

Academy of Social Sciences

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2019**



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## Imprint

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[www.acss.org.uk](http://www.acss.org.uk) | [www.campaignforsocialscience.org.uk](http://www.campaignforsocialscience.org.uk)

# Introduction

**2**019 was a year of continuity and change for the Academy. We successfully influenced aspects of public policy, and informed decisionmakers on the importance of the social sciences to a number of government initiatives. We also started new work to illustrate the many and varied ways in which the social sciences underpin and support the business sector.

Our learned society community was strongly engaged in collaborative work on open access publishing. The well attended public lectures and President's Luncheon offered good networking opportunities and discussed substantive issues in the social sciences. We welcomed new Campaign supporters and member learned societies. Following elections to our Fellowship during the year there are now 1330 Fellows at the Academy.

2019 also brought change with new senior trustees taking on the positions of Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and Chair of Campaign. Dr Rita Gardner CBE FAcSS started in post as Chief Executive. We warmly thank Sir Ivor Crewe FAcSS who completed his term as President and Stephen Anderson FAcSS who retired as Executive Director for their contributions. We also extend thanks to other trustees who retired having completed their terms of office.

With these changes came the decision to review and refresh the Academy's strategy in consultation with committees, Fellows, staff and other stakeholders. Led by senior trustees and the Chief Executive, and reporting to the Council, the strategy aims to establish a new three-year plan that will deliver the Academy's objective of 'promoting social sciences in the UK for public benefit'.

On target for completion by summer 2020, it has recently been overtaken - temporarily - by the need to manage the implications of the coronavirus outbreak for the Academy and support the social science community through this difficult period. Without a doubt this represents the greatest challenge to our existence in recent years, and we are actively implementing measures to mitigate that risk. The pandemic also presents real oppor-



tunities to showcase the breadth and depth of the contributions from the social sciences to understanding, mitigating and managing the economic and social consequences of the pandemic, now and into the future.

2019 brought other highlights and challenges. Among the former were the number of Fellows who received national honours. Among the latter was the University of Liverpool's decision to close its London campus, and with that the need for the Academy secretariat to find alternative premises or ways of working.

2019 was an eventful year, and 2020 shows every indication of continuing the trend. I warmly thank our staff, CEO and trustees, and Fellows, for their ongoing support of the Academy during the year.

**Professor Roger Goodman FAcSS**  
**President**

# The Academy

**T**he Academy of Social Sciences is the national academy of academics, learned societies and practitioners in the social sciences. Our charitable objective is to promote the social sciences in the UK for public benefit. This report summarises how we fulfilled that remit in 2019, including the work of the Academy's Campaign for Social Science.

Our membership at 31 December 2019, comprised 1330 Academy Fellows from across the social sciences, 46 learned and professional societies, and a number of affiliates. Collectively these organisations comprise a community of some 90,000 social scientists: scholars, practitioners and students.

We welcomed three new member learned societies in 2019 – the Royal Economic Society, the Society of Professional Economists, and the UK Association for Language Testing and Assessment. The Royal Anthropological Institute joined in early 2020.

**The Academy's charitable objective is to promote the social sciences in the UK for public benefit**

**ACADEMY**  
*of* **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

# The Campaign

The Campaign for Social Science was established in 2011 as the public face of our advocacy work. The focus of the Campaign's advocacy in 2019 was increasing the recognition of the vital role of social sciences in education, research, the economy and society. In doing so it drew heavily, as in previous years, on the Academy's policy work, as set out on the following pages.

In November 2019 the Campaign welcomed a new Chair - Professor Bobby Duffy FAcSS, Director of the Policy Institute at King's College London. His appointment followed the departure overseas of former Chair, Professor Shamit Saggar CBE FAcSS, who took on a new role at the University of Western Australia in Perth.

The Strategic Leadership Forum, attended by senior social scientists, met three times in 2019. The forum is a space to engage with policy issues, receive expert policy briefings, and hear from colleagues in the sector, external decision makers, influencers and thought leaders. The meetings addressed topics such as policy engagement by UK universities and learned bodies; the civic role of universities; and challenges and opportunities for social sciences in possible future scenarios of the UK's R&D spending.

