



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter May 2025

LARIA Updates

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Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

Hi everyone

LARIA held its annual general meeting (AGM) in the middle of May.

I know what you might be thinking! Whilst AGMs might not be for everyone, don't scroll on just yet. Indulge me for two minutes.

LARIA has always existed to keep you connected with what is going on in the sector, promote good practice, and enable networking and ideas sharing. We're not a big organisation. Indeed, organisation could be seen as a bit too grand.

LARIA is led by a group of volunteers who also have roles just like yours. We call that group LARIA Council. All LARIA Council members run LARIA alongside our day jobs, including members from local authorities, academia, organisations representing local government and independent researchers.

We all just want to make a difference to the sector that we work in and we're passionate about. I get a lot out of my role with LARIA professionally and personally.

So, coming back to the AGM. We hold an AGM every year to reflect on what we've done – what has gone well, opportunities to improve and where we want to take LARIA in the coming year and

beyond. We have an AGM as part of our constitution and to hold us to account.

But, ultimately, we're there for our members. Run by you, for you. And at our AGM this year we thought it timely to now ask for your support.

So 'what can I do, Mike?' I (hopefully) hear you ask.

LARIA always welcomes your input. You can do that informally by emailing admin@laria.org.uk. You can support your local regional lead, as they get up and running with events and meetings close to you. And you can take part in national our events and webinars to showcase your work, as some of you do. My thanks to all those that do, as it is always fascinating to hear about your work.

But, where you can make the most difference by taking an active role in LARIA itself.

You could join our events group, where members plan the themes and content for all our national events. It is a great way to shape what you think is important for your peers to hear about, and it's very interesting to see the variety of work that we receive when we do our calls for presentations.

Or – or maybe 'and' – you can join LARIA Council. As a council member, you will have a direct input into the strategic direction of LARIA, the overall offer to our LARIA members and the support, partnerships and benefits that LARIA provides.

Your ideas are vital and your input into LARIA's events and council are key to keeping LARIA fresh and relevant. It can also look good on your CV!

And to top it all, we're a really nice bunch of people, so you'll be made very welcome. All we ask it a couple of hours of your time every few months.

If you'd like to discuss any of this in a bit more detail, please email me at mike.walker@lancashire.gov.uk.

All the best

Mike

News

Lifecycle data management in practice: Rochdale's integrated approach to property and street records

This case study explores how Rochdale Borough Council has significantly benefited from having processes in place to record the life stage of all streets and properties in the authority. Where the property is in planning or demolition stage or somewhere in between, being able to record real world change aids the delivery of services and has significant benefits.



Read more at [Life cycle data management in practice: Rochdale's integrated approach to property and street records](#)

PhD Scholarship - Tackling Inequalities in the UK University of Manchester 2025-2028

www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/social-statistics/



The University of Manchester

We are pleased to invite applications for a 3.5 year University of Manchester PhD studentship in Social Statistics. The PhD will be focused on one of the following UK policy areas under the new Labour Government: **Ageing, Civic Engagement, Education, Family Life and Communities, Governance and Policy Making, Housing, Lifelong Health, Migration and Population Change, Public Attitudes, Social Mobility, Work and Employment.**

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and qualified applicant to conduct social research using quantitative data and mixed methods research. The successful applicant will be working in a vibrant community of PhD students in Social Statistics, Data Analytics, Biosocial Research and Sociology. They will be able to join in the research activities of the Department, such as seminars and research away-days. They will have an opportunity to teach and undertake professional development training during the PhD.

It is expected that the PhD student will prepare a thesis as a collection of research articles according to the postgraduate research policies of the University of Manchester. During the period in Manchester, the studentship will cover tuition fees, an annual maintenance stipend (£20,780 for 2025) and will be able to claim certain expenses from the Research Training Support Grant.

