

Researcher Development Programme 2024-25



Edge Hill
University

Graduate School

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Arts & Humanities Methodological Sessions (all online)

Context Across Disciplines

Any text or artefact comes from a specific time and place, but to state that your approach is 'contextual' is too broad and has little precise meaning. Text, meaning and context are multifaceted and multi-layered in their relationships and are perspective-dependent. Recognition of these complex associations is necessary in understanding the nature of history and culture. This session will consider what is meant by context and the implications of a range of contexts, including social, historical, and political, that may have an impact upon your research.

What do we mean by text?

Analysis of text/s will be important to the work of most researchers within the humanities, but that text may come in a variety of forms, and approaches to it will be broad and diverse. Within cultural and historical studies, the centrality of text is debated and contested, and how you identify and approach text in your own work will be a fundamental consideration. Uncovering meaning and interpreting a text, understanding why and how a text was produced, investigating the authenticity or validity of a text, exploring what people do with texts, defining what relationship one text bears to others, and engaging in the discourses that surround a text are just some of the methods you might employ. This session will discuss and question the uses of text/s within the humanities.

What is theory for?

Researchers working in the humanities will engage a range of philosophical, theoretical and historical approaches, and explore the work of cultural criticism, reception and production through a range of critical perspectives, interdisciplinary insights and applications. These theoretical and historical perspectives allow scholars to tease out the critical charge embedded in the notion of culture itself, and the transformative potential of creative and critical work in the arts and humanities. But, as Szeman, Blacker and Sully have pointed out, '[w]hat makes critical theory, "critical" is its ceaseless interrogation of the process by which knowledge gets transformed into doxa [commonly-held belief]' (xvii-xviii: 2017). This session will discuss the importance, uses and applications of critical and cultural theory within the humanities.

Arts & Humanities Methodological Sessions (all online)

Where can we find evidence? 1: Archives

This session will discuss a range of resources and facilities available to researchers in print and in various electronic formats through Edge Hill Learning Services and beyond. Importantly, we will reflect critically upon the processes by which sources and evidence are selected, presented and employed. We will also explore the potential benefits of archival research. Finally, you will be encouraged to consider how the issues discussed relate to your own research.

Where can we find evidence? 2: Interviews

As we start the research journey, one of the considerations is: where do we find our 'original' research from? For many, the first idea that might come up is to interview people to discover this research. Whilst this might be the best way of finding our evidence, there will be a range of considerations that must be taken into account before we begin the study. These include ethical and practical considerations and in this session we will explore these ideas to ensure that if we are using interviews to find evidence, then we do so effectively and ethically

What is practice research?

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise acknowledged that practice is firmly embedded as an accepted mode of research. However, it also noted that there were inconsistencies in the understanding of practice as research. The term 'practice as research' has been employed to establish a space for arts practice in academic environments, and it therefore refers to a broad range of research activity. It can refer to a research process that leads to an arts-related output, an arts project as one element of a research process drawing on a range of methods, or a research process entirely framed as artistic practice. Practice as research is therefore not a 'method' in itself, as it draws upon a variety of methodologies that might be incorporated into interdisciplinary research projects. This session will address questions circulating practice as research and associated discussions by drawing on the experience of practitioners working within the university.

Social Sciences Methodological Sessions (all online)

Framing Social Research

Social science research does not happen in a vacuum and the subjects of social scientific research need to be understood within wider social, cultural, political, economic, spatial and temporal (and other) arenas. These contexts and frames are important to understand the trends, developments and phenomena that social scientists study. It is reflected in both the particular literature of the field of study and the intellectual ideas that have built our understanding of that field. This session will involve a discussion about the importance of context and the way in which we frame our approach to our research by developing our particular question and including or excluding different perspectives and fields of study.

Empirical Research: Life Story, Ethnography & Autoethnography

This session will explore some of the theoretical, methodological, and epistemological aspects of life story research. Life story writing can be positioned distinctively or through a myriad of multiple intersecting ways, which may include those taking an ethnographic, autoethnographic, autobiographic, and/or philosophical stance. Rich sources of life story data can be found in oral stories, interview transcripts and diary entries to name but a few. Essentially, life story research sparks reflective moments, which illuminate and/or critique wider social, cultural, and political matters. Practical insights of how this kind of research can be done will also be a feature of this session.

Escaping Methodology

This session will explore the quest for creative and non-standard methodologies. It problematises methodology, and then builds on theories of rupture in order to explore bespoke, original, and personal methods in the design and implementation of research projects. As such, it offers brief overviews of visual and sensory methods; narrative methods; participatory methods; practice-as-research; autoethnography.