Expert speakers included Lord Kerslake FAcSS, Chair of the UPP Foundation Civic University Commission, and Ben Johnson, Policy Adviser to the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, among others. The forum is an entitlement for gold and silver level Campaign supporters.

The Campaign's Annual Lecture was delivered by renowned journalist, Mark Easton, the BBC's Home Editor. His lecture: 'Modern Britain's identity crisis?' was the Campaign's 7th public lecture. (See 'Engaging People' section for detail.)

Following the consolidation of the Campaign's fundraising strategy in 2017 with the establishment of the supporter scheme, efforts were made to engage new supporters. 2019 was the Campaign's most successful year in growing its network. Both long-standing and new supporters are warmly thanked for their sponsorship of the Campaign and the support of our advocacy work. By year end, there were five gold level, 15 silver level and nine bronze level supporters from universities and learned societies. We extend thanks to SAGE Publishing for its ongoing support in 2019 as the Campaign's lead commercial sponsor.





Previous page: Mark Easton, BBC Home Editor delivering the Campaign for Social Science 7th Annual Lecture. Above: Campaign for Social Science Campaigners MBE FAcSS, Professor Rick Delbridge FAcSS, Jon Deer FAcSS, Kelly Beaver, Rachel Neaman, Gabi Lombardo (Visiting Presenter), Professor James Ziyad Marar FAcSS, Dr Rita Gardner CBE FAcSS, Professor John Goddard OBE FAcSS

## Campaign supporters





Campaign Board members (left to right) Sharon Withnes FAcSS, Professor Bobby Duffy FAcSS,

# Shaping Policy

In 2019, our policy work focused on four key areas:

- Post Brexit immigration regime
- The role of social sciences in business and the Industrial Strategy
- Skills and safeguarding the social sciences
- Higher education policy: open access publishing

## Post-Brexit immigration regime

In 2019 we were concerned with the implications of the post-Brexit immigration regime, particularly as it concerned the social sciences within universities. We published a number of Campaign for Social Science reports and briefing papers.

[A World of Talent II](#) was published as a follow up to our 2018 publication *A World of Talent*. Both reports use higher education data to show that international-origin staff in social science departments are important in many social science disciplines and that there is more variation between social science disciplines than between social science and ‘STEM’ subjects. This is true across all regions of the UK. (See more in ‘Publications’.)

We published a response to government plans for new Fast Track for Tier I (Exceptional Talent) visas, which are restricted to STEM subjects. We welcomed the government’s decision about international student visas and were active in the UKRI-led Immigration (Global Talent) network. The Academy was the only social science body to be included in this STEM-led group.

Finally, the Campaign for Social Science put forward its own policy proposals for an immigration system for UK higher education institutions. We are concerned that government continues with STEM-only exceptions to visa rules, while the need for universities as a whole (and the social sciences) is for a more comprehensive and simpler approach. Key to this was our proposal that universities should be treated as ‘trusted sponsors’ with a streamlined system across all disciplines.

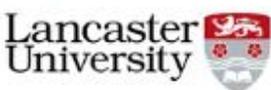
We were one of the few to advocate this approach openly and were pleased to see this element included in the government’s proposals in 2020. All these reports gained media coverage in the *Guardian* or *Research Fortnight*.



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Studies

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**We engaged with a variety of stakeholders to promote the health and well-being of the social sciences and to exemplify where the social sciences can illuminate challenges facing the UK**

## **Recognising the vital role of social sciences in business and Industrial Strategy**

Following up our responses over the past two years to the Industrial Strategy White Paper and our liaison with the ESRC, in June 2019 we published [The Importance of the Social Sciences for the Industrial Strategy](#). This was a set of case studies demonstrating the many ways that the social sciences have contributed to improvements in productivity and a host of other issues critical to the UK's industrial strategy. The case studies highlight how social innovation and diffusion are essential ingredients for success, in addition to technological innovation.

In late Summer 2019 we began innovative work to explore and demonstrate the ways in which social sciences knowledge and skills are used and valued across a range of business sectors. From manufacturing to insurance, and planning consultancy to tech, this work has focused on case-study interviews with senior directors in companies that range from SMEs to global business leaders. We plan to publish the study in summer 2020.