Candidates with a Master's degree (First or Upper Second Class in the UK) are invited to send applications at:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/how-to-apply/>

Choose - Research Programmes: PhD Social Statistics

Minimum entry requirements: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/programmes/list/02932/phd-social-statistics/#course-profile>

Deadline: **30th May 2025.**

With your application, please upload: (1) a 1,500-word proposal outlining your research idea; (2) CV; (3) A 500-word statement outlining your motivation and qualifications, indicating why you would like to undertake this studentship and explaining how your experience and skills link to the research areas outlined above; (4) your academic transcripts and (5) two references.

For informal enquires please contact K. Purdam (Kingsley.Purdam@manchester.ac.uk).

For enquiries about the application process, please contact the School of Social Sciences PGR

Admissions: hums.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk

New HSUG Community on Future NHS /AnalystX

From 1st May 2025 a new Health Statistics User Group community is available on AnalystX within the FutureNHS platform.

HSUG has been exploring aspects of health and care statistics for over 30 years. In recent years the Group's activities have mainly focussed on organising webinars to explore different topics in health and care statistics.

Having a HSUG community within AnalystX provides a great opportunity to reach a wider group of analysts within FutureNHS and to introduce our current members to the platform.

It will also offer easier access to an extensive range of historic material from previous webinars and other events, consultations and discussions, much of which is still relevant for current discussions. This material is being loaded during May 2025 and it is expected that this part of the HSUG Community will be available from June 2025.

If you are not familiar with the FutureNHS Platform, then you can get a feel for its content at <https://future.nhs.uk/FNHSforyou>. You can see some of the AnalystX communities at <https://communities.analystx.uk/>

This platform was originally set up for analysts within the NHS but other health and care analysts are now able to join this community. To join the HSUG Community on AnalystX please email info@hsug.org.uk including:

Your name

Your email address

Your job title and organisation

Your main area(s) of interest (optional)

You will then receive details to allow you to join the platform.

If you have difficulty in accessing the site, then please contact Richard Willmer at webmaster@hsug.org.uk

Also, if you have any general queries, or suggestions about this Community on AnalystX or about the activities of the Health Statistics User Group in general, please feel free to email info@hsug.org.uk

Recognising the contribution of older people's day centres to prevention agendas

We asked older people's day centre stakeholders and others working in health and social care about their views on day centres' preventive function. Our findings, published in the [International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Wellbeing](#), highlight how work undertaken in day centres falls under the radar as a systemic contribution to the prevention agenda within health and social care. Read a summary of the article on [the our blog](#).

Samsi, K. & Orellana, K. (2025) Older people's day centres' preventive work: views of day centre providers and their stakeholders. International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-Being, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/17482631.2025.2500852>

Find out more about the [research evidence about day centres for older people](#).

This work is part of [NIHR ARC South London: Social Care Theme](#), the current focus of which is on [Strengths-based approaches in social care and community services](#).

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Workshop: Enhancing evidence use in Scottish local policymaking

A peer-learning and networking workshop for public, third and higher education sector professionals and researchers engaged in improving the use of evidence in local government



[Register here](#)

We are pleased to share that the [Local Area Research + Intelligence Association \(LARIA\) Scotland](#) is collaborating with [SPRE](#), the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) Local](#), and the [Improvement Service](#), to host a peer-learning and networking workshop:

Enhancing evidence use in Scottish Local Policymaking **10:00-12:30 on Wednesday 11th June**

This highly interactive event is designed to strengthen learning and connections across sectors and between professionals and researchers working to improve evidence use in Scottish local policymaking.

This includes officers, managers, analysts, researchers, and knowledge exchange and engagement professionals from the public, third and higher education sectors.

We will hear from a panel of experts sharing insights and examples of how evidence can support improved outcomes on some of the big, interconnected issues facing local government, including:

- Boosting productivity in city regions
- Public Service Reform
- Addressing racial bias and discrimination in AI and data

Further details are available via registration.



David Boyle
*Glasgow City Region
Intelligence Hub*



Dr Emma Miller
*Independent Consultant
& University of Strathclyde*



Dr Mark Wong
University of Glasgow



Gerard McCormack
Improvement Service

The UK Data Service is running four free user conferences in June/July 2025.