Social Sciences Methodological Sessions (all online)

Researching Sensitive Issues

Undertaking qualitative research on sensitive topics often raises a variety of ethical problems that arise in the planning of a project, or in the conduct of the research activity. This session complements the ethics approval process sessions, with a focus on the how to manage sensitive issues in research. This session will focus on sensitivity from the point of view of the individual researchers themselves, research participants, individuals, groups, communities connected either with the research participants and/or the research topic/focus. The session offers practical advice to consider and take away

The Practice of Social Research

The researcher trains to develop their question, make decisions about the methods they use and the sources of information from which they draw their data, and develop their research design to yield meaningful data from which to develop findings. Data is collected, collated, and then analysis takes place. This is the practice of social research, and the central activities that constitute the research process in many disciplines. It is important that researchers understand both the sequence of practices and how they develop a coherent design that can then be operationalised by the researcher. The extent to which this design and operationalisation is done effectively will often determine the value and effectiveness of the research. This session will explore issues around the practice of social research, mapping the process and exploring the key components.

Using quantitative methods in social science research

This session introduces the options available for secondary quantitative data analysis. All UK university researchers have access to a wide range of high-quality secondary datasets, yet these are often an under-used resource. In this session, participants will be introduced to the range of datasets available to them, including - but not limited to - the British Social Attitudes series, Understanding Society and the Family Resources Survey. The session will cover how to download these datasets, prepare them for analysis and some basic but useful ways in which these datasets can start to be analysed

Sciences Methodological Sessions (all online)

Designing Randomised Controlled Trials

RCTs are widely regarded as the gold standard design for establishing the efficacy of interventions in healthcare. This session will offer an introduction to the basic principles of randomised controlled trials, the importance of their key features and how their design provides a robust basis for establishing a link between cause and effect. Participants will gain an understanding of the main features of bias control that are the hallmark of these designs, why they are generally designed and delivered by teams of people and often expensive. As a general rule, they cannot and should not be delivered by individuals

Scientific Communication

Effectively communicating your research to academic and non-academic audiences is key to your success as a researcher. This session will explore the characteristics of writing for effective scientific communication. The session also will discuss the publication and peer review processes

Communication in lay terms

This session will explore the important skill of writing and communicating to non-scientists as well as mechanisms of outreach and promoting research to the public and the scientific community. For all staff, PGRs and researchers in the sciences

Sciences Methodological Sessions (all online)

Data collection and sampling approaches

Fundamental to the design of a robust experiment is an understanding of the range of data that can be collected in the discipline and the type of data that should be collected to address the question being addressed. Aimed at researchers in the sciences, this session will explore various types of data (qualitative, semi-quantitative, quantitative), handling of this data and the influence of data type on analytical approaches, interpretation and conclusions.

Objectivity & bias in experiment design

This session will build upon the broad themes addressed in the session on the scientific method, exploring ways to achieve objectivity, identify potential sources of bias and subjectivity when formulating and testing hypotheses and research questions, designing experiments, and selecting sampling approaches.

The funding landscape in the Sciences

Funding opportunities in the Sciences exist for all career stages, from small grants to support graduate conference attendance to large scale grants supporting postdoctoral research. It is essential to gain an early understanding of the relevant funding opportunities available in your field in the short term but also those open to you in your next career stage. This session will explore the funding landscape for Science in the UK and internationally, the various mechanisms for finding funding opportunities, and how to plan small grant proposals.

General researcher development sessions (all online)

Literature Search for Research

Focusing on the Scopus database but also considering new search tools, this session demonstrates how citation databases can enable comprehensive, systematic searching of the literature and provide new insights for research. You will be able to apply a search strategy, gain insights from citation analysis, used advanced tools and translate these techniques to other platforms.

Demystifying Open Access and Pure

Introduces the Pure research information repository and guides you through the process of depositing your research there. We advise on open access and complying with requirements such as funder requirements and the REF open access policy.

A guide to different review types

Introduces the Pure research information repository and guides you through the process of depositing your research there. We advise on open access and complying with requirements such as funder requirements and the REF open access policy.

Getting published in journals

Here we consider the steps required to get an article published. We cover the whole publishing process in the current landscape including selecting a publication, submission, peer review, open access and Pure.

Copyright and your thesis

Best practice for considering copyright and your doctoral thesis. Identifying any copyright material you are using early will make things easier for you!

