

**December 2016 edition**

## Seasons Greetings from David, Ben and Daniel, and best wishes for 2017!

### DTC Annual Conference—Friday 21st April 2017—save the date!

The DTC Annual Conference will be held this year on **Friday 21st April 2017 at the Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens**. The event has been brought forward from the end of Summer term. A full programme of workshops and talks are planned, along with three minute thesis presentations. This is the one event a year we expect all ESRC scholars to attend, so please put this date in your diaries.

## Welcome to your new website

The DTC website has now been replaced and a redirect will take you to the homepage of the Grand Union DTP website ([www.granduniondtp.ac.uk](http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk)).

Thanks to all of you who provided profiles for the website. These are now online. If you haven't sent in a profile, please do so.

All guidance that was available on the DTC website for current award holders has been moved to <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>. Please update your bookmarks, etc, accordingly.

### Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods

The [Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods](#) will take place over **27 – 31 March 2017**. Registration is now open and will close on: **Monday 16 January 2017**.

#### Programme Overview

The Oxford Spring School offers graduate students and researchers from universities across the UK and abroad a unique venue to learn cutting-edge methods in quantitative and qualitative methods in the social sciences, with a variety of advanced courses which place the different data analysis techniques within broader disciplinary trends towards mixed-methods research designs.

Course options include a choice between sets of increasingly popular and influential methods/techniques in the discipline: Social Network Analysis ; Causal Inference; Process Tracing; Forecasting; Spatial Analysis; and Data Visualisation.

Participants will be able to take a total of up to three different methods courses in one week, as well as a masterclass session on how to publish their research in peer-reviewed journals. Tutors will emphasise the mixed-methods philosophy underlying these courses, and the use of these techniques in different types of research designs.

#### Funding

The Oxford Spring School is delighted to be able to offer five full bursaries and six half bursaries. Offers will be made on merit. Please see further information at <http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/spring-school/fees-and-funding.html?schoolid=517>.

**Please visit the website for further information and to apply: [Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods](#).**

### JSPS Summer Programme 2017

The JSPS Summer Programme provides the opportunity for current MPhil or PhD students to receive a one week orientation on Japanese culture and research systems on arrival and then move to a host institution in Japan of their choice and approved by JSPS, to conduct collaborative research activities for 2 months during the summer. Eligibility: Applicants must be a British national and a current MPhil or PhD student based at a UK university or research institution at the time of application. Eligible research fields are not limited.

Application Deadline: Sunday 15th January 2017 Fellowship to take place during fixed period: 13 June to 23 August 2017.

Applications should be sent to the British Council Tokyo. Application guidelines and form are available on their website here:

[www.britishcouncil.jp/en/programmes/higher-education/support-researchers](http://www.britishcouncil.jp/en/programmes/higher-education/support-researchers). Any enquiries should be sent to: [science@britishcouncil.or.jp](mailto:science@britishcouncil.or.jp)

### Nine Dots Prize

The Nine Dots Prize is a new prize for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. Its heartland is the social sciences, but it welcomes entrants from all disciplines and cross-discipline thinking. Entrants are challenged to submit 3,000 word responses to a question set by the 12-strong Board – the inaugural question is 'Are digital technologies making politics impossible?' The Prize is US\$100,000, which will support the winner to write a short book expanding on their ideas to be published by Cambridge University Press in a variety of formats, including open access, meaning the book can be downloaded free of charge. It will be judged anonymously.

Further information on the attached and can be found at [www.ninedotsprize.org](http://www.ninedotsprize.org).

<http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>

### Funding guidance reminders

Full funding guidance, covering all of the schemes available to DTC students such as RTSG, OFE, DLT, OIVs, etc, is regularly updated at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>.

### Training

For information on available training courses, please see the training website at <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk>.

Don't forget to check the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) portal at <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/> for training courses available nationally.

### Interdisciplinary Funding

The DTC provides funding for interdisciplinary projects - such as workshops, seminars or small conferences, etc – on a rolling basis, and you can apply for funds at any point. Now is the time to plan an event for next year.

Full guidance is available under the interdisciplinary funding section on the DTC website at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>.

Applications should be sent to Melanie Goodchild ([melanie.goodchild@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.goodchild@socsci.ox.ac.uk)). Please note that the scheme is open to applications from students currently enrolled on DPhil programmes only.