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methods@manchester

Your summary of methods news

September 2026

Hello

Happy new academic year to all staff, students, and friends of Methods@Manchester!

I'm pleased to share with you the first Methods newsletter of the new academic year and my first as the new Director of Methods@Manchester. We already have a number of great activities planned for the 2026-2027 academic year. Through our workshops, seminars, and events, Methods@Manchester highlights the diverse and innovative methodological expertise across the Faculty of Humanities here at the University of Manchester. It takes a great team to organise the many Methods@Manchester events and activities, so I am happy to work alongside colleagues Jo Marsh, Kamila Verikaitė, and Anusarin Lowe in the Doctoral Academy.

To our PGR student colleagues: you are developing and strengthening your own areas of methodological expertise with guidance from your supervisors and within the strong research and scholarship groups and centres within the faculty. To support your methods journey, I hope you will take a moment to complete this [brief survey](#) to tell us about any additional methods trainings and events that would interest you.

To our staff colleagues: A staff Methods@Manchester survey will be launched in October. If you have an idea for an event, training workshop, or summer school unit, please get in touch: methods@manchester.ac.uk

I am looking forward to the opportunities ahead this year for us to learn from one another and to continue to build our methods community together.

Dr Jessica Gagnon
Director, Methods@Manchester

Connect With Us

In this newsletter:

Events (details below)

- **30 September:** The Moving Century, a History of Migration Seen from the Future (Methods Lab)
- **1 October:** Methods North West lunchtime seminar series: Making (slowly) as method: stitching together a patchwork ethnography of natural textile dyeing
- **7 October:** Studying “Hard Working Students”: Reflections on process (co-sponsored by Methods@Manchester)
- **12 October:** Queer and Feminist Art-Based Methods Workshop (Catalyst grant)
- **14 October:** Methods North West Catalyst and Methods Lab Grants Info Session
- **22 October:** Methods North West lunchtime seminar series: Action-guiding for whom? Social movements and political theory of migration
- **26 October:** Queer and Trans Archival Research Workshop (Catalyst grant)
- **9 November:** Methods for Interviews and Fieldwork with LGBTQ Organizations (Catalyst grant)
- **11 November:** Methods@Manchester workshop Critical Data Visualisation
- **23 November:** Queer Methods in Social Sciences Toolkit Launch and Showcase (Catalyst grant)
- **8 and 9 December:** Archives out of the Box: Innovating Methods for Critical and Creative Praxis (Catalyst grant)

Save the Dates

- **14 November 2026:** STEM Teachers as Researchers (co-sponsored by Methods@Manchester; details in the next newsletter)
- **4 January 2027:** Application deadline for Methods North West Catalyst grant applications
- **28 January 2027:** Methods North West lunchtime seminar series: Collaboration, Creativity, and the Ethics of Care: Engaging arts-based methods to explore everyday inequalities
- **18 February 2027:** Methods North West lunchtime seminar series: Viral Memories: Understanding Gay Men’s Experiences of HIV and COVID-19 in the UK
- **6 May 2027:** Methods North West lunchtime seminar series: Getting to know the unemployed: insights from 12 months of ethnographic research among Manchester’s Jobseekers
- **26 May 2027:** Methods Fair 2027
- **7 June 2027:** Application deadline for Methods North West Catalyst grant applications
- **5-9 July 2027:** Methods@Manchester Summer School

Topics (details below)

- Methods@Manchester PGR Survey: Complete the brief survey by 23 October and enter with a chance to win a voucher
- Coming soon: Details for a paid opportunity to become a Methods@Manchester intern in the next newsletter
- Check out upcoming artsmethods@manchester events and training
- Check out upcoming National Centre for Research Methods training

Methods@Manchester Upcoming Events

Critical Data Visualisation - Staff and PGR Training

Led by Dr Luca Scholtz, this session invites researchers from across the humanities and sciences to engage critically and creatively with data visualisation. Participants will learn to better recognise and critique biased, oversimplified, or misleading representations of data, and to develop their own visualisations to explore and communicate data that is relevant to their research.

This training will particularly appeal to researchers in the humanities and social sciences with no or limited previous experience in working with data, as well as more experienced researchers across the sciences, social sciences, and humanities who wish to better understand critical and creative approaches to data analysis and visualisation.

The session takes place **12pm - 4pm Wednesday 11 November**. For further details, and to book a place, please visit the [webpage](#).

Studying “Hard Working Students”: Reflections on process

Wednesday 7 October 2026 – Ellen Wilkinson Building (room tbc) 14:00-16:00 (on campus only)

Manchester Institute of Education with Methods@Manchester welcomes Professor Alison Taylor, University of British Columbia.

In this presentation, Alison Taylor will reflect on a recent study she led about the experiences of undergraduate students with term-time work.

The Hard Working Student was a qualitatively driven, mixed-methodology study in Canada. Following an institutional survey, 57 working undergraduates at a research-intensive university were engaged in multi-modal data collection activities over the span of their degrees. The study culminated in Taylor’s 2025 book “Juggling rhythms: Working student life in the 21st century.”