General researcher development sessions (all online)

Open Research: open access and beyond

Open research embraces transparency and openness across the research cycle through making outputs, resources, and your evidence base (or 'data') freely available online. This session explains how to put these principles into practice and potentially increase the usage and value of your research.

Citation metrics: measure your influence

The session will provide a critical discussion of author citation metrics, focusing on the h-index (the most widely used author citation metric). It will also demonstrate how researchers can access their citation data in three major citation databases (ISI Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar Citations).

Exploring careers outside of academia

This session is aimed at Postgraduate Researchers who want to explore career options other than academia. It is open to all staff and PGRs but is particularly useful to PGRs or ECRs who may not be sure of all options available to them.

Preparing for job interviews

This session will help you prepare for job interviews in any sector including industry, academia or part time jobs. We will explore different types of interview questions, techniques for answering questions, tools and resources available and how best to prepare. This session is aimed at early career researchers especially GTAs and those on MRes and PhD programmes

General researcher development sessions (all on campus)

Plan your data: doing your DMP

What is a Data Management Plan (DMP)? How can it help me? What should it cover? We will go through the main elements of a DMP, the templates you can use and key dos and don'ts.

Finding and using statistical evidence

Using Statista, we'll explore some of the market intelligence data that's available from sources such as World Bank, YouGov and Kantar, alongside original research.

- Explore Statista market intelligence platform.
- Find statistics, forecasts and surveys, market outlooks and reports.
- Download datasets in a range of formats.

Reference management with RefWorks

Learn how to use software to manage your reading and automatically generate citations and references. This session focuses on RefWorks, but can be applied to other tools like Zotero. It covers how to import sources, manage your library and use the Microsoft Word plugin to quickly insert citations, adding them to your bibliography as you go.

Manage your data: introduction to RDM

What is research data? Do I have any? What is data management and what do I need to do? Join us for a general introduction to research data management (RDM) and key things to consider in effectively managing, storing and sharing your data.

General researcher development sessions (all on campus)

GDPR, data protection and research

Find out the implications of GDPR and data protection laws for your research data collection and storage. Relevant to all research-active staff and PGRs.

Love data: Metadata, READMEs & keywords

What are metadata and README files? Discover more about this key aspect of research data management and how it can help you and others to access and use your research. Find out what can happen if data isn't well-documented - and play with some lego too!

Reference management with EndNote

Learn how to use software to manage your reading and automatically generate citations and references. This session focuses on EndNote, but can be applied to other tools like Zotero. It covers how to import sources, manage your library and use the Microsoft Word plugin to quickly insert citations, adding them to your bibliography as you go.

Talking research ethics and research integrity

This session will introduce the Code of Practice for the Conduct of Research and other research ethics-related policies at EHU, outline the relation of research ethics to research design and management, and introduce the approval process.

General researcher development sessions (all on campus)

Research integrity and data sharing

Data that you create, collect and analyse or obtain from secondary sources is an integral any research project. How you use this data, what data you collect, it is important to be transparent with what you are doing with this data. Not only for the integrity of your research but also to enable sharing. This session will talk about working with data and preparing to share.

Using AI in your research

How can AI help with your research? In this hands-on introductory session we'll take a look at Artificial Intelligence tools for research including Research Rabbit, and Connected Papers. We will explore ChatGPT and Copilot, and how to prompt these tools to get your required outcome.

NVivo for Beginners

An introduction to the use of NVivo qualitative data analysis computer software for social sciences data.

How to book onto sessions

FOR STAFF

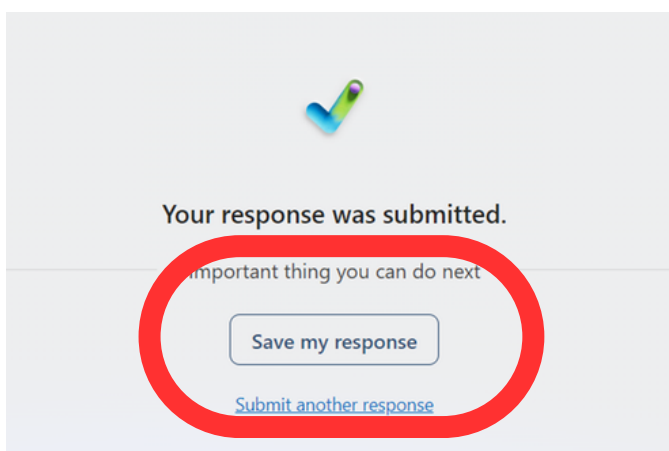
Staff can book via MyView. Search for keywords under My Staff Development

FOR PGRS AND GTAS

You can find the link to the booking form on the MRes or PhD areas of Blackboard.

