



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter November 2021

### Professor Martin Reeves Honorary President, LARIA

#### It's our Time!

The pandemic has arguably forced a decade of changing work practices and patterns into a single year. I don't need to rehearse this here, as how people are working remotely, hybrid (whatever that really means) and using digital tools that they never realised existed, is at the forefront of most of our professional and personal conversations.

So, this got me thinking, with my LARIA Honorary President hat on, as to what all of this has meant and will mean in the near future for our brilliant research, intelligence and insight communities across public services.

As I have written about previously to LARIA members, in many ways, the challenging period of the pandemic has provided our professional colleagues with the deserved opportunity to be metaphorically up on stage with the rest of the band rather than being destined forever backstage crew or in the wings. The power and importance of data and evidenced-based policy formulation and decision-making has become understood, particularly at a local level, if not always at a national level. The rapid retrieval of data, its analysis and interpretation and then presentation in clear, digital, infographic formats will be one of the enduring, positive memories of the past 18 months.

The industry, skill and application of the research community have all been

amplified during the most acutely challenging of times and the profession has not, in the main, been found wanting or lacking. LARIA should take credit for providing the learning and support networks and platforms for this working at a local level, which has led to rapid evaluation, strong impact and in my view, a more robust, flexible and resilient profession.

The systems for collecting, storing, analysing and presenting data and research are of course more sophisticated than ever. Working remotely and independent of location has created very few, if any major challenges, with respect to access to legacy systems and databases. Just reflect a moment on how the skill to share our screens and present, often with detailed information and insight, has radically improved as we have been navigating through this virtual world.

So, there are many reasons to be cheerful for the heightened profile of what we do and what we have advocated tirelessly for over many years. BUT, this is not all plain sailing. I have always said, including at a couple of keynote presentations I have given at the LARIA conferences over the years, that what we do must be thought of as a contact sport and not a virtual reality. I know it's a phrase I use too often, it is true 'tho and what concerns me is dislocation from the places that we want to help shape and the communities we are determined to enhance, through their eyes and not ours.

So whilst our roles can be remote and often very powerfully so, there is no substitute for immersion in our places, connection and re-connection with all our professional and political colleagues who also care deeply about our place, but above all the people that we serve. This simply cannot be done effectively and productively through anything else other than 3D. Screens and the impenetrability of the virtual world take away so much of that humanity and inhibits the creative and visceral connection which makes the real, lasting difference.

The key in my view therefore is to hold on to the positive outcomes arising from such a dreadfully awful pandemic and for us all to commit to re-connection. By doing this, we have more than a fighting chance to promote the value of evidence and insight being locked into our policy and practice on the ground as we re-imagine what more prosperous, fairer, more equal and greener places should look

like in the future.

Professor Martin Reeves

Honorary President, LARIA

Chief Executive, Coventry City Council

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### **Chair of LARIA in Scotland (LiS) - Erin Murray**

Hello LARIA ....

As [COP26](#) is coming to a close in Glasgow it will be interesting to see what agreements are reached, and perhaps more importantly what action is done. The use of research, data, information, analysis and knowledge are essential for understanding climate change and meet the goals set out for COP26, specifically:

**Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach:**

Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century.

**Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats:** The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects.

For LARIA members, many of us are in organisations that have 'declared a climate emergency' and developed a 'Climate Change Route Map'. These route maps are a starting point for organisations (mostly local authorities and partners) to achieving 'Net Zero'.

There are real opportunities for LARIA members to inform, influence and

perhaps lead climate change action because of our various skills and knowledge including:

- Working with data and information
- Analytical skills and statistics
- Qualitative and quantitative research skills including behavioural change
- Monitoring and evaluation skills
- Engagement and communication skills
- Knowledge and practice of working collaboratively

To address the 'climate emergency', as well as, reducing poverty, improving health and wellbeing, growing a sustainable economy and recovering from the impact of Covid-19 it is essential that people, organisations and communities work in collaboration because **together we can do more**.