This presentation draws on data from students to illustrate and reflect on decisions made in the study and book, including the use of qualitative longitudinal data, visual data, metaphor analysis, and narrative portraits. These decisions resonate with broader conversations in social sciences about connections between theory and methodology,

Any questions or queries, please contact Kirsty Finn kirsty.finn@manchester.ac.uk

- [12 October, Queer and Feminist Art-Based Methods Workshop \(Manchester\)](#)
- [26 October, Queer and Trans Archival Research Workshop \(Liverpool\)](#)

- [9 November, Methods for Interviews and Fieldwork with LGBTQ Organizations \(Liverpool\)](#)
- [23 November, Queer Methods in Social Sciences Toolkit Launch and Showcase \(Manchester\)](#)

The series brings together leading researchers working across a range of qualitative methods, offering a chance to explore how queer can shape the way we design, conduct, analyse and communicate research. Workshops will focus on arts-based research, archival research, and fieldwork and interviews, whilst making space for broader questions about what queer methods can offer social science research.

Archives out of the Box: Innovating Methods for Critical and Creative Praxis (Catalyst Bid)

8 and 9 December 2026; University of Manchester

This two-day workshop with Dr Arianna Tozzi, Dr Purva Dewoolkar and Sharan Kaur (University of Manchester) will help participants translate theoretical insights into practical methodological tools and think with archives “outside of the box”.

Participants are invited to present an “archival puzzle”: an object, image, absence, or contradiction that has challenged their archival journey. For instance, disruptive more-than-human agents or colonial planning failures might reveal how material conditions or marginalised actors shape social conditions but are hard to map using conventional archival practices.

Queries and submissions should be directed to archivesoutofthebox@manchester.ac.uk

Methods North West Thursday Lunchtime Seminars

The Methods North West online lunchtime seminar series runs on Thursdays 12-1pm, and features methods-related work and discussion across, and beyond, the partnership.

Please see below for details of the semester one sessions:

Making (slowly) as method: stitching together a patchwork ethnography of natural textile dyeing

With Dr Laura Pottinger; 12pm – 1pm Thursday 1 October 2026

This Methods North West Lunchtime Seminar draws on emerging ideas about ‘patchwork ethnography’, an approach mobilising the often multi-sited, fragmented, non-linear character of ethnographic research in practice. The talk shares findings from the Making Slow Colour research and outlines two textile making methods: group stitching conversations, and auto-ethnographic quilt-making. I explore how the ‘soft’ metaphors of piecing, steeping and stitching might be useful for cultivating gentle, creative and slowly-paced methodological praxis.

Register [here](#).

Action-guiding for whom? Social movements and political theory of migration

With Dr Clara Sandelind; 12pm – 1pm Thursday 22 October 2026

In this Methods North West Lunchtime Seminar, attendees will be introduced to grounded normative theory and consider how empirical engagement with social movements can inform normative political theorising. The session will explore how this approach can bring empirical research and normative political theory into dialogue, including questions about whose knowledge informs theory, how researchers can theorise with rather than simply about marginalised groups, and what is gained by treating social movements as producers of political knowledge.

Register [here](#).

Further details on upcoming seminars can be found on the [Methods North West website](#).

Save the Dates!

Methods Fair 2027

The Methods Fair is an annual one-day event organised in collaboration with Methods North West. It brings together researchers and PGRs from across the region featuring a keynote, talks, posters, and hands-on workshops.

The 2027 Methods fair will be held on **Wednesday 26 May**.

Read all about last year's Fair [here](#).

Summer School 2027



The Methods@Manchester Summer School provides research methods training with a range of courses on offer including Qualitative Interviewing, Digital Methods, Creative Methods, AI Data Analytics, Quantitative methods for qualitative researchers, and Systematic Literature Reviews.

The 2027 Summer School will be held **Monday 5 - Friday 9 July**.

Read all about the 2026 Summer School [here](#).

PGR Survey

Are you a Faculty of Humanities PGR student at the University of Manchester?

Methods@Manchester (M@M) is interested in learning more about your research, which methodologies and methodological skills you would like to learn, develop, and/or strengthen, and how M@M can best meet your methodological interests and training needs. Please complete this brief anonymous evaluation survey by 23 October. Participants will have the option to enter a draw for a chance to win one of four £25 vouchers.

[Complete the Survey](#)

Coming Soon: Methods@Manchester Interns

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.

Workshops can be booked via the Training Calendar.

[About artsmethods](#)

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 online events include:

- **Navigating Qualitative AI: Ethical, Methodological and Practical Considerations**
 - 12 October 2026: Using general-purpose Generative-AI tools
 - 13 October 2026: Generative-AI driven analysis with bespoke online Apps
- **Vibe Coding: An Introduction for Social Scientists**

- 9 November to 10 November 2026

To register for the above courses, and for details of the NCRM full programme of events, please see here:

[Upcoming NCRM Events](#)

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methods@manchester | The University of Manchester | Methods North West
[Contact Us](#) | Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 2859 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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