity in the breaks, and at the drinks reception afterwards.

We have an outstanding range of plenary speakers. And in two breakout slots, workshop presentations bring you real-world research experiences, and masterclasses help you discover new dimensions in research. Due to the popularity of masterclasses last year we've expanded these to four sessions overall.

New to this year's conference is the Research Gallery, displaying creative works supplied by conference attendees and based on the conference theme. Do visit the Gallery to discover fresh ways to think about issues in research; our thanks to Jen Jones of the Events group for co-ordinating this.

This conference is built on a great deal of help and support from a diverse range of people, so I would like to thank:

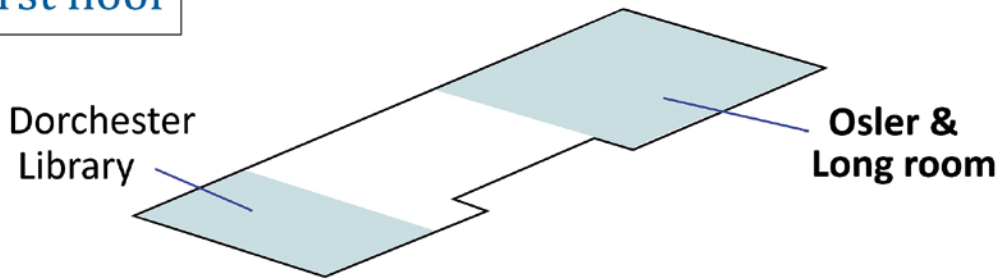
- ▶ Our excellent plenary speakers, bringing us their wide-ranging knowledge and insights
- ▶ Our conference chair Dame Jil Matheson, a legend in the research landscape who has held many key roles in and out of government
- ▶ The workshop presenters, whose talks were selected from 50 submissions
- ▶ The masterclass leaders for taking us to new places
- ▶ The SRA events group who developed the conference from scratch: Jane Barrett, Debbie Chan, Katie Hamilton, Jen Jones, Natalie Maplethorpe, Rosie McLeod, Jane Simmonds, Caroline Smith, Sophie Walsh and Elizabeth Young
- ▶ SRA office staff, in particular Gabrielle Elward, Graham Farrant and Monica Wright who put in a massive effort behind the scenes
- ▶ Our exhibitors, whose presence is hugely appreciated – please do visit their stands in the breaks: Sage Publishing (main exhibitor), SDA Gide (drinks reception), Policy Press, The Health Foundation, Quirkos and Palgrave Macmillan



