Call for Contributions

Novel Methods in Social Science Research: A Community-Led Exchange

The South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP) invites proposals from academics of all levels, including ECRs and PGRs, and across all SWDTP partner institutions to contribute to our upcoming training and development series: Novel Methods in Social Science Research: A Community-Led Exchange.

Running online between February and May 2027, this series seeks to create spaces where researchers across the social sciences can showcase their research journeys, exchange ideas, discuss methodological challenges and meet colleagues with similar interests. The primary audience for this series will be PGRs, but we welcome participation from other academics as well.

What we are looking for

We are keen to receive proposals for online sessions that explore novel, emerging or under-utilised approaches to social science research through practical examples and applied discussion. Activities might focus on one or more of the following themes:

- Innovative applications/adaptations of established research methods, tools and software
- Using emerging tools and technologies (including but not limited to AI LLMs).
- Building meaningful partnerships with communities, practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders.
- Open research, transparency and reproducibility in social science research.
- Ensuring equitable participation and representation
- Negotiating researcher positionality

We particularly welcome activities aligned to the following methodological approaches:

- Participatory methodologies
- Creative methodologies
- Decolonial approaches
- Novel methods in qualitative research

- Novel methods in quantitative research
- Digital methods

Preferred session formats

Contributors are invited to propose online activities that fit one of the following:

Webinar (60-90 minutes) - A session introducing a method, analytical approach, case study, tool or emerging area of methodological practice.

Interactive Workshop **(**Upwards of 90 minutes) - A practical session where participants actively develop skills through demonstrations, exercises and collaborative activities.

Methods Clinic **(**60-120 minutes) - A facilitated discussion focused on addressing methodological questions, challenges or work-in-progress brought by participants.

Who can submit?

We welcome proposals from postgraduate researchers, postdoctoral researchers, and academic staff at any career stage, whether applying individually or as collaborative teams. We particularly encourage proposals that bring together contributors from different disciplines, institutions or career stages.

We welcome contributions from colleagues whether or not they are directly affiliated with the SWDTP.

The activity lead (person submitting the proposal) should be based at an SWDTP partner institution, but other collaborators do not have to be.

How SWDTP will support contributors

The SWDTP team will support selected contributors by:

- Including your activity in the SWDTP Higher Level Training programme catalogue.
- Promoting your session to PGRs and academics across and beyond all eight SWDTP partner institutions.
- Managing registrations and participant communications.

If you would like, the SWDTP can also help with:

- Setting up and hosting the online meeting.
- Providing other forms of ad-hoc support before, during and after the event.

Submitting a proposal and key dates

To propose an activity, please complete this Microsoft Form.

You will be asked to provide:

- An activity title
- Your proposed format and duration
- Your preferred activity date (approximate)
- An abstract for your activity, including its aims and a tentative outline

Activities will run between February and May 2027, on a date agreed between you and the SWDTP.

Please submit your proposal no later than Friday 29th January 2027, although we ask you to submit earlier if you would like to run the activity sooner. Please allow approximately six weeks between submitting your proposal and your desired activity date. The SWDTP will review your proposal and shortly get in touch with you.

Have an idea that does not quite align with this call?

The SWDTP is always exploring different options for PGR researcher development. If you have an activity idea that does not align neatly with this call but you believe will be particularly impactful among social science PGRs, please do reach out to our Collaboration Facilitator, Jonathan Chow (jonathan.chow@bristol.ac.uk), who will be happy to discuss ways to support its delivery.