You can return to the form any time to book further sessions.

It is important to **save your response** when prompted, so that you have a record of your bookings.



General guidance on the RDP

For all other enquiries please email graduateschool@edgehill.ac.uk

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HAVE BOOKED MY SESSIONS?

You will receive an email reminder about the session, 7 days before and 2 days before the session. The email will contain either the Microsoft Teams link (if the session is online) or the room location (if the session is on campus).

HOW DO I CANCEL A BOOKING?

Staff should always cancel their sessions on MyView.

PGRs who have booked using the Microsoft Form should email graduateschool@edgehill.ac.uk giving their name, the session title and the date of the session they wish to cancel.

I HAVE A TRAINING NEED NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH THE RDP

Sometimes your research project may need specialist training in particular software or research methods. This should have been identified in your Learning & Skills Needs Analysis. Speak to your Director of Studies in the first instance to see if this training can be provided at Edge Hill or externally.

I AM A PGR – HOW MANY SESSIONS DO I NEED TO BOOK?

PGRs need to complete at least six **methodology** sessions. The most appropriate sessions for your research will be identified in your Learning and Skills Needs Analysis (LSNA).

The General Researcher Development sessions are completely optional. However, some of these may be identified in your LSNA.

If you have already completed an MRes at Edge Hill and have therefore attended six methodology sessions, you do not need to attend them again, but you are welcome to re-book them as a refresher.



Researcher Development Programme 2024/25

Semester 1

September 2024		October 2024		November 2024		December 2024	
1 Su		1 Tu		1 Fr		1 Su	
2 Mo		2 We		2 Sa		2 Mo	
3 Tu		3 Th		3 Su		3 Tu	
4 We		4 Fr		4 Mo		4 We	
5 Th		5 Sa		5 Tu		5 Th	
6 Fr		6 Su		6 We	SS: Empirical Research: Life Story, Ethnography & Autoethnography	6 Fr	S: Scientific Communication
7 Sa		7 Mo		7 Th		7 Sa	GO: Literature Search for Research (12-1pm)
8 Su		8 Tu		8 Fr		8 Su	
9 Mo		9 We	Learning & Skills Needs Analysis (online)	9 Sa		9 Mo	
10 Tu		10 Th		10 Su		10 Tu	
11 We		11 Fr		11 Mo		11 We	SS: Escaping Methodology
12 Th		12 Sa		12 Tu		12 Th	AH: Where can we find evidence? 2: Interviews
13 Fr		13 Su		13 We	AH: What is Theory For?	13 Fr	
14 Sa		14 Mo		14 Th		14 Sa	G: Finding and using statistical evidence (12-1)
15 Su		15 Tu		15 Fr		15 Su	
16 Mo		16 We	G: Manage your data: Introduction to RDM (12-1)	16 Sa		16 Mo	
17 Tu		17 Th		17 Su		17 Tu	
18 We		18 Fr		18 Mo		18 We	S: Objectivity & bias in experiment design
19 Th		19 Sa	Core Training (mandatory for Oct 2024 starters)		19 Tu		19 Th
20 Fr		20 Su			20 We	AH: What is Practice Research?	S: Communication in lay terms
21 Sa		21 Mo		21 Th		21 Sa	
22 Su		22 Tu		22 Fr		22 Su	
23 Mo		23 We	SS: Framing Social Research	AH: Context Across Disciplines	23 Sa		23 Mo
24 Tu		24 Th		24 Su		24	University closure
25 We		25 Fr		25 Mo		25 We	Christmas Day
26 Th		26 Sa		26 Tu		26 Th	Boxing Day
27 Fr		27 Su		27 We	S: Data Collection and Sampling Approaches	27	University closure
28 Sa	Induction for October 2024 starters	28 Mo		28 Th		28 Sa	
29 Su		29 Tu		29 Fr		29 Su	
30 Mo		30 We	S: Designing Randomised Controlled Trials	AH: What do we mean by text?	30 Sa		30
		31 Th	G: Plan Your Data: Doing your DMP (12-1)			31	University closure

KEY

M = Mandatory core sessions for new starters (PGR only) (ON CAMPUS unless stated otherwise)

AH = Arts & Humanities Methodological Sessions (ONLINE)

S: Sciences Methodological Sessions (ONLINE)

SS: Social Sciences Methodological (ONLINE)

