

#03 Institute for Public Policy Research - Green Industrial Strategy

Working as a data fellow at Think Tank IPPR

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Knepp Rewilding Center Visit 2024

Overview of the Data Fellowship

During my data fellowship project, I worked as a researcher on two main projects: a social leasing project and a child poverty project. In the social leasing project, I conducted a literature review and gathered data from sources like existing studies and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). My goal was to compile this data into an organised Excel sheet for easier access and use by colleagues. The project aimed to explore ways to introduce affordable electric car leasing schemes for low-income households, promoting greener transportation while offering cost-effective commuting options. This experience helped me sharpen my skills in literature analysis and data organisation. In the child poverty project, I helped develop an interview guide for a study focusing on child poverty and migrant communities. The guide had to be carefully crafted, ensuring it conveyed confidentiality and was easy for participants to understand, while avoiding language that could potentially be sensitive or triggering. This task improved my ability to communicate research concepts clearly and empathetically.

Overall, I gained hands-on experience in research methods, data management, and writing effective research tools, all of which have enhanced my ability to work on impactful social projects.

Data Analysis

Throughout this research, I primarily used Excel to analyse child poverty data and categorise cities by local authority. This revealed specific areas that require updated public policies and heightened attention to address child poverty effectively.

While I had previously learned Excel at university, this project reinforced the importance of being vigilant about the sources of secondary data, especially in comparative research. I learned that understanding the definitions, research aims, and context behind data is crucial—even when datasets seem to cover the same topic.

Key Skills Learnt

Communication: Communication has been one of the most valuable skills I developed during this data fellowship. My manager was often busy with tight research deadlines, which meant I occasionally found myself without immediate tasks. Instead of waiting idly, I took the initiative to reach out to other researchers at IPPR (with my manager's approval). This proactive approach led me to contribute to the research on Child Poverty and Migration, demonstrating my ability to seek opportunities and effectively communicate my willingness to collaborate.

Collaboration and Teamwork

Throughout the Child Poverty project, I ensured my work was transparent and well-coordinated by sending daily summary emails to the team. This helped us stay aligned on progress, ask questions, and improve our collective research. I also fostered an open dialogue by sharing any concerns or questions with the team, which enhanced both collaboration and the quality of our findings.



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