

Academy of Social Sciences

SSRG has been a 'Learned Society' of the The Academy of Social Sciences (<http://www.acss.org.uk/index.htm>), since the Academy was started in the 1990s. The Academy exists to promote the role of social sciences both in terms of the academic world and the local and central government. Learned Societies include organisations like the British Psychological Society, to the much smaller Association of Sociological studies and indeed SSRG. Thus it has a very wide remit, aiming to provide a central point of contact and an arena for dialogue between different social science disciplines and to connect with policy makers, practitioners and the general public

We have become more involved in two aspects recently. First, as discussed in previous editions of the newsletter, SSRG responded to a Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills consultation about Knowledge Transfer, which was directly influenced by involvement with the Knowledge Transfer event and organising committee. A further outcome of this was to take part in newly formed working group to develop a strategy for Knowledge Transfer for the Academy. Knowledge Transfer and Public Engagement are areas for which the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has dedicated funds. They have the potential for providing a good source of support for Local Authorities developing Evidence-informed-practice, one of SSRG's main goals. There may be scope for events or more detailed input from SSRG members: more information about this will be reported in future Newsletters.

Second, The Academy has been developing an approach to Research Ethics, again in collaboration with the ESRC. Specifically the Academy has responded as a whole (and therefore partly with SSRG support) to the ESRC consultation on a second edition of

their Research Ethics Framework. This is the main guidance for Research Ethics review for universities. This has clear links with SSRG's involvement in Research Governance, for which many members will have individual responsibility in their local authorities. When considering proposals for undertaking research in local authorities. The new 'Research Ethics Routemap', to which the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Research Group signed up, makes it clear that where research proposals have received prior approval from University Research Ethics Committees, local Research Governance should not review ethics again. Thus having an input into the development of University Research Ethics review is important for SSRG. An Academy of Social Sciences event on research ethics is planned for the 11th May: more details will appear on the website and the event will be reported in a future Newsletter.

If members have views about the approach we should be taking with these initiatives, please contact:

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New Chair of Academy

The Council of the Academy of Social Sciences has announced the appointment of

Professor Cary Cooper, CBE, AcSS as its next Chair. Professor Cooper is Distinguished Professor of Organizational Psychology and Health at Lancaster University, is Chair of the think tank The Sunningdale Institute in the National School of Government and was lead scientist of the government's Foresight project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing.

Academy Event and AGM

AGMs of the Colleges of Learned Societies and Academicians will follow the Research Ethics conference, being held at 4pm on Monday 11th May 2009. Amnesty International Conference Centre, Old Street, London.