

# Facts, figures and impacts

**NCRM**  
National Centre for  
Research Methods

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Since 2004 the National Centre for Research Methods has been conducting methodological research and delivering training courses to the social science community in the UK. NCRM has succeeded in reaching wide audiences across academic disciplines, career stages and sectors of employment, and this leaflet highlights some of the key facts and impacts that we have achieved so far.

Professor Patrick Sturgis  
***NCRM Director***

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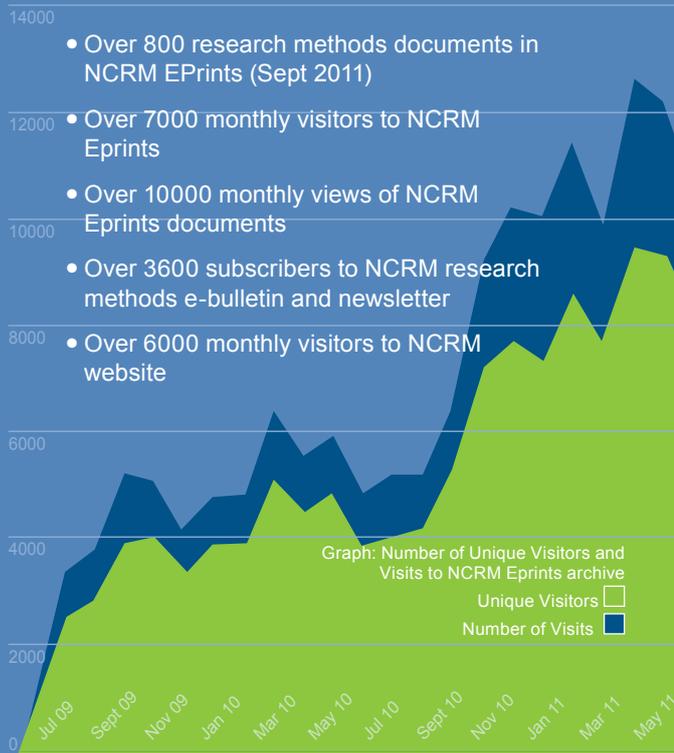
# Training and capacity building facts



- Over 400 research methods training courses and events since 2004
- Over 1500 people trained each year across over 20 academic disciplines, across all regions of the UK
- Over 90% of NCRM training course participants rate our training as either good or very good
- Over 260 of training bursaries awarded since 2007
- The biennial Research Methods Festival attracts consistently over 700 delegates. In 2008 over 90% of the delegates agreed that they learned something new at the Research Methods Festival.
- NCRM has funded 16 Networks for Methodological Innovation (NMI) projects in 2005-11. These NMI projects stimulate new ideas and improve understanding of methods and of the connections between methods and disciplines.

# Online resources and usage facts

## Some of the most popular NCRM papers 2007-2011



- Over 800 research methods documents in NCRM EPrints (Sept 2011)
- Over 7000 monthly visitors to NCRM EPrints
- Over 10000 monthly views of NCRM EPrints documents
- Over 3600 subscribers to NCRM research methods e-bulletin and newsletter
- Over 6000 monthly visitors to NCRM website

Managing anonymity and confidentiality in social research: the case of visual data in Community research. Authors: Graham Crow and Rose Wiles.  
*Viewed over 10400 times.*

Geographically Weighted Regression. Authors: Martin Charlton, Stewart Fotheringham and Chris Brunsdon.  
*Viewed over 6800 times.*

Mixed Methods Research: A discussion paper. Author: Julia Brannen.  
*Viewed over 10000 times.*

Informed Consent in Social Research: A Literature Review. Authors: Rose Wiles, Sue Heath, Graham Crow and Vikki Charles.  
*Viewed over 9900 times.*

Event History Analysis. Author: Fiona Steele.  
*Viewed over 5500 times.*

## Examples of research impacts: retention of DNA samples

Researchers from Lancaster-Warwick-Stirling node reviewed the 2009 government policy on the retention of DNA samples. Their findings were presented to the Home Office and led to a new policy report 'DNA Retention Policy: Re-Arrest Hazard Rate Analysis' and a major revision of the scientific work on DNA retention.



# Examples of research impacts: MLwiN software for fitting multilevel models

Researchers at LEMMA II node have been developing MLwiN software for fitting multilevel models. During 2010 there were over 1400 registered users of the software, including users from UK government departments, multinational electronics company and foreign government departments.



# Examples of research impacts: examining the process of recruitment to violent extremism

Researchers from the SIMIAN node have collaborated with operational research analysts from the Home Office using an agent-based model to examine the process of recruitment to violent extremism.



# NCRM in the press

A few examples:

## **Our early-years research does not contradict the government**

“Far from undermining the coalition’s social mobility strategy, our study actually confirms the previous research evidence on which the strategy is based – which has shown that children from disadvantaged backgrounds have very poor cognitive skills compared to their richer contemporaries, and that this socioeconomic gap emerges early in childhood.” John Jerrim and Anna Vignoles, ADMIN node of NCRM.  
*28 April 2011, The Guardian*

## **Poverty is more likely cause of mistrust than race**

“If it were somehow possible to make every neighbourhood in Britain completely ethnically homogeneous, it would have a barely perceptible impact on the extent to which the British trust people in their neighbourhoods.” Patrick Sturgis, NCRM Hub.  
*28 November 2010, The Guardian*

## **Why dumping a friend is hard**

“The ethics of friendship are very strong which makes it very hard to end a friendship, even when it has stopped being fun, because we feel terribly guilty about it. There is a real sense of duty which is hard to break.” Carol Smart, Realities node.  
*11 April 2010, The Independent*



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