

# From sowing the seed to reaping the rewards

**T**HE research process, from that first inkling of an idea to the first publication, can be a daunting one. Luckily, you are part of a large community of psychologists who can help, and you have a way of getting in touch with them all – *The Psychologist*. We hope this new section will become a first stop for all those with questions or answers about developing, funding, conducting and disseminating research.

As with all other sections of *The Psychologist*, this format depends on your contributions – read on to see how you can play a part in supporting and expanding the research network.

## Research interests

So you've had a brainwave. You think it is the most original idea ever, but has someone else got there first? Or you are



seeking a PhD supervisor – who should you approach? Perhaps you are just looking for people to discuss ideas or collaborate with. Where would you turn?

Over the last 18 months Lisa Morrison (BPS Scientific Officer) has been developing an online database of UK

academic and research interests, searchable via keyword. This is now available at [www.bps.org.uk/careers/research.cfm](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers/research.cfm).

The information in the database is published with the consent of the individual. Each entrant is responsible for providing and updating their own records, and usernames and passwords have been supplied to ensure entries are protected.

The database is by no means exhaustive, as not all academics and researchers wished to be included. But it does currently contain over 1500 entries, which should enable future postgraduate students, researchers and other interested parties to identify most of the key researchers in specific areas of psychology.

Alongside the database is the provision for new entries to be submitted online, although inclusion in the database itself will depend on independent verification of

## News from the ESRC

**T**HE Economic and Social Research Council has announced the investment of £13 million in four new research areas: Care Values and the Future of Welfare (CAVA); Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Responsibility (BRASS); Science in Society; and Cultures of Consumption. The investment includes new centres, groups and programmes that will be funded until 2004 or beyond.

The Research Group on CAVA will receive £1.3 million for research concerned with the fulfilment of different family responsibilities and how social policies can assist with dilemmas surrounding everyday roles such as childcare, employment, time with partners, and caring for relatives or friends. Six main strands of the

research range from small-scale intensive studies to cross-national research.

The Research Centre on BRASS will receive £3.1 million in ESRC funding and will examine the social, environmental and ethical impacts and implications of business.

£4.5 million is to be invested in the Science in Society Research Programme, with 40 projects to be funded under the first round in June 2002. Science will be considered in relation to governance, communication, the economy, and globalisation. The programme itself will run until 2006/7. Unusually, fast-track small grants (for up to £40,000) can be applied for under this programme.

The Cultures of Consumption Research

Programme will receive £5 million in funding (jointly from the ESRC and the Arts and Humanities Research Board), investigating the social, economic, technological and cultural significance of the consumer society. The six main areas of the programme are: knowledge and the consumer; consumption, power and citizenship; internet commerce and the media; local, metropolitan and transnational consumer cultures; domestic consumption and media; and alternative consumption.

The ESRC has also continued to look at ways in which the quantitative skill-base in the UK can be strengthened. The first of these initiatives was the new postgraduate training guidelines (published in 2001), together with the advent of the 3+1 studentship scheme. The

first studentships under this scheme will be awarded to commence in autumn 2002.

The second long-term development is a new Research Methods Programme, which will commence in 2003 with a budget of £4 million. The key aim of the programme is to develop both quantitative and qualitative methods within the context of substantive research.

The ESRC has also established a research network (the Teaching and Learning Research Programme), funding for new researchers under the Research Management Initiative, and 20 studentships for 2003 onwards for students to undertake secondary analysis of existing large-scale datasets.

□ For further information see [www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk).

the information provided. New entrants will then be issued with a username and password.

The database lists name, departmental and e-mail address, and current research/academic interests. Future developments will include links to the individual and departmental web pages. For more information on the database, contact Lisa Morrison.

If you have trawled this database, conducted all the usual literature reviews and still cannot find the information you are looking for, or you wish to contact others to set up a specialised collaborative network, we will now use this new section in *The Psychologist* to publish some of the requests that would in the past have appeared in the 'Information' section of the letters page. Send your requests to [psychologist@bps.org.uk](mailto:psychologist@bps.org.uk).

### Seeking funding

Once the idea has grown to the stage where you would like to apply for funding to see it through to fruition, these pages will provide lists of current grant schemes, FAQs on how to go about applying for them, and news from major funding bodies. You can contribute by sending us your tips for success.

### Work in progress

If you have been lucky enough to win funding for a research project within

psychology, perhaps you are looking to tell the wider psychological community about it – to seek advice or active collaboration, or just to share the good news! Now *The Psychologist* provides you with that gateway to over 34,000 members with our new 'work in progress' column.

We hope to print a selection of summaries of newly-funded research projects on these pages. If you have had a grant application approved within the last six months, contact Lisa Morrison stating:

- name of principal researcher;
- project title;
- funding body;
- amount and duration of award;
- summary of aims in under 30 words suitable for a wide-ranging, non-specialist audience; and
- contact details /website, etc. for further information.

