



A step-change in
quantitative social
science skills

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**Quantitative Skills Teaching and Learning Symposium
Beyond 'don't want to teach, don't want to learn'**

25 June 2018, 12:00 – 17:30

The British Academy, London SW1Y 5AH

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- 12:00** **Arrival and lunch**
- 13:00** **Welcome and opening remarks**
Dr Simon Gallacher, Nuffield Foundation
- 13:10** **Session 1: Engaging learners**
- Learning R is difficult (but worth the investment!)**
 Dr Todd Hartman, University of Sheffield
- Assume nothing. Benchmarking the numeracy levels of UK social
 science undergraduates**
 Paul Foss, National Numeracy
- Statistical Literacy: engaging and motivating learners**
 Alan Marshall, University of Edinburgh Q-Step Centre
- 14:25** **Session 2: Outcomes that matter**
- Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn**
 Jackie Carter, University of Manchester
- The impact of quantitative teaching on student performance**
 Dr Erik Larsen, University of Kent
- From WTF to Thumb's Up: what works'**
 Julie Scott Jones, Manchester Metropolitan University
- 15:40** **Student Posters & Tea/Coffee break**
- 16:10** **Session 3: Panel discussion**
- Chair:* Professor John MacInnes
 Jackie Carter, University of Manchester
 Tina Haux, University of Kent Q-Step Centre
 Todd Landman, University of Nottingham
- 17:10** **Concluding remarks and the future for quant skills and learning**
 Dr Simon Gallacher, Nuffield Foundation
- 17:30** **Free time**
- 18:00** **Drinks reception**

Join the conversation





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Biographies

Dr Simon Gallacher

Head of Student Programmes, Nuffield Foundation

Simon has worked for the Nuffield Foundation for three years and is responsible for the Foundation's Student programmes – Q-Step and the Nuffield Research Placements. Once a research chemist, Simon has over 20 years' experience of working in education research and policy for organisations ranging from the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), Wellcome and Teach First.

Dr Todd Hartman

Senior Lecturer in Quantitative Social Science, Director of the Sheffield Q-Step Centre, University of Sheffield

Todd's primary field is political science, though he routinely works across traditional academic boundaries to study public opinion, political communication, and intergroup relations. He has been teaching applied data analysis to social science students for more than a decade. Todd has also served as a Statistical Ambassador for the Royal Statistical Society.

Paul Foss

Data Analyst / Financial Capability Lead, National Numeracy

Paul's data analysis covers all aspects of the charity's work, including the National Numeracy Challenge statistics, overseeing educational projects, and work with external partners. He also heads up all the charity's activity in the areas of Financial Capability and Plain Numbers, the campaign for the clearer communication of numbers and data. He is a freelance data analyst with over 20 years' experience in the private sector, and a background in teaching secondary school maths.

Alan Marshall

Senior Lecturer in Quantitative Methods, University of Edinburgh Q-Step Centre

Alan is a Senior Lecturer in Quantitative Methods and director of the Edinburgh Q-Step Centre. His background and training is in social statistics and current research uses longitudinal data from social surveys in the UK and overseas to better understand the social and biological determinants of inequalities observed in health and wellbeing in later life.

Jackie Carter

Professor of Statistical Literacy, University of Manchester

Jackie's LinkedIn profile says 'be known for what you love'. She's had 3 careers. Her first was as a maths and physical education teacher in a very large comprehensive school in Cardiff. Her second was as a university manager for socioeconomic data and learning & teaching national services. And her third is (and still is) as professor in statistical literacy, a Q-Step co-director and lead on the University of Manchester's Q-Step paid internship programme.

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Erik Larsen

**Lecturer, University
of Kent**

Dr Erik Gahner Larsen is a lecturer in Politics and affiliated with the Q-Step Centre at the University of Kent. His research focuses on the nature of public opinion and in particular its relation to and relevance for public policies. His most recent research is published in *European Sociological Review* and *Nature Human Behavior*.

Professor Julie

Scott Jones

**Director of
Manchester
Metropolitan
University's Q-Step
Centre, Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

Professor Julie Scott Jones is Director of Manchester Metropolitan University's Q-Step Centre, a multi-million pound initiative to develop students' quantitative skills. MMU is one of only 15 Centres and the only Modern (post-92) university included. Since 2011, Julie's research has focused on the pedagogic challenges of upskilling staff and students in quantitative methods: she was PI on an ESRC-funded staff upskilling project, and co-author of a HEA national report on numeracy and transition to university.

Professor John MacInnes

**University of
Edinburgh**

John MacInnes is Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean of Quantitative Methods at the University of Edinburgh. He is the Strategic Adviser for Quantitative Skills at the British Academy and was formerly Strategic Advisor to the ESRC on quantitative methods training.

Tina Haux

**Lecturer in
Quantitative Social
Policy and Co-
Director of Kent Q-
Step, University of
Kent**

Tina is a Lecturer in Quantitative Social Policy at the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) here at Kent. She is the director of the Q-step centre at Kent. Her main research interests are around family policy, welfare-to-work, social justice, evidence-based policy-making and, increasingly, longitudinal research methods. Tina's working life started as a researcher in government working on tax credits before moving into the voluntary sector to OneParentFamilies (now Gingerbread), where she was working on childcare and child contact policy. Linking research to policy-making and –makers has stayed with Tina as one of the key aims of her work as an academic.

Todd Landman

**Pro Vice Chancellor,
Faculty of Social
Sciences, University
of Nottingham**

Todd Landman is Professor of Political Science and Pro Vice Chancellor of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Nottingham. He is author of *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics* (4th ed., Routledge 2017, with Edzia Carvalho), *Democracy and Human Rights: The Precarious Triumph of Ideals* (Bloomsbury 2013), *Measuring Human Rights* (Routledge 2009, with Edzia Carvalho), *Studying Human Rights* (Routledge 2006), *Protecting Human Rights: A Comparative Study* (Georgetown 2005), and *Citizenship Rights and Social Movements: A Comparative and Statistical Analysis* (Oxford 1997, with Joe Foweraker). He has carried out a large number of international consultancies on development, democracy and human rights.

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