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## Our RAE Responses

**T**hanks to Sara Delamont for collecting views on the latest ideas and questions from the Roberts Review process, and for constructing our reply. The response makes a number of points as forcefully as possible. The most important are:

- it is essential to maintain a research capacity in all parts of the United Kingdom
- research makes an important contribution to policy and practice at the local and regional level
- there is a need to nurture and develop the next generation of researchers
- measures of research capacity should be consistent with these points
- the metrics should have a firm basis in social science knowledge and experience

The next big battle will be over the allocation of social science disciplines to a much-reduced number of panels. It is not too early for Societies, Associations and Academicians to begin thinking about and preparing arguments and evidence on this issue. The Academy is prepared to arrange and host meetings so that the various ideas, concerns and interests of our members can be aired, with a view to developing a case and strategy for action. Please contact the Academy if you wish us to proceed with this work, and to contribute.

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## Current Consultations

**T**he two consultations for which we are gathering evidence at the moment are:

1. OST Consultation on the implementation of a new Academic Fellowship Scheme. Visit [www.ost.gov.uk/research/academic\\_fellowships\\_cons.htm](http://www.ost.gov.uk/research/academic_fellowships_cons.htm)
2. Joint Funding Council consultation on the review of the Funding Method for Research. Visit: [www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2003/03\\_38/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2003/03_38/)

The importance of this, second, consultation should not be underestimated, given the mooted abandonment of the dual support system. Members are encouraged to inform themselves of this possible danger and help the Academy defend our interests.

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## Research College News

**T**he Academy submitted a proposal for a new programme on *Responsibility to the ESRC Meeting of Colleges on Nov 26*. Our proposal is based on the widespread use of the term in academic, practical and policy discourses, against the background of an almost total absence of fundamental and applied research in virtually all disciplines.

At the meeting, Adrian Alsop, the new Director of Research at the ESRC (for which congratulations are due), presented a plan to dispense with disciplinary-based research colleges, in favour of colleges that have as their focus some of the big questions and interdisciplinary issues that confront researchers from across the subject areas. The Academy welcomed this development.

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## Meeting with Sociology VCs

**A**long with Ian Diamond of the ESRC, Ian Forbes, Chair of the Council, was invited to attend a meeting with Sociology VCs, in order to discuss future directions for the social sciences. It was extremely valuable to hear the views of these VCs. They underlined the important role that the Academy can play in the interests of the social science, both as a lobbying organisation, and as an educative voice about developments in social science as a whole.

Ian Diamond gave an insight into the strategic thinking and new plans for the ESRC in the immediate future. Following his talk at the Welcome Event for new Academicians on December 8, the Academy will bring all our members up to date with the latest developments.

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## In memoriam

**M**embers of the Academy were shocked to hear of the accidental death of Sally Baldwin AcSS. Her departure is a great loss to her many friends and to the social sciences as a

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whole. Sally's contributions as a scholar and a committed Academician were immense.

## Lifetime Achievement Prize

**Congratulations to our President, Bhikhu Parekh.** He has been awarded the Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Political Theory at the annual award ceremony of the Political Studies Association.

## New Administrative Arrangements

**At the end of the year, Michael Warren will be leaving the Academy.** He has done an enormous amount for us in the last year, bringing efficiency and a sense of calm to our work. We are very grateful for his efforts, and wish him well for the future.

From January 1, Sharon Craig will be providing our administrative services. She will be in her office every afternoon, Monday to Friday. Sharon can be contacted in the following ways:

By email:

- [admin@the-academy.org.uk](mailto:admin@the-academy.org.uk)
- [sharon.craig@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sharon.craig@nottingham.ac.uk)

By phone:

- 0115 846 7529

By fax:

- 0115 951 4859

By post:

- School of Politics  
University of Nottingham  
Nottingham NG7 2RD

## Committee Dates for 2004

- Committee & College of Learned Societies: tba
- Academy Council: 2pm, January 19
- Committee & College of Academicians: tba
- Nominations Committee: 2pm, March 1
- Academy Council: 2pm, March 8

- AGM: 2pm, May 17
- Academy Council: 2pm, June 7

## Award for Capacity Building

**The ESRC has awarded the Academy £4,000 to support our programme to train new and younger staff in the skills and arts of PhD supervision.** This programme was devised and will substantially be delivered by Sara Delamont, whose work in this area has led to highly recommended publications and the accumulation of a great deal of experience. Apart from offering a top quality learning experience, this programme has two distinctive features.

First, the training events are taking place around the country. This is intended to offset the south-east and London bias in training provision, and thereby increase the chances of the new cohort of social scientists benefiting from the programme, wherever they are located. This is in line with our view that social science expertise is spread throughout the UK, and needs to be supported in practical ways.

Second, places are limited and fully funded. We are offering our Academicians the opportunity to nominate a colleague in their own institution for this training opportunity. This is a direct benefit of Academician membership.

## A Time for Reflection

**The Council has begun the process of reviewing the aims and objectives of the Academy.** After just four years in existence, it is fair to say that the Academy has achieved a significant number of the objectives laid down by the ALSISS Implementation Group between 1997 and 1999. Following the successful launch and establishment of the Academy, it is time to think about the next phases in our development.

Council members are currently reviewing all aspects of the original plan and the Academy constitution. This will lead to a draft containing a new set of targets, activities and amendments to the existing plan. This draft will then be circulated to committees, member societies and Academicians for

debate and final feedback, prior to the presentation of a new plan for approval at the AGM in May 2004.