## **Skills and safeguarding social sciences**

We continue to advocate on the importance of number and data skills for UK social sciences, drawing on evidence presented in our publication *Positive Prospects* (2018). We made presentations as part of the ESRC's autumn Festival of Social Science and engaged with the Royal Society's developing project on a 'broad and balanced' post-16 curriculum.

As part of the skills agenda we are collaborating with our member learned societies, especially on post-16 qualifications. The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) has demonstrated what can be done if the issue is taken seriously in secondary schools.

## **Championing social sciences contributions to wider public discussion**

In 2019 we continued to encourage the social sciences community to contribute to wider public discussions on a range of issues.

Linked to this, we were pleased to see the Academy's submission to the UK House of Commons Science and Technology Committee Inquiry into the Balance and Effectiveness of Research and Innovation Spending, cited in the final report.

We argued that the social sciences are essential to addressing many of the problems that would need to be solved in raising UK R&D spending, and that this must involve consideration of how different regions and economic sectors performed



We engaged in discussions with a variety of stakeholders to promote the health and well-being of the social sciences, or to exemplify where the social sciences can illuminate challenges facing the UK. In 2019, we contributed to ESRC's consultation on social science leadership; the independent review of the Teaching Excellence Framework; a project by Universities UK and the Information Commissioner's Office on policy guidance to universities for data sharing and privacy; and the monitoring of data access under the new Administrative Data Research Partnership.

## Higher education policy: open access publishing

Five years on from the Finch Review in 2012/13, CoAlitionS (an EU collective of national research funders) set their sights on a revised agenda for open access publishing of research funded by governments and other major funders across Europe. In 2019, we responded to three consultations on this issue and participated in several discussions with UKRI. This work was done collectively with our member learned societies and continues in 2020 following the publication of UKRI's Open Access Review consultation earlier this year. (See more in section on 'Member Learned Societies'.)



The monthly *Policy Monitor* was produced as a regular update about Parliamentary and other enquiries for which social science evidence would be of public benefit. This was circulated to learned society members, the Campaign's Strategic Leadership Forum, and to all our Fellows. It is available to all on our [website](#).



**ACADEMY**  
*of* **SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
| The National Academy of  
Academics, Learned Societies and  
Practitioners in the Social Sciences



# Engaging People

## Women in social science conference

In April 2019, we held a successful conference on Women in Social Science in partnership with NatCen and supported by ESRC and Palgrave Macmillan. The event focused on the challenges women in higher education have faced over the past 50 years and celebrated their achievements.

The conference was chaired by Professor Sue Scott FAcSS and featured 'senior' and 'early career' academics. Speakers shed light on the challenges in their own disciplines and considered the impacts of feminism, key achievements, and a look ahead on what remains to be done to support women in academia.

## Academy and Campaign for Social Science annual lectures

The annual lectures aim to demonstrate the value of social science to public audiences, to widen our reach and to reinforce the profile of the Academy and the Campaign.

In June 2019, Professor Matthew Goodwin, Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent, delivered the Academy's Annual Lecture to a full auditorium of 100 leading academic and practitioner social scientists, policymakers and the public.

His talk: *Brexit and Populism: Under the Microscope – What We Know So Far*, presented a range of evidence about the causes and consequences for electoral politics of the rise of 'national populism' in the UK. A video of the lecture is available on the Academy's website.

Owing to General Election purdah the Campaign for Social Science's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lecture co-hosted with SAGE Publishing took place in February 2020. The lecture: *Modern Britain's identity crisis?* was delivered to a large audience by Mark Easton, the BBC's Home Editor.

Drawing on a YouGov survey from 2018 involving more than 20,000 individuals, and recent IPSOS Mori data, Mark spoke about identity in the context of the Brexit referendum. He highlighted the role of social science in helping to identify and understand the core beliefs associated with people's voting preferences, and to illuminate what 'healing' a divided nation could look like.

Left: AcSS Women in Social Science Conference (left to right) Dr Lingqing Jiang, Dame Jill Matheson, Professor Ann Phoenix, Dr Katherine Twamley, Professor Sonia Bhalotra, Dr Rukmen Sehmi



Above: Professor Matthew Goodwin, Professor of Politics and International Relations (University of Kent) delivering the Academy's Annual Lecture.

