



# Department of Sociology

## Seminar

**Professor Sara Arber**

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

## How to Build Impact into Research: Experiences from the UK

**Date:** 17 May 2018 (Thursday)  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 11:30 am  
**Venue:** Rm 1312, 10/F., Academic and Administration Bldg.,  
15 Baptist University Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon

### Abstract

The paper considers different types of Impact of sociological and social policy research, which may emanate from a single research study or often related studies undertaken over several years demonstrating cumulative impact. The paper discusses the criteria for assessing Impact used in the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF2014). The key REF criteria for assessing Impact were the 'reach' and 'significance' of the impact evidenced in submitted Case Studies. The meanings of 'reach' and 'significance' are discussed, together with ways evidence of Impact could be demonstrated in Impact Case Studies. Research proposals need to specify the various ways Impact will be achieved, e.g. through engaging with stakeholders, 'users', the public, and/or policymakers at different stages of a research project. The paper considers how promoting impact may be assisted by advisory committees, use of different types of media, online dissemination activities, engagement with policy makers and practitioners, and holding participatory workshops or other events.

### 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).

\* \* \* \* \* **ALL ARE WELCOME** \* \* \* \* \*

**Enquiries: 3411 7131 (phone) or [soc@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:soc@hkbu.edu.hk) (e-mail)**