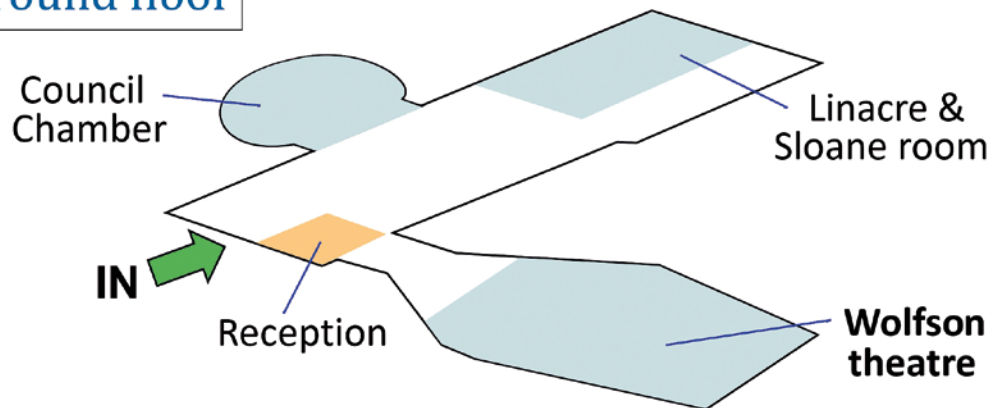
David Johnson, Chair, SRA

Venue floor plan

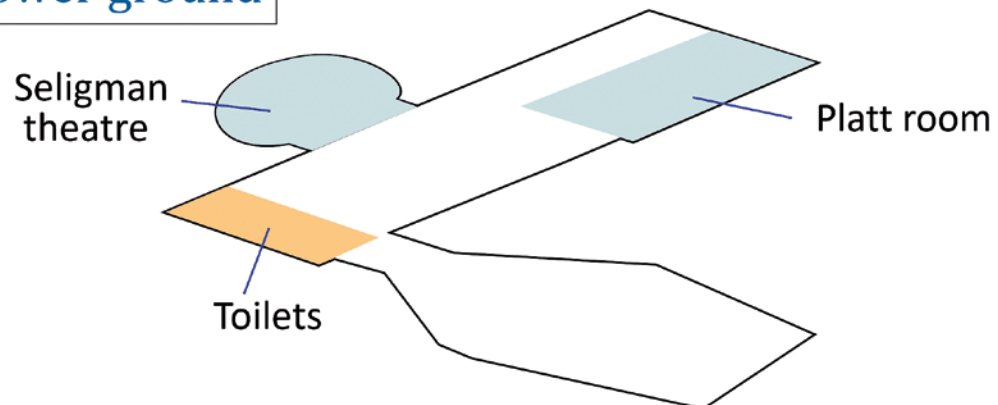
First floor



Ground floor



Lower ground



Programme

Wifi: **SRA**
Password: **Research**

Wolfson Theatre for all plenary sessions

Refreshments and lunch, Exhibitors and Research Gallery in the Osler & Long Room

- 9.15am** Registration begins: tea/coffee (Platt Room)
- 9.45 – 10.15am** SRA Member's AGM (Council Chamber)
- 10.25 – 10.30am** SRA Chair's welcome – David Johnson
- 10.30 – 10.40am** Chair's welcome – Jil Matheson, Academy of Social Sciences
- 10.40 – 11.25am** **Sir Adrian Smith**, Director of the Alan Turing Institute, keynote:
'What the new frontiers of data science and AI may mean for social research'
- 11.25 – 11.55am** TEA/COFFEE BREAK (Osler & Long Room)
- 11.55 – 13.10pm** BREAKOUT 1: Workshops & Masterclasses AM (see page 6 & 7 for details)
- ▶ Realist and real world evaluation (Seligman Theatre)
 - ▶ 6 degrees of participation (Council Chamber)
 - ▶ Innovation in disability research (Platt Room)
 - ▶ Masterclass – What are complex systems evaluations? (Dorchester Library)
 - ▶ Masterclass – a taster in narrative inquiry (Linacre & Sloane Room)
- 13.10 – 14.00pm** LUNCH (Osler & Long Room)
- 14.00 – 14.40pm** **Lorraine Whitmarsh**, Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations, and Professor of Environmental Psychology at Cardiff University:
PLENARY 'Why public and stakeholder involvement in tackling climate change is critical, and why we need to work across and beyond academic and organisational boundaries'
- 14.40 – 15.20pm** **Professor Pamela Cox**, Social historian at Essex University:
PLENARY 'What are the essential ingredients for a successful interdisciplinary research project?'
- 15.20 – 15.45pm** TEA/COFFEE BREAK (Osler & Long Room)
- 15.45 – 17.00pm** BREAKOUT 2: Workshops & Masterclasses PM (see page 8 & 9 for details)
- ▶ Research in sensitive sessions (Seligman Theatre)
 - ▶ Moving online (Council Chamber)
 - ▶ The time dimension (Platt Room)
 - ▶ Masterclass – Creative methods in qualitative data collection (Dorchester Library)
 - ▶ Masterclass – Escaping the echo chamber (Linacre & Sloane Room)
- 17.00-18.00pm** END: DRINKS RECEPTION (Osler & Long Room)

Workshops // AM

1. Realist and real world evaluation (Seligman Theatre)

Can realist evaluation be applied to evaluation of a £23bn government scheme?

Michael Gentry, BEIS and Denny Gray, CAG Consultants

BEIS and a consortium led by CAG consultants are using realist evaluation to assess the impact of the reformed Renewable Heat Incentive. We'll discuss the challenges faced in combining multiple methods and evidence sources. Audience input will be sought to crowd-source solutions to ongoing problems.