The skills and knowledge of LARIA members and how they work collaboratively is featured in the [LARIA Webinar Series – Routes to recovery – using data to build back better](#). The webinars are on:

- Tuesday 30th November 2021: 14.00-15.30 GMT
- Thursday 2nd December 2021: 14.00-15.30 GMT
- Monday 6th December 2021: 11.00-12.30 GMT

Hope to see you at the webinars, they should be as interesting and insightful as previous webinars and conferences, which can be seen in the [member's area](#) of the LARIA website.

***Erin R. Murray***

LARIA Council Member: Chair of LARIA in Scotland.

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## LARIA Updates

### **Autumn Webinar Series – Registration Open**

#### **Routes to recovery – using data to build back better**

##### **Webinar 1**

**Tuesday 30th November 2021: 14.00-15.30 GMT**

Researching the impact of lockdown to inform Essex County Council's working families strategy

*Lucy Bush, Research Director, BritainThinks and Poppy Reece, Senior Researcher, Essex County Council*

Plotting the route to recovery for universities and academic institutions in Manchester: The role of data and partnership working

*Neil Bendel, Public Health Specialist (Health Intelligence), Kasia Noone, Programme Lead: Intelligence and Insight and Jack Crompton, Senior Information Analyst, Public Health Knowledge & Intelligence Team, Manchester City Council  
Matt Singleton and Loren Dean-Austin, Business Analysts, Strategic Planning Office, Manchester Metropolitan University*

[Register Here](#)

##### **Webinar 2**

**Thursday 2nd December 2021: 14.00-15.30 GMT**

The Recovery Opportunity: A Journey into Insight

*Yogita Popat, Head of Organisational Insight and Intelligence, Helen Wang, Insight*

*and Intelligence Officer, Barnet Council and Jay Sagger, Programme Manager:  
Data, Cyber Security & Smart Cities, The London Office of Technology and  
Innovation (LOTI)*

Driving Data and Analytics Forward at Richmond and Wandsworth Councils  
*Anna Humpleby, Data Projects Officer and Emily Heades, Intelligence Analyst,  
Richmond and Wandsworth Councils*

[Register Here](#)

### **Webinar 3**

#### **Routes to the successful roll-out of EV charging**

**Monday 6th December 2021: 11.00-12.30 GMT**

Understand the Electric Vehicle Market

*Dr James Debenham, Principal Consultant, Automotive, CACI*

Meeting the EV needs of Oxfordshire

*Oxfordshire County Council*

Using data to build the EV networks of the future

*Paul Langston, Associate Partner, Communities & Government, CACI*

[Register Here](#)

If your organisation is interested in sponsoring a webinar, please download our [sponsorship document](#) for more information.

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## **LARIA Membership Fees**

Thank you for your continued support over the last 12 months. We held a successful Webinar Series in the Spring, and look forward to our Autumn webinar series starting on 30th November. The webinars will again be free to attend for all Full Individual and Corporate Members.

In order to continue to support LARIA Membership, the Council have made the difficult decision to increase membership fees from 1st January 2022. In addition to continuing to provide our core offer to members including the newsletter, access to the knowledge hub and annual awards, this increase in fees will bring additional benefits including a wider range of online materials and more opportunities for virtual conferences and networking events.

We have also been hard at work behind the scenes upgrading the LARIA website and members area. As well as a new look the members area offers:

- A jobs and training board which allows you to post jobs and upcoming training, events and webinars that may be relevant to other members.
- An online events calendar which will allow members to book on to future LARIA webinars and events directly through the system.
- Networking opportunities with other LARIA members via the members directory. For corporate members, all contacts are listed under one entry.
- Ability to update your member profile.
- The lead contact for Corporate and Full Corporate Members can add an unlimited number of additional contacts under their organisation who will then all have access to the members area.
- Finally, as a reminder, the members' area also hosts past editions of the LARIA Newsletter, previous webinar recordings and conference presentations that you can access at any time.

Membership fees from 1st January 2022 will be:

- Associate – free
  - Full individual – £20
  - Corporate – £130
  - Full corporate – £150
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## Regional Update - East of England

### **Richard Potter - East of England Regional Representative**

A group of Local Authorities meet again to discuss the 2021 Census and share their experiences and plans. Topics included the replies made to the consultation on outputs, and what might help the quality assurance processes starting in 2021. This included the types of data which would help see if anything might be missing from what had been counted in the census, and where some adjustment would help.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th January, please email [Richard Potter](#) for more information.