We reserve the right to edit copy provided, and your entry may not be selected to appear because of pressure on space. But we hope that this will become a monthly feature, helping to support collaboration and dissemination between research psychologists.

### Spreading the word

You can use these pages to share tips on effective dissemination of research findings – which conferences or journals to target and how to get your message across, or

how to communicate with an audience 'outside' psychology.

We also hope that these pages will encourage researchers to think of *The Psychologist* at an early stage and keep us in mind for when the project is completed. We do not accept articles based on data that have not been accepted for publication following peer review, but we remain the only publication that you can use to disseminate your published findings to all members of the Society. Communicating outside your own speciality is part of your professional responsibility as psychologists – it is also a useful skill to practise, and one which our authors report often leads to new research contacts and funding.

□ *If you have any comments or questions about this page or would like to contribute, please contact Lisa Morrison (BPS Scientific Officer) on [lismor@bps.org.uk](mailto:lismor@bps.org.uk).*

## WEBLINKS

[www.bps.org.uk/careers/research.cfm](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers/research.cfm)  
[www.bbsrc.ac.uk](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk)  
[www.mrc.ac.uk](http://www.mrc.ac.uk)  
[www.welcome.ac.uk](http://www.welcome.ac.uk)  
[www.epsrc.ac.uk](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk)  
[www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)  
[www.leverhulme.org.uk](http://www.leverhulme.org.uk)  
[www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES listed by deadline

### 1 May 2002

ESRC/NERC. Interdisciplinary research studentships. Contact: Postgraduate Training Division. Tel: 01793 413000; e-mail: [ptd@esrc.ac.uk](mailto:ptd@esrc.ac.uk); website: [www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk)

ESRC. Research studentships (new 1+3 model for master's and PhD support). Contact: Postgraduate Training Division. Tel: 01793 413000; e-mail: [ptd@esrc.ac.uk](mailto:ptd@esrc.ac.uk); website: [www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk)

Research Into Ageing. Programme grants. Contact: Dr Susanne Sorensen. Tel: 020 7404 6878; website: [www.ageing.org](http://www.ageing.org)

### 10 May 2002

Alcohol Education and Research Council. Postgraduate research studentships. Contact: Leonard Hay. Tel: 020 7271 8379; e-mail: [len.hay@aerc.sec.demon.co.uk](mailto:len.hay@aerc.sec.demon.co.uk); website: [www.aerc.org.uk](http://www.aerc.org.uk)

### 15 May 2002

National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD). Distinguished investigator awards. Contact: Audra Moran. Tel: 00 1 516 829 0091; website: [www.whsource.com/narsad.html](http://www.whsource.com/narsad.html)

Leverhulme Trust. Visiting professorships. Contact: J Cater. Tel: 020 7822 6952; e-mail: [jcater@leverhulme.org.uk](mailto:jcater@leverhulme.org.uk); website: [www.leverhulme.org.uk](http://www.leverhulme.org.uk)

National Institutes for Health. Joint proposals on augmentative and alternative communication strategies for the treatment of acquired cognitive linguistic disorders. Contact: Extramural Outreach and Information Resources Office. Tel:

00 1 301 435 0714; fax: 00 1 301 480 8443; e-mail:

[asknih@odrockm1.od.nih.gov](mailto:asknih@odrockm1.od.nih.gov); website: [www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm](http://www.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm)

### 17 May 2002

Royal Society. Postdoctoral Fellowships Abroad. Tel: 020 7451 2539; e-mail: [info@royalsoc.ac.uk](mailto:info@royalsoc.ac.uk); website: [www.royalsoc.ac.uk](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk)

### 31 May 2002

Research Into Ageing. Research fellowships and PhD studentships. Contact: Dr Susanne Sorensen. Tel: 020 7404 6878; website: [www.ageing.org](http://www.ageing.org)

### 1 June 2002

NERC. Small Research Grants. Contact: Dr J Baker. Tel: 01793 411 564; website: [www.nerc.ac.uk](http://www.nerc.ac.uk)

### 10 June 2002

BBSRC. Research grants applications. Contact: Clair Watts or Avril Allman. Tel: 01793 414669/413027; e-mail: [clair.watts@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:clair.watts@bbsrc.ac.uk) or [avril.allman@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:avril.allman@bbsrc.ac.uk); website: [www.bbsrc.ac.uk](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk)

### open date schemes

See January issue.

**A searchable database containing full details of the various national and international funding opportunities for psychologists can be found on the Society's website at [www.bps.org.uk/careers/funding.cfm](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers/funding.cfm)**

*If you are a grant-awarding body, please e-mail Lisa Morrison ([lismor@bps.org.uk](mailto:lismor@bps.org.uk)) with details of your scheme for inclusion in this column.*