



Economic
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Research Council

Call launch webinar

Digital Footprints: Senior Strategic Fellow call

Presenters

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Bruce Jackson – Senior Portfolio Manager, DigitalFootprints, ESRC

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Webinar Outline

Background

Aims and objectives

Submitting your application

Frequently Asked Questions



How the webinar will work

- We will be recording the webinar so that content can be made available for those unable to attend
- Please use the chat facility to raise questions you have about the call – we will publish answers after the webinar

Background

Richard Welpton

ESRC's data service investments

- UK Data Service
- DigitalFootprints (prototype)
- Census Longitudinal Support units
- Administrative Data Research UK

Background and scope

In 2014, ESRC invested in data services infrastructure to support researchers accessing and using big data for their research. This included the establishment of the Consumer Data Research Centre, Urban Big Data Centre, plus investments in a number of smaller pilot initiatives that sought to demonstrate power of big data sources for policy and practice.

ESRC investment demonstrated the value of 'big data' sources for research however significant challenges remain. As such, ESRC is seeking to appoint a Senior Strategic Advisor for DigitalFootprints to lead a sustained programme of strategic advice to support the development of related programmes across ESRC, UKRI and beyond.

Background and scope

DigitalFootprints Prototype (April 2022 – Sept 2024)

- DigitalFootprint Data Services
- Accelerator Programme
- Coordinating Hub

DigitalFootprints (Sept 2024 and beyond) - subject to funding

- DigitalFootprints, major long-term investment
- ESRC review of PhD in social sciences and data skills for research
- Related programmes of research

Senior Strategic Fellow

Aims and Objectives

Bruce Jackson



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Objectives

- Provide scientific leadership to the DigitalFootprints Prototype Coordinating Hub: coordinating, convening, developing, build capacity and develop a thriving interdisciplinary Digital Footprint Data (DFD) community
- Support the scoping and development of commissioning opportunities for the Accelerator Programme. A rolling programme over 24 months totalling £2.5M
- Act as a ‘thought leader’ and champion for ESRC’s DFD ambitions and consider how ESRC and UKRI more broadly can support researchers using these data in the future
- Provide strategic advice on the development of related programmes of work within and beyond ESRC, for example capacity building, training provision and research

Required Activities

- Provide social scientific, strategic and technical advice, in combination with the ESRC / UKRI advisory groups, to support the development of a potential longer-term DigitalFootprints by:
 - identifying and leading engagement with potential research users, data service practitioners and policy makers
 - identifying new opportunities for investments
 - building enduring connections with key stakeholders (including within academia, government, industry and the third sector)

Required Activities

- developing and drafting key parts of the longer-term DigitalFootprints business case, in particular the strategic case
- ensuring ESRC plans for DigitalFootprints meet the current and future requirements of the UKRI data landscape and beyond as articulated in relevant published strategies and stated objectives
- contributing to synthesis, reviews and any other such activities that add value to the programme and the business case development
- identifying broad requirements for data services that in the future will support delivery of the DigitalFootprints network; and liaise with the Senior Strategic Fellow for Future Data Services

Management and Governance

Working with the ESRC office and Head of Data Services, agreeing a timetable for activities and outputs to be delivered, including for example:

- A plan for activities to support coordination and collaboration across the DigitalFootprints Prototype Programme
- Development and implementation of a stakeholder engagement plan for DigitalFootprints
- A plan for development and delivery of the scientific case for the DigitalFootprints Business Case
- Regular oversight and sharing with the ESRC Chief Executive Office

Requirements

The successful applicant must demonstrate:

- a thorough understanding of the DFD landscape, within the UK and internationally, through expertise in social science research that harnesses digital data and methods
- relevant experience in shaping and successfully leading a research programme or related research endeavours
- vision and the ability to understand the big picture, and map how various components can fit together

Requirements

- an excellent track record of building effective relationships at senior levels between academia, government, industry and/or the third sector
- thorough understanding of the sensitivities around the use of DFD for research and the different approaches for managing these
- proven experience with working with a wide range of data providers/data owners across government and industry/third-sector and a proven ability to tailor communications appropriately for different audiences
- Proven experience of leading and delivering programmes on time and to a high quality.

Submitting your application

Bruce Jackson

Key commissioning dates

- Deadline for submission of proposals – **8th March 2022, 4pm**
- Assessment panel meeting – March 2022
- Interviews of shortlisted applicants – April 2022
- Grant start date – May 2022

Funding available

The Senior Strategic Advisor will be appointed on a part time basis (minimum 0.4 FTE to maximum 0.8 FTE) on a 24-month grant starting April 2022.

Where required, costs for a post-doctoral researcher can be included to support the Senior Strategic Advisor.

Together a minimum of 0.6FTE must be allocated on the grant by the Senior Strategic Advisor and post-doctoral researcher. ESRC's budget for the grant is £426k which includes a budget for administrative support (minimum 0.3 FTE) and travel and subsistence (maximum £10k).

Applicant eligibility

Organisation eligibility

- Applications can be submitted by UK higher education institutions (HEIs) and some UK independent research organisations (IROs) and public sector research establishments (PSREs)
- A full list of IROs and PSREs that are eligible for funding is available on the UKRI website

Applicant eligibility

- The Principal Investigator (PI) must be based at/or hosted by a UK HEI or eligible UK IRO or PSRE
- The PI will take intellectual leadership of the project and manage the project
- The PI should be based at the organisation submitting the application.

Proposal content guidance

The following are mandatory attachments:

- **Case for Support** (maximum of 6 sides of A4)
- **Justification of resources** (maximum of 2 sides of A4)
- **CVs** (for the named applicant, including publication record) (maximum of 2 sides of A4)
- **Institutional Letter of Support** (from the lead organisation) (maximum of 1 side of A4)

Contact details and key further links

Email with any queries : fds.df.fellowships@esrc.ukri.org

Useful links:

- [Interdisciplinary environmental social science leadership team – call specification](#)
- [Je-S Guidance](#)
- [ESRC Research Funding Guide](#)