## International Advisory Group

The Academy's International Advisory Group (IAG), chaired by Professor Linda Hantrais FAcSS, has continued to work with UK and international bodies in organising events, publications and consultations on the international dimension of social science research and policy.

Members of the IAG collaborated as guest editors, authors and reviewers, together with other Fellows, in preparing a themed issue of *Contemporary Social Science* on evidence-based policy in a digital society. As with three earlier issues of the journal guest edited by IAG members, the call for papers was developed in a seminar funded by Taylor & Francis/Routledge.

IAG members held an interdisciplinary workshop on a related theme in August 2019 ahead of an edited book for publication by Routledge. Participants examined how policies drive inventive forces and create techno-industrial opportunities in diverse social and economic conditions. The workshop was convened by Professor Ulrich Hilpert FAcSS, and was funded by Hans-Böckler-Foundation. Dr Ruth Katturmuri FAcSS hosted the event at the LSE India Observatory.

In cooperation with other Academy Fellows, IAG member Dr Ron Iphofen FAcSS convened two workshops in November. The London event focused on qualitative research ethics, and the Bristol event in conjunction with the Schumacher Institute, focused on ethical issues in economics and finance research. The workshops were part of an event series in the multi-national project, PRO-RES, in which the Academy is a partner. PRO-RES is funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. (See next section on 'Projects'.)

# Partnered Projects

## PRO-RES (Promoting Ethics and Integrity in Non-medical Research)

The Academy is a partner in the consortium of institutions responsible for the EU-funded, PRO-RES project, led by the European Science Foundation. The Academy's contribution led and delivered by a number of our Fellows, focuses on the development of a framework for ethical considerations in the pursuit of social science research. 2019 was the second successful year of this three-year programme. It is intended that project outcomes will benefit social science research and its communities in the UK, across Europe and globally.

**These projects promote and benefit the social sciences in the UK and globally**

## SPRE (Scottish Policy and Research Exchange)

The Academy, through its Campaign, continues to support this project in Scotland, which commenced officially in 2019 with the appointment of the project director, Nick Bibby. SPRE aims to help researchers and policymakers in Scotland work with each other more effectively. The Academy is working with other partners, including the Scottish Parliament and Government, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Audit Scotland and a growing number of Scottish HEIs to consolidate the success of SPRE in Scotland, and the project had a good initial year.

SPRE 

[ABOUT US](#)

[BLOG](#)

[CURRENT INQUIRIES](#)

[CONTACT](#)



### Helping officials reach out to academics

#### Expanding the Evidence Base

SPRE helps officials in the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament, Audit Scotland and all of Scotland's local authorities pose current policy questions to academics. In doing so, it aims expand their access to evidence and increase the range of expert voices.



**CAMPAIGN**  
for **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

# **A World of Talent II:**

**International Social Science Staff  
across the Higher Education Workforce**



**By Dr Ashley Lenihan, Senior Policy Advisor  
and Sharon Witherspoon, Head of Policy**

**Campaign for Social Science**

# Publications

In 2019 our PR profile continued to grow, with 16 articles published across national and sector press featuring the Academy's work and activities. In 2019 Academy and Campaign Twitter profiles steadily expanded. Across both channels combined, we gained 873 followers in 12 months and achieved a combined average Twitter reach of approximately 60,529 impressions per month.

In addition to *A World of Talent II*, which built on the findings of the first report, *A World of Talent (2018)*, we published a number of briefings and reports in relation to our work in advising and influencing policy. These were made freely available online and in limited numbers in print.

The Academy's print and online journal: *Contemporary Social Science*, continued an active programme of publishing in 2019. The journal reflects the Academy's inter-disciplinary nature across the social sciences, by publishing themed issues with specialist guest editors (see next page). Recent issues will be published as books in the *Contemporary Issues in Social Science* series.

We entered a new phase of editorial leadership and publisher engagement in 2019. Professor David Canter FAcSS stepped down as editor after six years and was replaced by Professor Jacqueline Barnes FAcSS and Professor John Connolly as co-editors in July 2019.

Following a re-tender process, we agreed a new contract with Taylor & Francis to publish the journal for a minimum of seven years from 1st January 2020. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with T&F.

