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The O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards

A celebration of how social sciences are making a difference

Summary

The **O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards** are an opportunity for members of the **University of Oxford**, the **Open University**, **Oxford Brookes** and **Reading Universities (O²RB)** to come together to recognise and reward the successes of social sciences researchers who have achieved, or are currently achieving, excellent economic and societal impacts.

These prizes are part of our collaborative efforts to build and strengthen regional partnerships for impact through our [Economic and Social Research Council \(ESRC\) Impact Acceleration Account \(IAA\)](#). For the very first time, these awards bring together the research communities of the partner universities, to celebrate and share their collective research impact successes.

A prize of £5,000 will be awarded to the overall Impact Champion(s), with three other winners awarded £2,500 each. There will also be special prize for Early Career Impact Champion of £2,500.

These awards have been made possible through the generous support of the [University of Oxford ESRC IAA](#), with in-kind support from the four partner universities.

Key dates

- The deadline for applications is **17:00hrs, Monday 05 March 2018**.
- Eligible impacts will have occurred in the period **since 01 August 2013**.
- Awards ceremony will be held at St Anne's College, Oxford at the [Making a Difference: Impact in the Social Sciences Conference](#) on **Thursday 19 April 2018** in the early evening.

Who can apply

- The competition is open to social sciences researchers, not just those funded by the ESRC. Cross/Inter-disciplinary researchers or multi-disciplinary teams can apply if at least 50% of the research is social sciences.
- Members of the University of Oxford, the Open University, Oxford Brookes and Reading Universities may apply as lead applicants.
- Applications are welcome from individuals or teams detailing the impact of their research.
- Researchers at any career stage can apply. Professional staff can be included as co-applicants.
- Current doctoral students and those within four years of submitting their doctoral thesis are eligible to apply as the lead applicant for the Early Career Impact Champion category, or can be included as co-applicants on team applications.
- Researchers from other universities may not apply for an individual award but can be included as a co-applicant in a team application, where they are collaborating with researchers from one of the four host universities.
- You can nominate yourself or your team, or you can nominate someone else.
- Applicants may enter more than once (up to a maximum of three), but each application must refer to distinct impacts or engagement activities.



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Categories

Up to four **Excellence in Impact** prizes will be awarded (each for £2,500) with the overall **Impact Champion** (selected as an overall winner from those four) winning an additional £2,500. In addition, a category for upcoming talent, will identify an **Early Career Impact Champion** who will be awarded £2,500.

[Excellence in Impact Awards](#)

These prizes will recognise significant and demonstrable impacts from outstanding social science research, which has made a contribution to society and the economy in the period since 01 August 2013.

We have not predefined sub categories, and anticipate entries may include examples of:

- impact with business and enterprise including direct impacts benefitting individual organisations, groups or sectors through innovation and changing practices, or through capacity building and training;
- contributions to the development of public policy, at the local, regional, national and international level;
- benefits provided to a specific group of the public or society more widely including through engaging local or community groups, charities and civil society;
- impact and engagement activity based in any geographic region of the world;
- instrumental impacts that have changed a policy, reshaped service provision, altered legislation or changed behaviour, health or wellbeing;
- engagement activities that have changed perceptions, reframed debate, led to cultural enrichment and other more conceptual impacts;
- activities that have influenced the work and skills of a range of practitioners e.g. lawyers, teachers, social workers, care givers, or built capacity within a certain group of society;
- professional and specialist staff who have supported researchers to deliver impact, either with a direct role in a project team or as part of the support structure of their university.

Entries should be supported by evidence corroborating the impacts claimed (see below).

[Impact Champion\(s\)](#)

This prize will recognise the most outstanding entry, showing a significant track record of impact and in engaging beyond academia. This can be an individual or team effort. The prize will celebrate innovative approaches, leadership in impact and a genuine commitment to collaboration and engaged research.

[Early Career Impact Champion](#)

This prize will recognise an individual social scientist in the early stages of their career who has already achieved or shows the potential to achieve outstanding impacts from their research.

Applications are welcome from current doctoral students or those that submitted their thesis within the last 4 years.



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Assessment criteria

All applicants should show how they meet the assessment criteria.

Excellence in Impact Awards and Early Career Impact Champion

- demonstrable link between the research and the impact identified and right time period
- the researcher/team played an active role in making the impact happen
- the pathway to impact shows innovative and creative approaches to engagement
- the extent/scale and significance of the impact from the beneficiaries' point of view
- the potential for other researchers to learn and be inspired
- how well the researcher/team responded to challenges including failures, opportunities and change of plan

Impact Champion(s)

In addition to the criteria above the Impact Champion(s) will demonstrate:

- a genuine commitment to collaboration beyond academia and to co-produced or engaged research, building strong and lasting partnerships with stakeholders;
- leadership in enabling and inspiring others to undertake innovative knowledge exchange and to generate impact from research.