Lessons from the evaluation of GMC interventions aimed at supporting doctors

Francis Leng and Beverley Taylor, General Medical Council

'Welcome to UK Practice' and 'Duties of a Doctor' are two key General Medical Council programmes to support doctors to apply professional standards. Drawing on recent independent evaluations of these programmes, we will outline key lessons that have emerged across a number of challenging areas in policy evaluation.

2. Six degrees of participation (Council Chamber)

'Research'/'participation': the blurring of concepts in working with young people

Dr Gayle Munro, National Children's Bureau

This workshop discusses some of the challenges and opportunities in carrying out research with children and young people which is defined as 'participatory work'. The blurring of boundaries of roles and responsibilities are highlighted along with a discussion of what works well (and less well) at different stages of the research process.

Supporting participants in a self-driven journey of policy creation

Skye McCool, Traverse

Traverse delivered public dialogues across the UK about futures with connected and automated vehicles, as part of DfT's ongoing engagement to support related strategy and regulation development. Over 150 people were reconvened three times in late 2018. In a first for Sciencewise projects, 70 participants had direct experience of the developing technologies as part of the deliberative reconvened research design.

3. Innovation in disability research (Platt Room)

Negotiating independent ethical review of co-produced disability research: issues and lessons (one presentation)

Peter Scott, University of Edinburgh Peter Scott, University of Portsmouth, Professor Alison Koslowski, University of Edinburgh and Jody Mellor, DRILL Cymru

The Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning Ethics Committee was established to review a programme of co-produced research undertaken by disabled people's organisations. We will draw lessons from the Committee's work including negotiation of consent, anonymity, accessibility, and confidentiality.

In this extended workshop session there will be time for interactive discussion, and information will be shared about the DRILL programme, the variety of projects within it, and some of the main ethical issues and dilemmas arising in the disability projects that have been reviewed. This will include an extra handout to explain more about DRILL and the projects.

Masterclass sessions // AM

4. What are complex systems evaluations? (Dorchester Library) ■

Led by Dr Matt Egan, Associate Professor at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

There is an upsurge of interest in complex systems approaches amongst decision-makers and evaluators. Advocates say these approaches offer new ways to ensure that evidence to inform decision-making takes better account of the complexities of the real world. Yet there remains uncertainty about what we actually mean by a 'complex systems approach'. What do evaluations that take this perspective look like? What kinds of findings do they produce? When is it appropriate to do one?

You'll have an opportunity to think about how and why to incorporate complex systems thinking into your work. It will be an interactive session. Matt works on evaluations affecting wider determinants of health, particularly local level interventions and strategies, and some of the examples used will be drawn from that subject area – but relevant to a wider audience.

(There are limited places so if you selected to attend this session your badge will have a green sticker)

5. A taster in narrative inquiry (Linacre & Sloane Room) ■

Led by Dr Karen Lumsden, sociologist and criminologist with expertise in qualitative methods.

This interactive masterclass explores storytelling and narratives as a qualitative method of inquiry. This method allows us to capture rich data in story form and provides us with insight into feelings, beliefs, images and time. It also takes account of the relationship between individual experience and the wider social and cultural contexts.

Through stories we can convey people's lived experiences to a range of audiences and the public. In this masterclass we consider how stories can form a component of your research and via a practical activity we explore effective ways through which to harness the power of storytelling in social research.

(There are limited places so if you selected to attend this session your badge will have an orange sticker)

Visit our conference exhibitors
in the Osler & Long Room

- ▶ SAGE Publishing
- ▶ Quirkos
- ▶ Policy Press
- ▶ The Health Foundation
- ▶ Palgrave Macmillan
- ▶ And the SRA stand



Collect all 6 stamps on the form in your delegate pack with a chance to win prizes!

Workshops // PM

1. Research in sensitive settings (Seligman Theatre)

The currency of colleaguehood: Insider researchers in a charitable trust

Laura Bolton and Roz Warden, Barnwood Trust

We're in-house researchers who for three years have been conducting qualitative research into the work of our employer. This has enabled nuanced and in-depth work, but it has also come with challenges, as we have tried to maintain boundaries with research participants who are also our colleagues and friends.