2019 saw the publication of the journal's 14<sup>th</sup> annual volume. Around 100 papers were submitted for publication and we now have issues in hand to cover the next two years. In addition to the established aim of publishing four themed issues per year, we agreed plans to publish a fifth, open access issue, in late 2020 as part of a first-year pilot, followed by a review.

The journal saw more than 94,000 article downloads in 2019 – a 31% increase on the previous year. Promotion of the journal via Twitter has increased considerably and will continue.

The Academy's Publications Committee, chaired by Professor Malcolm Johnson FAcSS worked closely with the editors and publisher to increase the journal's reach and impact. That effort has yielded positive

## Key headline findings from our 2019 report *A World of Talent II: International social science staff across the higher education workforce*

- There is no clear STEM/non-STEM divide when it comes to levels of international-origin staff in UK universities
- In 2016/17 37% of all social science staff on open-ended academic contracts in Russell Group universities were of international origin, while it was 32% in STEM
- In 2016/17 38% of social science staff on atypical academic contracts in Russell Group universities were of international origin, while it was only 34% for STEM
- The proposed £30,000 annual pay threshold may prove challenging for academics and researchers on atypical contracts and fixed term contracts, and these often play important roles in teaching and research in UK social sciences



Contemporary Social Science Volume 14 Issue 2 featured 12 thought-provoking articles written by leading social scientists exploring some of the most important issues and debates relating to the UK's Brexit strategy and its implications for British society, the economy and beyond.

results and its ranking is rising. A key priority remains to obtain a listing in the Social Sciences Citation Index.

All volumes of the Contemporary Social Science journal are available in print and online. In 2019 four themed issues were published. These were:

- Issue 1  
***Election Campaigns and Political Communication***: Guest edited by Guillermo Lopez-Garcia and Jose M. Pavia
- Issue 2  
***Brexit and Beyond***: Guest edited by David Bailey and Leslie Budd
- Issue 3-4  
***Biographical Research - Challenges and Creativity***: Guest edited by Anna Caetano and Magda Nico

## Member Learned Societies in early 2020

Association for Project Management

Association for Psychosocial Studies

Association of Law Teachers

Association of Social Anthropologists

Behavioural Science in Public Health

Network

British Academy of Management

British Accounting and Finance Association

British Association for Applied Linguistics

British Association for International and

Comparative Education

British Association for Slavonic and East  
European Studies

British Educational Leadership, Management  
and Administration Society

British Educational Research Association

British International Studies Association

British Psychological Society

British Society for Gerontology

British Society for Population Studies

British Society of Criminology

British Sociological Association

British Universities Industrial Relations  
Association

Council for Hospitality Management  
Education

Development Studies Association

Economic History Society

European Academy of Occupational Health  
Psychology

# Learned Societies

Learned societies and professional bodies in the social sciences are at the heart of the Academy as independent bodies affiliated to us through membership. Instrumental in forming the Academy, the learned societies represent distinct disciplinary and professional communities that bring subject specific depth to the Academy's breadth of excellence in its academic and practitioner Fellows.

Over the past year learned society membership increased to 46 members. In 2019 we welcomed the Royal Economic Society, the Society of Professional Economists, and the UK Association for Language Testing and Assessment. The Royal Anthropological Institute joined in early 2020 .

The Academy is unique in having such strong support and engagement with, and through, learned societies that represent single disciplines, interdisciplinary areas, and/or communities of practitioners, within the social sciences.

Learned society dialogue and engagement took place throughout the course of the year. Activities and priorities focused on the following:

- **Quarterly meetings for the CEOs and chief officers**  
These meetings play an important role in effecting liaison, widening knowledge and encouraging interchange between learned societies for the benefit of the social sciences. The Academy attracted some high-calibre external speakers to engage with the group, including Professor Jennifer Rubin FAcSS, Executive Chair of the ESRC and Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
- **Responding to the open access publishing agenda**  
The Plan S initiative was launched in late 2018 by a coalition of European research funders to promote full open access publishing of grant-funded research. In light of these developments the Academy worked with learned society CEOs and senior managers to draft and submit robust consultation responses highlighting the implications for learned societies in the social sciences. We raised collective concerns that the proposed policies, which if implemented in full threaten the future of hybrid journals, and the established business models of society publishing, which help underpin their charitable work supporting the research ecosystem.

