



AQMeN

Applied Quantitative Methods Network

A collaborative network to raise quantitative expertise and capacity in social sciences within Scotland

Helen Brown (Senior Statistician)

Heather Alexander (Training and Knowledge Exchange Officer)

University of Edinburgh



University
of
St Andrews



UNIVERSITY OF
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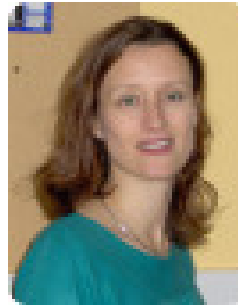


AQMeN staff

(University of Edinburgh)



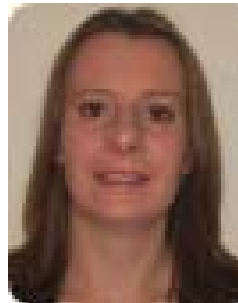
Susan McVie
Director



Angie Dickson
Admin and
Communications Officer



Helen Brown
Senior Statistician



Heather Alexander
Training and Knowledge
Exchange Officer



Funded Partners



Prof Lindsay Paterson
Dr Cristina Iannelli
Dr Andy Thompson



Dr Alistair Geddes



Prof Gwilym Pryce
Dr Gordon Hay



Prof Robert Raeside



Prof Vernon Gayle



Dr Mark Shephard
Dr Stephen Tagg



Dr Anthony Glendinning



Mr Paul Gardner



Other collaborators

- Other Scottish Universities
 - Glasgow Caledonian University
 - University of the West of Scotland
 - University of Abertay Dundee
 - University of Highlands and Islands
- ESRC National Centre for Research Methods
- Scottish Government
- Local authorities
- Voluntary sector
- Private sector

Background

- **Since 1960s:** growing deficit of quantitative skills in social sciences in the UK
- **Ongoing:** ESRC projects based in England aimed at raising quantitative skills
- **2006-2007:** Scoping exercise for Scotland found:
 - Diminishing expertise
 - Scotland not benefiting from UK initiatives
 - Small-scale centres of expertise
- **2009-2012:** AQMeN funded by ESRC and Scottish Funding Council

Network coverage

- Social scientists in Scottish Universities
- Local regional networks
- Wider membership from:
 - outside Scotland
 - outside academia
 - non social science disciplines



Objectives

- Boost capacity in quantitative methods in social sciences in Scotland
- Facilitate communication and knowledge exchange
- Encourage collaboration between:
 - disciplines
 - institutions
 - academics and non-academics
- Further exploit existing Scottish datasets

AQMeN activities

- Programme of training and events
- Interactive and informative website
- Teaching and learning resources
- Statistical advisory service
- Communication and networking between members
- Small grants

Programme of training and events

- Lectures, seminars and training courses
 - developed in response to feedback / demand
 - each lecture/seminar followed by training event
 - all events free to staff and students of Scottish Universities
 - some events free to all, others may incur a small charge
 - specific doctoral training events
- Intermediate and advanced techniques in social science
- Alternative media
 - eLearning
 - video link

Website

- Advertise training events
- Online training, teaching and learning resources
- Request statistical advice
- Communication and networking between members



Online resources

- Teaching materials and datasets
- Online training
- Guidance notes
- Links to other websites with resources
- Facility for members to add materials and links



Statistical advisory service

- For social science researchers in Scotland
- Provided by AQMeN team or network members with relevant expertise
- Recording of advice given for future use



Encouraging collaboration

- Between disciplines / organisations
- Assistance with:
 - identifying opportunities for collaborative research
 - bringing relevant parties together
- Small grants:
 - collaborative research using AQMeN training
 - 3 grants of £3000 per year

Exploiting existing Scottish datasets

- Scotland is 'data rich'
 - Growing Up in Scotland (GUS)
 - Scottish Crime Survey
 - Scottish Social Attitudes Survey
 - Scottish Health Survey
 - Scottish Household Survey
 - Scottish components of large UK datasets
- Potential for more in-depth quantitative analysis

Survey of requirements

- Currently consulting the Scottish Social Science community to obtain feedback on the types of events that are required:
 - Statistical methods
 - Software packages
 - Use of datasets
 - Location & duration of events
 - Type of events
- Opportunity for your input to the AQMeN programme of events:
 - <http://tinyurl.com/AQMeN>

How do I join?

- To be informed about future AQMeN events, register at:

<http://www.aqmen.ac.uk>