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## News

**GeoPlace**

**Making better decisions for local communities**



GeoPlace has released a new video aimed at supporting the work of local address and street data Custodians. The video demonstrates that councils use location data to manage a whole range of services - by joining data together, councils will benefit from better insights and decision-making. [See the video.](#)

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**ESRC and ADR UK funded Research  
Fellows to work with No.10 Downing Street**



The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Administrative Data Research (ADR UK) are pleased to announce the first No.10 Data Science Fellowships.



Two Fellows, Dr. Robin Lovelace and Dr. Federico Botta, will spend a year collaborating with 10 Downing Street's data science team (10DS) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). They will co-design research and produce analysis using new and existing linked administrative datasets to inform policy.

The Fellows will also champion data science across central government and help strengthen important engagement between government and academia in the UK. Their work will use cutting edge methods to help inform decision making on the most pressing policy problems of our time and support wider knowledge exchange

with researchers on effective policy collaboration and data analysis. The fellows will work closely with 10DS and ONS' Data Science Campus to formulate research projects before starting their secondment on 1 January 2022.

**Alex Jones, Head of Evidence and Transformation (10DS) at 10 Downing**

**Street said:** “The UK’s universities are home to world-class data science skills and talent. We are seeing ever increasing demand for this expertise in government, and I’m delighted that through this scheme, No.10, as well as the ONS and other departments will be able to benefit from the specialist expertise of Federico and Robin.”

**Introducing the Fellows**

Robin Lovelace is an Associate Professor of Transport Data Science at the Leeds Institute for Transport Studies. He researches, develops, and teaches free, open and scalable techniques for working with data to support evidence-based policies. Robin has written many papers and books on transport planning, energy, geographic data analysis and modelling. His interests include geo-computation, transport modelling and geographic data analysis. Robin is a fellow of the Alan Turing Institute, the UK’s national institute for data science and artificial intelligence.

Federico Botta is a Lecturer in data science at the University of Exeter where he studies human behaviour at the individual and collective levels using novel data streams, such as those derived from the internet and our use of digital technologies. He uses tools from data science, network theory and behavioural and computational social sciences to analyse large datasets and investigate different aspects of human behaviour and urban environments. As well as serving as an academic editor for the academic journal PLOS ONE, he acts as a reviewer for several international journals. Federico is also a fellow of the Alan Turing Institute.

## **An opportunity with enormous potential**

**Dr Emma Gordon , Director of ADR UK said:** “This is a unique opportunity for these Fellows to use new and existing linked administrative and survey datasets, including those made available by the ADR UK programme, to deliver research that informs priority policy areas. Over the course of their fellowships their insights will inform pressing issues of our time such as the net zero climate target, our recovery from Covid-19 or the levelling up agenda.”

**Dr Arthur Turrell , Deputy Director at ONS’ Data Science Campus said:** “I am extremely excited about the creation of these prestigious data science fellowships, and that No. 10 and ONS—plus the many departments we work with—will be benefitting from Robin and Federico’s extensive expertise. The potential for data science to deliver for the public good is enormous and these fellowships provide another channel for methods from the frontier of that field to address the most pressing issues in public policy.”

**Dr James Canton, ESRC’s deputy director for public policy and engagement, said:** “These fellowships are an exciting opportunity to use data science to address some of the most pressing public policy challenges we face as a country. They are also an important new initiative to support ESRC’s ambition to build lasting and impactful collaborations between social science researchers and those making and supporting policy decisions. Effective use of data analysis is a key area for this, so we are delighted to be able to work with ADR UK to facilitate this exciting opportunity. Robin and Federico are the first of a new wave of fellows we are supporting to enable researchers to spend time working in policy environments across the UK and we look forward to working with them, 10DS, ONS and ADR-UK over the coming year.”

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## Jobs

### Wigan Council

#### Joint Intelligence Manager

Business & Corporate Services

Policy, Business Analysis, Change & Transformation

Salary: Grade 12, £45,859 - £49,427 per annum.