Government Economic and Social Research Foundation

Housing Studies Association

Joint University Council of the Applied Social Sciences

Leisure Studies Association

Political Studies Association

Regional Science Association International - British and Irish Section

Regional Studies Association

Royal Anthropological Institute

Royal Economic Society

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Royal Statistical Society

Royal Town Planning Institute

Scottish Economic Society

Social Policy Association

Social Research Association

Society for Research into Higher Education

Society for Studies in Organizing Healthcare

Society for the Advancement of Management Studies

Society of Legal Scholars

Society of Professional Economists

Socio-Legal Studies Association

UK Association for Language Testing and Assessment

United Kingdom Evaluation Society



Above: President's Annual Luncheon 2019, Drapers' Hall, City of London. Attended by 140 Fellows, learned society members and their guests.

## We congratulate our Fellows who received public honours in

### CBE

Professor Fiona Devine OBE FAcSS, Professor of Sociology, University of Manchester and Head of The Alliance Manchester Business School - awarded a CBE for services to the social sciences

Professor David Livingstone OBE FBA FAcSS, Professor of Geography and Intellectual History, Queen's University Belfast - awarded a CBE for services to scholarship in Geography, the History of Science and Intellectual History

Professor Alison Park FAcSS, Director of Research at the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)- awarded a CBE for services to the social sciences

Bridget Rosewell OBE FAcSS, Economist and Commissioner, National Infrastructure Commission and holder of a number of non-executive directorships. - awarded a CBE for services to the economy

# Fellowship

**W**e were delighted to welcome 138 new Fellows in 2019, bringing the total to 1330. We continued to elect new Fellows from across the social science community. We are most grateful for the work of our Nominations Committee, led by Professor Jane Millar OBE FAcSS FBA and subsequently by Professor Gill Valentine FAcSS FBA, and our Practitioner and Academic Fellow Search Committees, chaired respectively by Professor Tony Crook CBE FAcSS and Professor Fiona Devine CBE FAcSS. We also thank individual Fellows and member learned societies for their nominations.

We continued to support knowledge sharing and discussion across our Fellowship by encouraging the development of informal regional chapters. These provide a forum for colleagues to meet in congenial settings across both disciplines and institutions. In 2019, chapters existed in Oxford, Manchester, Yorkshire and the Southwest of England/South Wales. We hope more Fellows will volunteer to set up active chapters for their regions.

A successful President's Luncheon was held in December at Drapers' Hall in the City of London. It was attended by 140 Fellows, learned society members and their guests. This event was special as it marked the end of Professor Sir Ivor Crewe FAcSS's six-year term as President of the Academy.

The guest speaker at the lunch was the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, who discussed the challenge of increasing social mobility in the UK in the current political and economic climate. She underlined the importance of everyone playing their part, whether from an academic, practitioner or business background. Justine Greening is co-founder of the Social Mobility Pledge, a cross-party campaign to improve social mobility in the UK. She was formerly Education Secretary and did not seek re-election as an MP in the 2019 General Election.

We are very grateful to the Drapers' Company and to publishers Taylor & Francis for their generous support of the event.

## 2019 in recognition of their contribution to social science

### DBE

Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE FAcSS, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England - awarded a DBE for services to higher education

### OBE

Professor Helen Margetts FAcSS, Programme Director, Alan Turing Institute and Professor of Society and the Internet, and Professorial Fellow of Mansfield College, University of Oxford - awarded an OBE for services to social and political science

Professor David Martin FAcSS, Professor of Geography, University of Southampton - awarded an OBE for services to geography and to population studies

# Who We Are

**The Academy is governed by its Council of prominent social scientists. We have up to 21 Council members. The Council has an Executive Committee and various other specialist committees and advisory groups.**

Governance changes approved by Fellows and learned societies at an Extraordinary General Meeting in November 2018 came into effect on 1st January 2020. The Academy's two most senior honorary roles – that of President and Chair of Council – were combined into a single role of President.

Professor Roger Goodman FAcSS was appointed as President of the Academy and will remain in this role until his term ends in June 2021.