## New Academicians 2003

**A** warm welcome is extended to our newly elected Academicians. You are encouraged to take part in the next meeting of the College of Academicians (to be held early in the new year), attend our special events, to contribute to our consultation exercises, and to exercise your right to nominate another social science scholar or practitioner for election. Your membership is highly valued by the Academy, and will help our organisation to grow and successfully advance the social sciences in the coming years.

**Prof. Peter Alcock AcSS**

University of Birmingham

**Prof. Kay Anderson AcSS**

University of Western Sydney

**Dr. Madeleine Arnot AcSS**

University of Cambridge

**Prof. Paul Atkinson AcSS**

Cardiff University

**Prof. Christine Bellamy AcSS**

Nottingham Trent University

**The Honourable Michael Beloff AcSS QC**

Oxford University

**Prof. Tim Blackman AcSS**

University of Teesside

**Dr. David Blane AcSS**

Imperial College London

**Prof. Ian Butler AcSS**

University of Keele

**Prof. Bruce Campbell AcSS**

The Queen's University of Belfast

**Prof. Cara Carmichael Aitchison AcSS**

University of the West of England

**Prof. Guy Cook AcSS**

University of Reading

**Prof. Philip Cooke AcSS**

Cardiff University

**Prof. John Corner AcSS**

University of Liverpool

**Prof. Ann Davis AcSS**

The University of Birmingham

**Prof. Simin Davoudi AcSS**

Leeds Metropolitan University

**Prof. Bob Deacon AcSS**

University of Sheffield

**Prof. J Richard Eiser AcSS**

University of Sheffield

**Dr. Ivan Eisler AcSS**

King's College London

**Prof. John Furlong AcSS**

University of Oxford

**Prof. John Gardner AcSS**

Queen's University Belfast

**Ms. Angela Glasner AcSS**

University of Portsmouth

**Prof. Caroline Glendinning AcSS**

University of Manchester

**Dr. Susan Hallam AcSS**

University of London

**Prof. Emeritus Geoffrey Harcourt AO AcSS**

Jesus College, Cambridge

**Dr. Sheila Henderson AcSS**

University of London

**Dr. Amer Hirmis AcSS**

DTZ Piedad Consulting

**Prof. John Holmwood AcSS**

University of Sussex

**Prof. Gillian Hundt AcSS**

University of Warwick

**Prof. Ian Jamieson AcSS**

University of Bath

**Prof. Lynn Jamieson AcSS**

University of Edinburgh

**Dr. Elidir King AcSS**

Dept of Education and Science

**Prof. Ullrich Kockel AcSS**

University of the West of England

**Prof. Hilary Land AcSS**

University of Bristol

**Prof. Stephen Linstead AcSS**

University of Durham

**Prof. Angela Little AcSS**

University of London

**Prof. Ingrid Lunt AcSS**

University of London

**Prof. Neill Marshall AcSS**

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

**Prof. Robin Means AcSS**  
University of the West of England

**Prof. Kevin Morgan AcSS**  
Loughborough University

**Prof. Kevin W Morgan AcSS**  
Cardiff University

**Prof. Mark Overton AcSS**  
University of Exeter

**Prof. Ray Pahl AcSS**  
University of Essex

**Prof. David Parker AcSS**  
Cranfield University

**Prof. Michael Parkinson AcSS**  
Liverpool John Moores University

**Dr. Diane Perrons AcSS**  
London School of Economics

**Prof. Ann Phoenix AcSS**  
The Open University

**Mr. Peter Ramsden AcSS**  
Freiss Ltd

**Prof. Nirmala Rao AcSS**  
University of London

**Prof. Peter Roberts AcSS**  
University of Liverpool

**Prof. Adrian Sinfield AcSS**  
University of Edinburgh

**Prof. Margaret Snowling AcSS**  
University of York

**Prof. John Solomos AcSS**  
City University, London

**Dr. Peter Stratton AcSS**  
University of Leeds

**Prof. Harry Torrance AcSS**  
Manchester Metropolitan University

**Prof. Jane Wardle AcSS**  
University College London

**Prof. Andrew Whiten AcSS FBPsS FBA FRSE**  
University of St Andrews

**Prof. Robert Woods AcSS**  
University of Liverpool

**Prof. Ted Wragg AcSS**  
Exeter University

**Prof. Neil Wrigley AcSS**  
University of Southampton

## Research Councils UK

**The beginning of a beautiful friendship?** By all accounts, the RCUK is starting to work well. All Councils are deeply against the formation of one 'super' council. Their joint research agenda offers a wealth of opportunities for social science collaboration on:

- the origins of life
- water
- behavioural change and health
- terrorism and security
- complexity (including network analysis)
- post-genomics
- environment
- creativity

## All change at the ESRC?

**Ian Diamond is leading a fundamental review of research strategies, priorities and organisation at the ESRC.** The Academy has had the opportunity, through its membership of the Strategic Forum for the Social Sciences, to discuss some aspects of the proposed new strategy. We can report that the major interests for the ESRC for the near future are: the rural environment, E-science, stem cells, and methodology (forever!).

There are some changes that can be reported at this stage. First, an increase – larger than the rate of inflation - in the funds set aside for response mode applications has been put forward. This should increase the success rate. Second, the policy on research centres is being reviewed, and will entail a move away from the automatic and total cessation of funding after a fixed period. Third, research evaluation is likely to upgrade the focus on the impact of planned research, and there will be a specific focus on interdisciplinarity and capacity building.

and finally...

**Season's greetings from the Academy, and best wishes for the new year.**