A qualitative study of food banks, food poverty, referrals, and health in London: methodological and ethical reflections

Claire Thompson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

A reflection on the practical and ethical issues generated by this qualitative mixed methods study. Researching a sensitive topic within a precarious and rapidly changing sector required constant flexibility, adaptability and the tolerance of data collection failures.

2. Moving online (Council Chamber)

Digital deliberations: creating a tool for thoughtful democracy (One presentation)

Ceri Davies and Anna Marcinkiewicz, NatCen Social Research

Leaving the EU will present the UK with a new set of policy options and choices in areas that are currently largely determined by decisions made in Brussels, many of which have not received extended public debate.

In this session we introduce our work running the UK's largest online Deliberative Poll on three such policy areas – which involved bringing a representative sample of adults together to gauge what they think about a topic (using pre- and post-surveys) once they have had the opportunity to consider and debate it. Such 'digital deliberation' has the potential to provide an effective as well as a less costly way of undertaking deliberative public consultation.

We will share what we learned about the design, recruitment and delivery of our poll (with some initial findings) and use the principles of the method to run the session itself. We will invite you to deliberate on the challenges and possibilities of online approaches – using our experiences as the evidence to support discussions.

3. The time dimension (Platt Room)

Fast and slow thinking in trying to make a difference

Dr Janet Bowstead, Royal Holloway, University of London

This presentation will discuss research on domestic violence which uses multiple methods (visual, participatory, maps and quantitative) to understand the issues and to produce outputs for a range of audiences; who may be driven by the fast thinking of emotions and stereotypes as well as the slow thinking of a linear model of research impact on policy and practice.

Responding to change by changing: data-driven improvement in organisations

Dr Keira Lowther, Dartington Service Design Lab

Is it possible to collect mixed-method data from programme practitioners and users and analyse and report back in time to inform cycles of iteration and improvement? The Dartington Service Design Lab is developing a method which attempts this: bringing together science, user experience and systems thinking to co-design adaptations to existing programmes and innovative approaches to address social problems.

Masterclass sessions // PM

4. Using creative methods in qualitative data collection (Dorchester Library)

Led by Nicole Browne, Lecturer in Education and Academic Head of Learning and Teaching in UCL's department of Culture, Communication and Media.

An opportunity to explore a range of creative activities that help to make visible and expressible what is otherwise difficult to see or put in words. For example, thought processes and decision-making can be observed; and for research into participants' experiences, creative methods yield rich qualitative data as participants reflect more deeply and focus on their emotions and feelings.

The activities in this workshop include 'diamond 9', 'pick a card' and/or LEGO model building activities. We will evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of various creative activities, consider the practicalities and consequences of implementing them, and explore what constitutes data, what data is generated and how that can be recorded. Finally we will reflect on attendees' own projects and what these methods could bring to your research.

(There are limited places so if you selected to attend this session your badge will have a blue sticker)

5. Escaping the echo chamber (Linacre & Sloane Room)

Led by Dan Clay a policy, strategy and communications advisor, and Caitlin Connors, founder of Bright Harbour, a research, design and social innovation consultancy.

Social research is a noble profession in which smart, well-meaning people employ rigorous, robust methodologies to explore issues impacting society. At worst, it can also be a closed and cosseted environment with echo chambers of experts and close-knit networks of subject specialists. The time for change is here.

This workshop is for those who are willing to lay preconceptions to one side and step outside of their bubble. Working with other delegates and a common brief, you will be challenged to question your assumptions, to expand your research toolbox, to open your networks and to reflect on the paths open to you. Prepare to get stuck in.

(There are limited places so if you selected to attend this session your badge will have a red sticker)

Visit the Research Gallery in the Osler Room & Long Room

This year's conference features a Research Gallery, displaying research on the conference theme of '*Blurring boundaries and crossing frontiers in Social Research*'.

The 24 pieces for the Gallery range from photos, illustrations, drawings, paintings and collages, to short films, sculptures, models, hand-made books and board games.

Pick up a handout in the Osler & Long Room to find out more about the contributors and their works.

The exhibitors have diverse backgrounds and work across all sectors including colleges and universities, government departments, research institutes, agencies, consultancies, charities and community network organisations. Some researchers have created their own pieces whilst others have collaborated with established artists.