Professor Sir Ivor Crewe FAcSS stepped down as President at the end of his six-year term in December 2019. We thank him for his outstanding contribution to the Academy

## The Council\*

Professor Cara Aitchison FAcSS

Stephen Aldridge FAcSS

Professor Tim Allen FAcSS

Professor Nic Beech FAcSS

Professor David Byrne FAcSS

Chris Caswill FAcSS

Dr Richard Collins FAcSS (Chair of Audit and Risk Management Committee)

Professor Tony Crook CBE FAcSS (Chair of Practitioner Fellow Search Committee)

Professor Bobby Duffy (Chair of Campaign for Social Science)

Professor Eileen Green FAcSS

Professor Roger Goodman FAcSS (President)

Professor Andrew Jones FAcSS (Honorary Treasurer)

Lord Kerslake FAcSS

Professor Simon Marginson FAcSS

Dame Jil Matheson FAcSS (Honorary Secretary)

Professor Tony McEnery FAcSS

Professor Judith Phillips OBE FAcSS

Professor Vicky Pryce FAcSS

Professor Sasha Roseneil FAcSS

Professor Gill Valentine FAcSS (Chair of Nominations Committee)





Above: Members of Staff Secretariat in June 2019 (left to right) Sharon Witherspoon MBE FAcSS, Aarti Basnyat, Dr Rita Gardner CBE FAcSS, Kate Atkins, Marta Kask, Helen Cadwallader, Leila Hancox. Photo by Ludovic des Cognets.

## Current Committees\*

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Campaign for Social Science Board

CEOs of Learned Societies Committee

Nominations Committee

Publications Committee

Policy Working Group

International Advisory Group

Public Honours Committee

## The Secretariat\*

Dr Rita Gardner CBE FAcSS - Chief Executive

Sharon Witherspoon MBE FAcSS - Head of Policy

Kate Atkins - Chief Secretary

Helen Cadwallader- Senior Operations Manager

Marta Kask - Campaign Manager

Aarti Basnyat - Communications Manager

Ian Williams - Finance Manager

Dr Ashley Lenihan - Senior Policy Adviser  
(Freelance)

\*As of 31 December 2019

Left: AGM June 2019 (left to right) Professor James Wilsdon FAcSS, Professor Jane Broadbent FAcSS, Professor Roger Goodman FAcSS, Sir Ivor Crewe FAcSS, Dr Rita Gardner CBE FAcSS, Professor Mike Danson FAcSS

# Finance

The Academy had a sound financial performance in 2019, in terms of both income and expenditure. It ended the year with small operating surpluses on both core Academy operations and on the Campaign for Social Science.

Incoming resources totalled £606,067. The unrestricted component (£324,391) was largely income from Fellows' and learned society members' subscriptions and this was used to fund core Academy activities and essential administration in support of the charity. The restricted funds (£281,676) comprised a combination of sponsorships that fund the Academy's Campaign for Social Science and donations that fund the SPRE project. The Campaign attracted a welcome increase in sponsorship (up £30,000) in the year, as did the SPRE project. All Campaign supporters and project donors are very warmly thanked.

Total expenditure was £591,182, split between unrestricted expenditure (£296,717) and restricted expenditure (£294,465). The latter included a full year of expenditure on the PRO-RES project. At the 2019 year end the balance sheet stood at £539,085. While this looks a healthy balance for the Academy, it masks the fact that the majority (£404,416) is funds paid in advance for projects and modest Campaign reserves, and thus restricted in their use. The Academy's unrestricted reserves ended the year at £134,669, which includes net gains on investments in the year. These subsequently fell back a little in the first quarter of 2020 owing to the coronavirus pandemic impact on the stock market.

In summary, the Academy's accounts remain in positive balance, supported by reasonable reserves that were modestly added to in 2019. This is all to the good given the challenges the Academy faces in 2020, in common with many sister charities in the sector, arising from the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. To manage the risk on invested reserves at a time of volatility, the Academy's Council took the decision in May 2020 to hold all reserves in cash for the time being.