UK Census User Conference 2025

From data to decisions: The role of the [2021 Census](#) in shaping research agendas

12 June, 12:00 – 13 June, 14:00

The UK Census User Conference, organised by the UK Data Service, is free to attend and will take place in central Manchester and online.

The keynote speaker will be Jeni Tennison, Founder and Executive Director of Connected by data, who will speak on the importance of user and public voice in official statistics.

Attendees will hear updates from the UK Data Service Census Team and the Census Agencies. There will also be presentations by researchers who have conducted analyses using UK census data.

The conference will provide users and data creators with an opportunity to meet and discuss developments in census research.

[View the programme and abstracts, and book a place](#)

Labour Force and Annual Population Surveys User Conference 2025

19 June 2025, 09:30 – 16:30

UCL, London

This free conference, organised by the UK Data Service in collaboration with the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS), will be held at University College London. The conference will provide a good opportunity for users to discuss their work in a supportive environment and to reach policy-oriented audiences. The programme will include a mixture of presentations from ONS and researchers who have used data from the UK LFS or APS.

Our keynote speaker will be Heejung Chung, Director of the King's Global Institute for Women's Leadership and Professor of Work and Employment, Kings College London.

[View the draft programme and book a place](#)

Health Studies User Conference 2025

23 June 2025 09:30 - 16:30

Online

Organised by the UK Data Service in collaboration with with [UCL](#) and the [National Centre for Social](#)

[Research](#), this free conference brings data producers and data users together to share updates on the development of key health-related surveys such as the Health Survey for England, English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, National Study of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey, Scottish Health Survey and national cohort studies. It will also showcase research that is being carried out using the data for a wide range of topics including mental health, obesity, ethnicity, health in coastal areas, inequalities, synthetic data and more.

The conference will feature a presentation on the future of population health surveys, including the Health Survey for England, from the [Department of Health and Social Care](#) and the [Office for National Statistics](#).

We are delighted that our keynote on the use of the Health Survey for England in policy-making and monitoring, will be given by [Oyinlola Oyeboode](#), Professor of Public Health and Lead of the Centre for Public Health and Policy, Queen Mary University of London.

[View the draft programme and book a place](#)

Family Finance Surveys User Conference 2025

9 July 2025, 09:30 – 16:30

Friends House, London, and online

This free annual conference, organised by the UK Data Service in collaboration with the [Department for Work and Pensions](#) (DWP) and the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS), provides a forum for researchers to present their work and engage with data producers and fellow researchers.

The keynote speaker is [Dr Jonathan Cribb](#), Associate Director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

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. Surveys include the [Family Resources Survey](#), [Living costs and food survey](#) and [Wealth and Assets Survey](#).

[View the programme and book a place](#)

Margaret Butterworth Care Home Forum, 11 June 2.00-3.30

The Margaret Butterworth Care Home Forum is a forum for discussion and learning focused on dementia care in communal settings such as nursing homes, care homes and extra care housing. This month's webinar, we will have three speakers discussing their care home research and projects:



Dr Megan Davies, NIHR DEM-COMM Fellow, University of East Anglia, and **Marlene Kelly**, registered care home manager and director of Auburnmere Care Home, will talk about 'Creative connections between people living in care homes, activity staff and researchers: the CHAPPI project'. During the CHAPPI project, 3 independent research projects were brought together, care home staff (primarily working in activity teams), lived experience experts and care home residents to co-produce public involvement activities and develop 'how to' research guides.

Sandra Prew, National Residential Settings Lead & ENRICH National Coordinator, will speak about ENRICH, what it is they do and how it can support care homes to take their first steps in supporting research.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please register on [Eventbrite](#) and we will send you the joining link closer to the date.

Jobs

Job vacancies at Warwickshire County Council

[Business Intelligence Analyst - Strategic Research](#)

[Business Intelligence Analyst - Community Safety](#)



Closing date: 29th May 2025

To submit a job advert to appear in the newsletter or on the LARIA website, please download and complete this [form](#) (Full Corporate and Corporate Members only). You can also post Job Vacancies on the Jobs Board in the LARIA [Members' Area](#).

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 19th June](#).

Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?



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.

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 19th June](#).

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