Please vote for your favourite.

About the plenary speakers

Sir Adrian Smith is Director and Chief Executive of The Alan Turing Institute, which he joined in 2018. His previous role was Vice-Chancellor of the University of London where he was in post from 2012. He was Director General, Knowledge and Innovation in BIS (now BEIS) between 2008-2012. Professor Smith has worked with the UK Higher Education Funding and Research Councils and was appointed Deputy Chair of the UK Statistics Authority from September 2012. In 2014, he was appointed Chair of the Board of the Diamond Synchrotron at Harwell and in 2018, a board member of the UK Atomic Energy Authority.

Professor Smith is a past President of the Royal Statistical Society and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2001 in recognition of his contribution to statistics. He received a knighthood in the 2011 New Year Honours list.

Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh is an environmental psychologist, specialising in perceptions and behaviour in relation to climate change, energy and transport, based in the School of Psychology, Cardiff University. She is Director of the new ESRC-funded UK Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST). She regularly advises governmental and other organisations on low-carbon behaviour change and climate change communication. Her research projects have included studies of energy efficiency behaviours, waste reduction and carrier bag reuse, perceptions of smart technologies and electric vehicles, low-carbon lifestyles, and responses to climate change.

Professor Pamela Cox is a social historian at the University of Essex. She has written and co-authored several books on social history and crime history. She has co-written and presented two BBC TV series on the history of work: *Servants* (2012) and *Shopgirls* (2014). Pamela is chair of the editorial board of Cultural and Social History and a co-editor of the new BSA/Policy Press series 21st Century Standpoints. She served as Dean of the Graduate School at Essex University from 2009-13 and is currently Essex Sociology lead for ESRC SeNSS doctoral training partnership. She is a founder member of the Essex Women's Network and a mentor for the Aurora women's programme within the Leadership Foundation.

Conference Chair

Dame Jil Matheson

Following a career in social research and statistics, Jil Matheson served as National Statistician, Head of the Government Statistical Service and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority from 2009 until her retirement in 2014. While National Statistician, Jil Chaired OECD's Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy and the UN Statistical Commission. Jil is now a Trustee of NatCen, Hon Secretary of the Academy of Social Science, Deputy Chair of the Office for Tackling Injustices, and a Board member of the Sports Ground Safety Authority. She is a member of the Royal Society's Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education.

Workshop presenters // AM

Michael Gentry is a government social researcher working in BEIS to evaluate a range of energy policies. He works across a range of policy teams to evaluate current policies as well as manage the evidence base to inform future policy making. Prior to joining government, Michael worked as an evaluator in the private and charity sectors.

Denny Gray is an experienced policy advisor, evaluator and researcher, and has managed and delivered numerous multi-method evaluations and research projects in the fields of energy and sustainability. Denny is currently leading a four-year multi-disciplinary, theory-based evaluation of the reformed Renewable Heat Incentive for BEIS.

Francis Leng is a research manager at the General Medical Council. He manages internal and externally commissioned GMC research projects with a focus on evaluation. Before moving to the GMC, Francis spent two years as a research and insight advisor for the English Federation of Disability Sport.

Beverley Taylor is a research manager at the General Medical Council. She manages internal and externally commissioned GMC research projects with a focus on evaluation. Before moving to the GMC, Beverley spent nearly 4 years in a research consultancy; developing patient reported outcome measures for the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr Gayle Munro is Head of Research and Evidence at the National Children's Bureau. Gayle's doctorate explored the transnational experiences of migrants from the former Yugoslavia in Britain. Gayle previously managed the research team at The Salvation Army where she led on research projects around support needs for people trafficked into different kinds of exploitation.

Skye McCool is a consultant specialising in creative engagement, with a background in scientific research and engagement, and training in graphic facilitation and design-thinking. She previously spent several years in South African government focused on climate change policy and research, and environmental management and engagement.

Peter Scott is a Senior Lecturer in Employment Relations at the University of Portsmouth. His research interests include disability and employment, and public sector employment relations. He is a member of Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning Ethics Committee and chairs the Faculty of Business and Law Ethics Committee at University of Portsmouth.

