



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



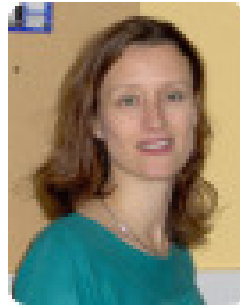
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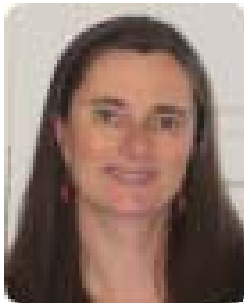
AQMeN staff (University of Edinburgh)



Susan McVie
Director



Angie Dickson
Admin and
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Senior Statistician



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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
 - Robert Gordon University
- 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 events

- Developed in response to feedback from survey and consultation
- Training courses and knowledge exchange events (lectures/seminars)
- Specific doctoral training events
- Training events free to staff and students of Scottish Universities, charge likely for non-academics
- Knowledge exchange events free to all
- Intermediate and advanced techniques in social science

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
 - Second call January 2011, Third call July 2011

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

Developing the Training Programme

- Consultation exercise carried out to obtain feedback on the types of events AQMeN should focus on:
 - Statistical methods
 - Software packages
 - Use of datasets
 - Location & duration of events
 - Type of events
- Survey results
 - <http://aqmen.ac.uk/resources/surveyresults>

Programme of Events

Topic	Proposed date	Location
Regression techniques for categorical data	11-12 Aug 2010	Glasgow
Multilevel modelling	Sept 2010	Edinburgh
Annual lecture	Nov 2010	Edinburgh
Regression techniques 2	Dec 2010	Edinburgh
Longitudinal modelling 1	10 Feb 2011	Stirling
Longitudinal modelling 2	11 Feb 2011	Stirling
Use of datasets in teaching	Q1 2011	Edinburgh
Intermediate/advanced methods day event	Apr 2011	Aberdeen
PhD training event	May 2011	Edinburgh
Grouping analysis methods	Jul 2011	Glasgow
Structural equation modelling	Sept 2011	Edinburgh
Annual lecture	Nov 2011	Edinburgh
Geographically weighted regression/ GIS	Dec 2011	Dundee
Intermediate/advanced methods day event	Q1 2012	St Andrews
Handling missing data	Q1/Q2 2012	Stirling

Regression Event

- Knowledge Exchange

The Uses (and abuses) of Regression

- Lecture by Professor John Curtice
- 10th August, 6:30pm
- University of Strathclyde

- Training Event

Regression for Categorical Data

- Led by Dr Mark Shepherd
- 11-12th August
- Details published shortly



MLM Event

- Knowledge Exchange

Modelling Contextuality and Heterogeneity with Multilevel Models

- Lecture by Professor Kelvyn Jones, University of Bristol
- 6th September 2010, 6:30pm
- Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh

- Training Event

Multilevel Modelling

- Led by Dr Helen Brown
- 7-9th September
- University of Edinburgh



Non-academics

- Priority for training events given to postgraduate students and academic staff in Scotland
- Remaining places may be allocated to non-academics for a fee
- Courses may be tailored to organisations and run as CPD for a fee
 - Customised data, exercises etc...

Benefits to non-academics

- Access to online resources
- Networking opportunities
- Advice and support via the forum
- Notification of new AQMeN events
- Quarterly newsletter
- Access to funding through collaboration with academic network members
- Access to relevant international news and events

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



Discussion and Feedback

- Are there ways in which AQMeN could benefit you as an individual and/or your organisation?
- Are there ways in which AQMeN could work together with Scottish Government?