37 hours per week

Temporary for 3 years

Your role:

You will be passionate about data and the power that intelligence can play in driving improved outcomes for local residents. You will have a positive approach, with a strong track record of driving improvement services and partnership. You will also be a strategic thinker, with the ability to influence, challenge and motivate those in leadership roles.

For further information, please contact Gemma Bathurst-Whittle on 07867 353350

To view the details relating to this position, please see the [vacancy advert](#).

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## Webinars

NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC)

**NIHR** | National Institute  
for Health Research

## [Competition 4 information session on Thursday 25 November 2021, 13:30-15:00.](#)

This event is open to delegates nationally, and will be hosted online by the Research Design Service South-East.

The session has been designed to support researchers who are considering applying to the upcoming NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) call - Competition 4. [This call has an autism highlight notice.](#)

Speakers include: the RfSC Programme Team, RfSC committee chair, a previously-successful candidate, a representative from [Autistica](#) and a public involvement expert. The remit of the call, including the Autism highlight notice, requirements and the application process will be covered.

### **Registration**

[You can find more information and the registration details on Eventbrite.](#)

### **London companion event**

Researchers in London are invited to attend a local companion Q&A session from 15:15-16:15. [Please see the registration details.](#) We ask that you sign up to the main national event to be able to join this session.

### **Regional event options**

RDS regions may be offering companion 1:1 sessions. [You can find out more by contacting your local RDS directly.](#) If your region is not hosting 1:1s, you can of course contact them directly for free support with your RfSC application.

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## UK Data Service

### Crime Surveys User Conference 2021



**Are you interested in research on crime?**

**Do you want to know the latest developments in crime data from UK social surveys?**

The annual Crime Surveys User Conference, organised by the UK Data Service, will be held online on 2 December 2021 and is free to attend.

The programme contains a mixture of presentations from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Scottish Government, and from researchers who have used data from the UK crime surveys.

Follow the event on Twitter: [#UKDSCrime21](https://twitter.com/UKDSCrime21)

[More information and booking](#)

### Labour Force and Annual Population Surveys User Conference 2022

**Are you interested in research using the UK Labour Force and Annual Population Surveys ? Do you want to know the latest developments in the data?**

This annual conference, organised by the UK Data Service, is free to attend and will be held online on 27 January 2022.

The user conference brings data producers and data users together to share updates on the development of the surveys and to showcase research that is being

carried out using the data. The programme will contain a mixture of presentations from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and researchers who use data from the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS).

Follow the event on Twitter: [#LFSAPS22](https://twitter.com/LFSAPS22)

[More information and booking](#)

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### Day Centre Research Forum (DCRF)

The next Day Centre Research Forum (DCRF) will take place virtually (Zoom) on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 from 2-4pm**. Please find attached the flyer which we encourage you to share. If you tweet, please use #DCRForum @katitao @ARC\_S\_L.



We are delighted to have the following speakers:

- Caroline Bucklee and Angela Denvir (Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland) will be talking about **providing day centre services for mixed groups of adults** (adults and older people with mental health issues, physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities). They will be discussing how services are organised and managed to promote inclusion for all service users, and will explore some of the benefits and challenges of delivering services for mixed cohorts of adults.
- Robert Hagan (Manchester Metropolitan University) will be speaking about **reasons for, and responses to, time-limited day centre programming**. In line with reablement principles, one health and social care trust in

Northern Ireland adopted time-limited services. He will explore both the service provider's rationale for this, and the impact on and view of participants.

This event is free and open to all, however, booking is essential in order to be sent the Zoom link during the week before the event. Please book on [Eventbrite](#). Please only book if you know you can attend as there is a capacity limit. If, at any time, you become aware that you will no longer be able to attend, please cancel your place (or let me know and I can cancel for you) as we have a capacity limit and there are usually people on the waiting list.

Please see [further information](#) about previous DCRF events and [our NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South London Social Care work](#).

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### **Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?**

**Laria**

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

Your LARIA Corporate Membership entitles you to submit content to the monthly LARIA newsletter, if you have any research, events, job adverts, resources or news which you would us to include please send it to [admin@laria.org.uk](mailto:admin@laria.org.uk).

The next newsletter submission deadline is **Monday 13th December**

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