GO: General researcher development - online sessions (ONLINE)

G: General researcher development - sessions held on campus (ON CAMPUS)

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: Voluntary intensive weekend schools. Available to all staff and PGRs. (ON CAMPUS)

Morning sessions: 10am-12pm
Afternoon sessions: 2pm-4pm
UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

Researcher Development Programme 2024/25

Semester 2/3

January 2025			February 2025			March 2025			April 2025			May 2025			June 2025				
1 We	New Year's Day		1 Sa	Induction?		1 Sa			1 Tu			1 Th			1 Su				
2 Th			2 Su			2 Su			2 We	GO: Citation metrics: Measure your influence		2 Fr			2 Mo				
3 Fr			3 Mo			3 Mo			3 Th			3 Sa			3 Tu				
4 Sa			4 Tu			4 Tu			4 Fr			4 Su			4 We				
5 Su			5 We	S: The funding landscape in the sciences	GO: Getting published in journals (12-1)	5 We		SS: Researching Sensitive Issues	5 Sa			5 Mo	Early May Bk. Hol.		5 Th				
6 Mo			6 Th			6 Th			6 Su			6 Tu			6 Fr				
7 Tu			7 Fr			7 Fr			7 Mo			7 We	GO: Making your research visible (1-2pm)		7 Sa				
8 We			8 Sa			8 Sa			8 Tu			8 Th			8 Su				
9 Th			9 Su			9 Su			9 We		AH: Where can we find evidence? 1: Archives	9 Fr			9 Mo				
10 Fr			10 Mo			10 Mo			10 Th			10 Sa			10 Tu				
11 Sa			11 Tu			11 Tu			11 Fr			11 Su			11 We				
12 Su			12 We	Learning & Skills Needs Analysis (online)	Introduction to Research Degree Resources from the Library (online)	12 We	G: Reference management with EndNote (12-1)	G: Talking Research Ethics and Research Integrity	12 Sa			12 Mo			12 Th				
13 Mo	3		13 Th			13 Th	G: Research Integrity and Data Sharing (12:30-1:30)		13 Su			13 Tu			13 Fr				
14 Tu			14 Fr			14 Fr			14 Mo			14 We	GO: Copyright and your thesis (10-11am)		14 Sa				
15 We	GO: Demystifying Open Access and Pure (12-1)		15 Sa	Core Training (mandatory for Feb 2025 starters)		15 Sa			15 Tu			15 Th			15 Su				
16 Th			16 Su			16 Su			16 We			16 Fr			16 Mo				
17 Fr			17 Mo			17 Mo			17 Th			17 Sa			17 Tu				
18 Sa			18 Tu			18 Tu			18 Fr	Good Friday		18 Su			18 We				
19 Su			19 We	G: Plan Your Data: Doing your DMP (12-1)	GO: Copyright and your thesis (2-3pm)	19 We	GO: Open Research - Open access and beyond (12-1)		19 Sa			19 Mo			19 Th		G: Nvivo for beginners (3-5pm)		
20 Mo			20 Th			20 Th			20 Su			20 Tu			20 Fr				
21 Tu			21 Fr			21 Fr			21 Mo	Easter Monday		21 We	GO: Exploring careers outside of academia (10-11)	GO: Preparing for job interviews (2-3)	21 Sa				
22 We	GO: A guide to different review types (10-11)	G: Reference management with RefWorks (12-1)	22 Sa			22 Sa			22 Tu	University closure		22 Th			22 Su				
23 Th			23 Su			23 Su			23 We			23 Fr			23 Mo				
24 Fr			24 Mo			24 Mo			24 Th			24 Sa			24 Tu				
25 Sa			25 Tu		GO: Literature Search for Research (12-1pm)	25 Tu			25 Fr			25 Su			25 We				
26 Su			26 We	G: GDPR, Data Protection and Research	G: Finding and using statistical evidence (1-2)	26 We	G: Using AI in your research (12-1)	SS: The Practice of Social Research	26 Sa			26 Mo	Spring Bank Hol.		26 Th				
27 Mo			27 Th		G: Love data: Metadata, READMEs & keywords (12-1)	27 Th			27 Su			27 Tu			27 Fr				
28 Tu			28 Fr			28 Fr			28 Mo			28 We			28 Sa				
29 We	GO: Understanding Epistemology					29 Sa			29 Tu			29 Th			29 Su				
30 Th						30 Su			30 We	SS: Using quantitative methods in social science research		30 Fr			30 Mo				
31 Fr						31 Mo						31 Sa							



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