Prof. Alison Koslowski, University of Edinburgh, on behalf of Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning Ethics Committee, Professor of Social Policy and Research Methods. Alison holds a Personal Chair in Social Policy and Research Methods at the University of Edinburgh's School of Social and Political Science, and chairs the DRILL Ethics Committee.

Workshop presenters // PM

Laura Bolton is a lead researcher at Barnwood Trust, conducting research into the organisation's work improving the wellbeing of disabled people and people with mental health challenges in Gloucestershire. She came to research via a background in law and international human rights, specialising in her previous role in mental health law.

Roz Warden is Head of Research at Barnwood Trust, a charitable organisation supporting disabled people and people with mental health challenges in Gloucestershire. Prior to her current role, she completed a PhD on Islam and social work, and has also worked as a lecturer and service user involvement officer.

Claire Thompson is a qualitative public health researcher with interests in: food poverty; urban regeneration; young people's experiences of health and wellbeing; food and alcohol environments; and lived experiences of austerity and welfare reform.

Ceri Davies is a Research Director at NatCen, leading work on deliberation and citizen engagement in public policy making. With a background in civil society and

social change, prior to joining NatCen she led the University of Brighton's community knowledge exchange, supporting co-produced research between academics and NGOs.

Anna Marcinkiewicz works for ScotCen on a range of large-scale quantitative studies, including the Scottish Social Attitudes survey, for which she developed questions and co-wrote a report on the Scottish Government-funded research on attitudes to sectarianism in Scotland and attitudes to alcohol in Scotland.

Janet Bowstead is a researcher with a professional background in frontline, policy and coordination work on violence against women. Her research is interdisciplinary across geography, social policy and sociology; integrating a range of methods. She is currently a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Dr Keira Lowther is a service designer with a background in public health research and acute nursing care provision. She is currently delivering a large scale rapid cycle adaptation and testing project in the UK.

SRA training 2020

EDINBURGH

27 January	Writing effective research reports	Dr Simon Haslam
19 February	Questionnaire design	NatCen Learning
Early March (tbc)	Introduction to data visualisation and infographic design	Nigel Hawtin
26 March	Qualitative interviewing	Professor Karen O'Reilly
27 March	Conducting focus groups	Professor Karen O'Reilly
30 March	Qualitative data analysis	Professor Karen O'Reilly
31 March	Interpreting and writing up your qualitative findings	Professor Karen O'Reilly

LONDON

13 January	Introduction to participatory action research	Dr Karen Lumsden
16 January	Introduction to grounded theory	Professor Karen O'Reilly
21 January	Weighting and imputation for survey non-responses	Dr Tarek Al Baghal
28 January	Project management in research and evaluation	Professor David Parsons
29 January	Theory-based evaluation: options and choices for practitioners	Professor David Parsons
30 January	Qualitative data analysis	Professor Karen O'Reilly
31 January	Interpreting and writing up your qualitative findings	Professor Karen O'Reilly
3 March	Cognitive interviewing	NatCen Learning
4 March	Research with children and young people	Dr Louca-Mai Brady and Berni Graham
9 March	Foundations of evaluation	Professor David Parsons
10 March	Impact evaluation: options, choices and practice	Professor David Parsons
10 March	Designing a qualitative study	Professor Karen O'Reilly
11 March	Qualitative interviewing	Professor Karen O'Reilly
12 March	Introduction to sampling and weighting	Dr Alexandru Cernat
2 and 3 April	Depth interviews	NatCen Learning
30 April	Questionnaire design	NatCen Learning

NOTTINGHAM

30 January	Qualitative interviewing	Dr Line Nyhagen
31 January	Conducting focus Groups	Dr Line Nyhagen

The cost to attend an SRA course is £202.50 per day for SRA members and £270 for non-members

The 2020 programme is still being arranged and more courses will be added. Please check the SRA website for updates www.the-sra.org.uk/training

If you have any queries please call 020 7255 0695 or email Lindsay.adams@the-sra.org.uk



Social Research Association,
London WC1E 7AE

Tel: 020 7255 0695

Email: admin@the-sra.org.uk

www.the-sra.org.uk

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