

methods@manchester

Your summary of methods news

October 2025

Methods News is the regular newsletter from methods@manchester (find out more in our [2024-5 annual report](#)).

Interested in new ways to visualise data? Join our upcoming workshop with the Cathie Marsh Centre's Dr Simon Rudkin, introducing the Topological Data Analysis Ball Mapper method.

This month we also bring you news of a Methods North West-sponsored Methods Lab, led by SEED PhD student, Freddie Jones, focusing on research inclusion for non-speaking neurodiverse young people. Please share amongst your networks.

In our PGR community space, Bulbul Prakash offers powerful reflections on the use of photovoice in challenging contexts. We welcome contributions from UoM PhD researchers, so do get in touch if you'd like to be featured.

If you are organising a methods-related event or activity, send us brief details by Monday 10 November to be included in next month's issue.

Emma and Jordan

Prof. Emma Banister (Director of methods@manchester)
Jordan Chaplin (Administrator for methods@manchester)

Connect With Us

methods@manchester Events and Activities

MethodsLab: Listening to the non-speaking experience

Freddie Jones, Friday 7 November, 11:00-4:30pm

This Methods NW event brings attendees together to develop ethical and effective qualitative methods for including non-speaking neurodiverse young people in research. Whether you are an academic, practitioner, parent or autistic young adult (18+) you are invited to attend to engage with talks, posters, and hands-on activities to explore different approaches.

[Book a place now](#)

Topological Data Analysis Ball Mapper for the Social Sciences

Dr Simon Rudkin, Cathie Marsh Institute, 18 November, 10:00-4:00pm

This in-person methods@manchester workshop introduces the Topological Data Analysis Ball Mapper algorithm as a model free tool for visualising data. The workshop will highlight strengths of the algorithm and associated research opportunities.

Not sure if your data is suitable?

On Monday 10 November (4-5pm, online) Dr Rudkin is hosting a pre-session for anyone who would like to discuss the suitability of their data for visualising with Ball Mapper.

[Sign up now](#)

Save the date: 'Lost and Found in Translation' Conference

Wednesday 10 June, full day

The Lost and Found in Translation workshops taking place this year will culminate in a full-day conference hosted at The University of Manchester. More details on the series will be released in next month's newsletter.

artsmethods@manchester

Are you a University of Manchester PGR with an interest in arts and humanities? artsmethods@manchester is an academic programme of talks, workshops, training and events which explore approaches to arts research methods and their dissemination.

Semester 1's programme includes:

Narrative as Research Method

Monday, 3 November – CG59, Ellen Wilkinson Building

Using World Literature

Monday 10 November – C1.18, Ellen Wilkinson Building

Thematic Analysis

17 November – C1.18, Ellen Wilkinson Building

[artsmethods Events](#)

Methods North West

Methods North West brings together the collective strength, depth, and breadth of methodological expertise across the North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP) consisting of the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster, Keele, and Lancashire.

[Methods North West website](#)

Contribute to the Lunchtime Seminar Programme

The Methods North West lunchtime seminar series runs Thursdays 12 – 1pm (online), featuring methods-related work and discussion from researchers across, and beyond, the partnership.

If you are a researcher (including experienced PGRs) who would like to contribute to the lunchtime seminar series, please see our Call for Contributions.

[Call for Contributions: Lunchtime Sessions](#)

More Events at Manchester

Getting started with secondary analysis

Monday, 3 November, 10:00-11:30am [online], UK Data Service

Learn about the key issues to consider when using secondary data analysis as a method. This introductory workshop will briefly cover the pros and cons of reusing data and the importance of learning about the origins of your data.

[Book a place now](#)

Practical population inference with weights and survey design variables

Friday, 7 November, 11:00-3:30pm [Arthur Lewis Building], UK Data Service

A practical introduction and guide on the correct use of weights and survey design variables when producing population estimates from UKDS survey data. Combining plain English explanations of core concepts in survey design and statistical inference with practical implications for real-world data analysis.

[Book a place now](#)

Behavioural Research Network at UoM

A new behavioural research network at The University of Manchester will bring together researchers exploring how to change or influence **human behaviour, decision-making, and practices** across disciplines. If this describes your research area, please consider joining our **in-person workshop on the 25th of November, 9:30 am-12:30 pm**

The aim of this event is to:

- Connect with colleagues from across the University working in this field
- Share your work, ideas, and challenges
- Shape how the network develops to best support your research needs

Spaces for the in-person event are limited. To register your interest in attending the event, please complete [this form](#) (a member of the team will contact you to confirm attendance). If you are unable to join the event but would like more information, contact Nia Coupe: nia.coupe@manchester.ac.uk

National Centre for Research Methods

The National Centre for Research Methods delivers training and resources at core and advanced levels, covering quantitative, qualitative, digital, creative, visual, mixed and multimodal methods.

Upcoming Events include:

[Principles of Research Design](#)

Thursday, 23 October [online]

This one-day seminar provides PhD students and researchers from social science disciplines with essential strategies for developing robust and impactful research projects.

[Participatory Action Research \(PAR\): Equitable Partners and Engaged Research](#)

Tuesday, 4 November – 11 November [engage@liverpool]

Participants will learn terminology, understand participation in community engaged research, explore how power and positionality can change health outcomes in PAR, and learn about a variety of participatory methods and how they apply in different contexts.

[Upcoming NCRM Events](#)

PGR Community Space



My name is Bulbul Prakash, and I am a third-year PhD student in Politics at the University of Manchester. My research explores everyday violence and acts of resistance among Adivasi (indigenous) women in the conflict-affected state of Chhattisgarh in India. Despite facing militarisation, displacement, and social exclusion, these women resist through everyday acts of caregiving, economic sustenance, and solidarity, transforming the ordinary into quiet yet powerful forms of defiance.

I use Photovoice, a participatory action research method that enables Adivasi women—my co-researchers—to document and reflect on their lived experiences through photography. Conducting this work in conflict zones has taught me that research ethics truly unfold in the field, not just in the forms we submit before fieldwork but in our daily choices, relationships, and responsibilities to our co-researchers and communities.

The most rewarding part of this journey has been witnessing the trust and creativity my co-researchers bring to the process. Through their images and stories, they reclaim voice and visibility in a landscape that often silences them.

Want to hear more about Bulbul's work? You can contact her at bulbul.prakash@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk.

Are you ready to share your innovative work?

Methods News would love to draw attention to the innovative work that is taking place within our PGR community; providing a regular flexible space for methods-related pieces or profiles. Fill in the form below and we can support you with this.

[PGR Community Submission Form](#)

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[Contact Us](#) | Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 6000 | Web: <https://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk>

Registered Office: The University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester, M13 9PL. Royal
Charter Number: RC000797

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