

Research Stories:

Opportunities and obstacles for social science

3rd ENQUIRE Postgraduate Conference, 20th & 21st July 2010

School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Nottingham

We are very excited to confirm our plenary speakers:

Professor Alan Bryman

Dr. Nirmal Puwar

Professor Tim May

Dr. Lisa McKenzie

Call for abstracts

As social scientists, we are regularly engaged in the process of deciding upon and justifying our research methods, a process that includes devising theoretically well-informed research and simultaneously requires an ability to be responsive to the wider research environment.

In planning our research, the choice of methods can be subject to a number of influences. External factors could include, amongst others:

- existing theory and traditional methodological boundaries
- current theoretical movements
- policy changes
- ethical clearance procedures
- project resources
- acceptability to project funders

Internal factors such as expertise, personal preference, perception of risk and emotion can also shape our decisions.

This conference aims to bring together postgraduate researchers and early career academics to reflect on our own research stories by exploring the complex interplay between the influences of theories, methodologies and institutional processes on research design and practice. The emphasis will be on how the opportunities and obstacles associated with research prevent and enable us to engage with the social and cultural problems that we are investigating.

Example themes for papers include, **but are not limited to:**

- Ethics
- The researcher's role in research
- Gendered methodologies
- Personal and professional risk in research
- Innovative research design
- Qualitative methods
- Theory in empirical research
- Researching race and ethnicity
- Role of funding organisations
- Computer software in data analysis
- Methodologies of globalisation
- Quantitative methods

A special edition of the Enquire journal will be based on conference papers.