

Details of the British Academy's five new research projects

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Digitising the Mixed Economy of Welfare in Britain

Project Director, Dr Georgina Brewis (Institute of Education, University of London) with Professor Irene Hardill (Northumbria University) and Nick Ockenden (NCVO)

This collaborative, interdisciplinary project will make key documents available that will enhance understanding of the role of voluntary organisations in our mixed economy of welfare. Building on the work of the Campaign for Voluntary Sector Archives, with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations as a key partner, the project will identify and digitise core documents around the debate about the future of the voluntary social services, following the restructure of welfare provision in the 1940s.

Understanding Society: The UK Longitudinal Household Survey

Project Director, Professor Nick Buck (Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex)

Understanding Society is a household panel survey which follows individuals over time to create a core research resource to address key questions of central relevance to UK society. The sample consists of all members of the original sampled households, plus people who join with them, and it will collect survey data annually from each sample individual. The study has been running since 2008 and over the next five years it aims to extend substantially the number and range of researchers using the data, strengthen its use in cross national research and continue to contribute to key research and policy issues such as changing health-related behaviours or emerging diversity in UK society.

The Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog

Project Director, Professor Sandra Fredman, (University of Oxford)

The Oxford Human Rights Hub (ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk) provides a free online forum, in which academics, policy makers and practitioners can share cutting edge analyses of developments in human rights law across the world. It features short, incisive analyses of new developments in human rights law, written by more than 150 experts from 25 different countries. These will form the basis of major peer-reviewed publications, with a long term plan to produce a peer-reviewed e-journal which will focus exclusively on comparative human rights and be freely available online.

DALIP: Database of Acquired Language Impairment Profiles

Project Director, Dr Lotte Meteyard, (School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading)

This project aims to explore the nature and impact of language processing difficulties in adults with neurological impairments. It will establish a research panel of adults with aphasia, so they can participate in ongoing projects in the UK. It will also set up a web-resource, providing access to anonymised behavioural data collected from adults with aphasia. This data can then be used by scholars and researchers across disciplines for analysis and data-mining projects.

British Religion in Numbers

Project Directors, Dr Clive Field OBE, (University of Manchester and University of Birmingham); Professor David Voas, (Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex)

The British Religion in Numbers (BRIN) project is a free online centre for British data on religion, providing empirical evidence to underpin research and debate about the key issues and trends affecting religion in Britain, past and present. It has four central features: a catalogue of British statistics on religion; a set of statistical time series; thematic commentaries on religious practice, identity and belief; and an up-to-date review and analysis of newly released reports and statistics.