## Academy of Social Sciences Statement of Financial Activities\*

	2019			2018		
	Academy	Campaign & major projects	Total	Academy	Campaign & major projects	Total
<b>Income From</b>						
Donations, Legacies & Subscriptions	£295,890	£280,074	£575,964	£261,171	£460,212	£721,383
Other Trading Activities	£26,779	-	£26,779	£33,271	-	£33,271
Investments	£1,722	£1,602	£3,324	£1,850	£2,814	£4,664
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£324,391</b>	<b>£281,676</b>	<b>£606,067</b>	<b>£296,292</b>	<b>£463,026</b>	<b>£759,318</b>
<b>Expenditure On</b>						
Raising Funds	£34,211	£15,688	£49,899	£27,465	£15,232	£42,697
Charitable Activities	£262,506	£278,777	£541,283	£258,836	£204,968	£463,804
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£296,717</b>	<b>£294,465</b>	<b>£591,182</b>	<b>£286,301</b>	<b>£220,200</b>	<b>£506,501</b>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	£17,797	£18,523	£36,320	[-£4,746]	[-£7,582]	[-£12,328]
Transfer between funds	[-£5,000]	£5,000	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance Brought Forward at 1 Jan 2019	£94,198	£393,682	£487,880	£88,953	£158,438	£247,391
Fund Balance Carried forward at 31 Dec 2019	£134,669	£404,416	£539,085	£94,198	£393,682	£487,880

\*We confirm that the information contained in these summarised financial statements is taken from the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019. The full accounts were approved by the board on 21 May 2020, are subject to an unqualified Independent Examiner's Report, and have been submitted to the Charity Commission. These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Academy of Social Sciences. The full accounts are available on the Academy's website: [www.acss.org.uk](http://www.acss.org.uk)

# Looking Ahead

2019 was an eventful first year as CEO, but a mere stage set for the upheavals of 2020. We have already seen major changes, in common with many other charities, that have necessitated serious adjustments to the way we operate.

In the face of enhanced risks and high levels of uncertainty, we have had to reduce costs swiftly to ensure sustainability and mitigate risks to our income. This arises as sponsors and donors - universities in particular - face unprecedented and as yet largely unknown impacts on their income from the combination of Brexit and COVID-19.

The Academy's Campaign for Social Science, relies entirely on sponsorship. One cost-saving adjustment is that for the foreseeable future we will be working as a virtual organisation, having made a forced but successful move to home working in late March 2020.

In May, the Council agreed a revised budget, which aims to minimise the extent to which the Academy draws on its fairly limited reserves, while at the same time enabling us to focus as much of our resources as possible on externally-facing work. This is in the sure knowledge that the social sciences will need our support more than ever in 2020 and beyond, not least given the mood music on social science that we hear coming from parts of UK government and the expected autumn Whitehall announcement on the Augur report recommendations, among others.

With these challenges comes opportunities. For us, they coincide with our final stages in considering future strategy. We have delayed completion of the strategy to autumn 2020 to take account of the evolving context, thereby ensuring our work is planned to meet perceived priority needs. We have raised £200,000 recently from a major donor to help fund the set up of the new strategy. We are well placed, with excellent trustees, strong partnerships with learned societies, a dedicated staff team, and unsurpassed contact networks

across the UK social sciences.

We have already seen the Campaign rise to the challenge, led by its new Chair, Professor Bobby Duffy. The Covid-19 hub, launched in May 2020, ably exemplifies the Campaign's revised mission – to demonstrate how the social sciences enhance decision-making, strengthen society, and improve lives.

We also plan to monitor the health of the social sciences in higher education across the UK over the next 18 months. This will provide essential real-time information to the community, to funders, and to inform our advocacy for the social sciences. The timely publication in September of our new report on the social sciences in the private sector - [Vital Business](#) - will add evidence on businesses use and value of the social sciences. We will be deciding how best, under current circumstances, we can advocate with impact for the social sciences.

We will be working closely with the learned societies in social sciences, to support them as much as possible at this difficult time, by facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity building, and by advocating with them on key policy issues affecting their futures, including the ongoing open access agenda. We will also be active in the SHAPE agenda, alongside the British Academy, as one of the small collective of founding partners of this initiative. This aims to enhance public awareness of the 'Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts for People and Economy'.

As I said at the AGM in June, the Academy is in good heart, decent shape, and great spirit. It is in this context that we face the future in 2020, determined to do our best for the social sciences, with the help and support of our Fellows, learned society members, and friends.

**Dr Rita Gardner CBE FAcSS**  
**Chief Executive**

(June 2020)

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