



Department of Sociology

Seminar

How to Turn Research into Quality Publications

Speaker: Professor Sara Arber
Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Co-Director,
Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender (CRAG)
University of Surrey, UK

Date: 14 May 2018 (Monday)

Time: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Venue: Rm 1312, 10/F., Academic and Administration Bldg.,
15 Baptist University Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon

Abstract

A pre-requisite for good quality publications is research that is methodologically rigorous, intellectually significant and demonstrates originality. The UK REF2014 (Research Excellence Framework, equivalent to RAE) assessed quality of publications through three criteria – ‘rigour’, ‘significance’ and ‘originality’ – the meanings of each are discussed. The importance of selecting the ‘right’ journal for your research, and how to write in that journal’s style is emphasised. The ideal structure of an article and suggested content for each section is examined, including abstract, introduction, discussion of relevant theory/previous research, methodology/data, presentation and discussion of results, and conclusions. Barriers to writing, such as ‘cowardice’ and ‘perfectionism’ are discussed, together with the importance of self or externally-imposed deadlines throughout the writing process. The value, and any pitfalls, of co-authorship is considered, together with the value of presenting your research at conferences/seminars and getting feedback on draft articles.

Bio

Professor Sara Arber is Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Co-Director, Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender (CRAG) at the University of Surrey, UK. At Surrey, she was Head of the School of Human Sciences (2001-04) and Head of the Sociology Department (1996-2002). She was also President of the British Sociological Association (1999-2001) and President of the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Sociology of Aging (RC11) (2006-2010). Professor Arber received the British Society of Gerontology Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2011, and the British Sociological Association Distinguished Service to Sociology Award in 2017. She was a member of the Sociology Panel for the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) for 2014.

Professor Arber has written over 300 journal articles on gender and ageing, inequalities in health, and sociology of sleep. Her books include *Contemporary Grandparenting: Changing Family Relationships in Global Contexts* (with Virpi Timonen, 2012); *Gender and Ageing: Changing Roles and Relationships* (with Kate Davidson and Jay Ginn, 2003); *The Myth of Generational Conflict: Family and State in Ageing Societies* (with Claudine Attias-Donfut, 2000); *Connecting Gender and Ageing* (with Jay Ginn, 1995), and *Gender and Later Life: A Sociological Analysis of Resources and Constraints* (with Jay Ginn, 1991).

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