Competition process

Applications will be assessed through peer review by academics, engagement and knowledge exchange experts. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted prior to the event so you can book places at the ceremony and the winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on **19 April 2018**.

Use of the prize money

All winners will be able to spend each prize within a 12-month period to further knowledge exchange, public engagement or other communications activities to promote the economic and social impacts of research. Winners will be expected to inform the University of Oxford ESRC IAA team how the prize money is being used and report back on impacts generated.

For team winners the prize money will be awarded to the team as a whole, with the department of the lead applicant responsible for the grant management.

The prize money will be awarded to the applicant(s) as a grant managed via their university department/faculty and not as an individual payment. Funding can be used for travel, event costs, print and design costs, casual RA time, professional fees e.g. for video filming/editing, photography, other technical work. Academic salary costs and overheads are not eligible costs.



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How to apply

Download the application form from www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/impactprizes and complete the following sections:

Applicant(s) details

- Name, affiliation and contact details
- Early career status
- Details of co-applicants
- Nominator's details (if not self-nominating)

Your impact

- **Title of your submission** (15 words max)
- **Summary** (150 words max)
Provide a short summary of why you (or the nominee) should win this award, explaining succinctly your impact achievements and successes.
- **Details of grants** or funded activities linked to your submission (150 words max)
- **Publications** (up to 5)
Include up to 5 academic publications relating to the research described in the previous section. Publications will be regarded commensurate with career level expectations.
- **The research upon which your (the nominee's) impact is based** (250 words max)
Describe the research underpinning your (the nominee's) impact and engagement activities. Include information on the research questions, approach, design and principal findings.
- **Details of the impacts and how they came about** (500 words max)
Describe how your research made a difference and to whom. Include specific evidence and indication of the extent and significance of the impact from the point of view of users and/or beneficiaries. Describe what you (or the nominee) did to enable the impact to happen and show how you meet the assessment criteria.
- **Challenges encountered and how you (the nominee) overcame them** (150 words)

Supporting documentation

- Your Head of Department should endorse your application by checking the box on the application form and including their details.
- Web-link to your latest online biography should also be included in the application form.
- Please submit sources of evidence corroborating the impact **as a single PDF attachment**. Sources may include emails, letters of support, testimonials, feedback, data, quotes, links etc.
- A summary of how you would spend the prize money. This will be used by the IAA team in order to ensure proper use of prize monies, according to funder terms and conditions.

The deadline for submissions is 17:00hrs, Monday 05 March 2018.

Submit your completed [application form](#) and single PDF supporting documentation to impact@socsci.ox.ac.uk. Please make sure your department and in the case of Open, Oxford Brookes and Reading University applicants, make sure your institutional contact (see below) is aware of your submission.



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Terms and conditions

By submitting an application to the *O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards*, you declare that the application has been completed fully and correctly at the time of submission, and agree that you and any nominees or co-applicants accept the following terms and conditions:

- If a nominee is awarded a prize, their name and other details included in the application will be published.
- To work with the organisers to develop publicity material for use during the application process and subsequently.
- We will only accept applications that are submitted using our online forms.
- Complete forms must be received no later than **17:00 on 05 March 2018**.
- To attend the award event in Oxford on 19 April 2018.
- Any photos, video and quotes taken from the event and application process can be used in any literature or promotional activities created by the organisers.
- If asked, to endeavour to attend events in your University and across the O²RB partnership to promote impact throughout the 12-month period following the application process.
- To keep the organisers informed of any changes in contact details and of any press releases that are issued related to the impact for the next 18 months.
- That reasonable travel costs related to applicants and nominees attendance at the prize ceremony, will be reimbursed as per the University of Oxford travel and subsistence guidelines, if and when previously agreed with the organisers.

Contact us

For more information about the O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards, please contact your local support in the first instance:

- **University of Oxford** | Francesca Richards or Aileen Marshall-Brown, Research & Impact Team, Social Sciences Division, 01865 614873/01865 614881 impact@socsci.ox.ac.uk
- **The Open University** | Rebecca Coatswith, Research Impact Manager, 01908 858277 rebecca.coatswith@open.ac.uk
- **Oxford Brookes University** | Dana Vilistere, Research Impact Officer, 01865 484197 dvilistere@brookes.ac.uk
- **University of Reading** | Alison McAnena, Research Impact Officer (Prosperity and Resilience) a.mcanena@reading.ac.uk