

Feedback on 'Future Directions' Consultation

The outcomes of this consultation will assist us in developing detailed delivery plans for future Spending Reviews. If you could please complete this questionnaire to provide feedback on the AHRC's 'Future Directions', it would be extremely valuable. Any information you provide will be treated confidentially.

Taking a More Strategic Approach to Research

Q1 One aim of this consultation is to develop a new approach to AHRC-generated research themes.

Please outline any broad research themes WITHIN the arts and humanities which should be considered a priority for AHRC funding. Please briefly explain why these themes are important areas for further development.

The Association noted that media and communication appear only fleetingly under the heading of 'Creative and Performing Arts' in the four areas listed in the Consultation document. In fact aspects of media and communication feature prominently in all four areas, and we would regard them as central in the cultural landscape of citizens and crucial in any programme of research in the arts and humanities.

Please outline any broad research themes across other subject disciplines which should be considered a priority for AHRC funding. Please briefly explain why these themes are important areas for further development.

We wish to stress the cross disciplinary character of our field.

Q2 How far do you agree with the following statement? "Arts and humanities perspectives should play a more central role in shaping RCUK Programmes"

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly
disagree

Q3 Please provide details on the further ways in which AHRC could achieve a more central and influential role in Cross-Council Programmes:

By stressing the specific and important role of arts and humanities in personal and collective life as well as, or even more than, their role in 'cultural and creative industries' which can too easily become a parallel to overly utilitarian justifications for research in other fields.

Q4 Is there a need for the AHRC to provide capital funding for new national research facilities / infrastructure?

Yes

No

Don't Know

If 'Yes', please list the types of national facilities you think the AHRC should consider funding:

The AHRC has a vital and growing role to play in the support of archives, increasingly digital in form, which might both hold the cultural output of key artistic and creative institutions, as well as forming a vital research resource for the future.

Q5 How much do you agree with the following statement? "The AHRC should further enhance its support for researchers to help them realise the impact from their research"

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly
disagree

Q6 Should the AHRC develop its brokerage role to support academics in realising the full range of impacts from their research?

Yes

No

Don't Know

If 'Yes', please give examples of the ways in which the AHRC could act in a brokerage role to support links with potential users and beneficiaries of AHRC-funded research:

The AHRC has a key role in ensuring the availability of 'follow-up' funding to enable the translation and transfer of research in ways that extend its impact and use. It is important that there is clarity about the ownership and accountability of any such schemes.

Q7 Are there other ways in which the AHRC could help embed knowledge transfer more fully in the research it funds or enhance the impact of AHRC-funded research?

Yes

No

Don't Know

If 'Yes', please give examples of the ways in which the AHRC could help to embed knowledge transfer and/or enhance the impact of AHRC-funded researchers:

Not as a requirement but where appropriate and explained by the applicant, funding for this mode of research extension should be available.

Sustaining People

Q8 How much do you agree that further support from AHRC is needed for early career researchers?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9 Are there any further ways that the AHRC could use the new AHRC fellowship scheme or other funding schemes to support early career researchers more effectively?

Yes No Don't Know

If 'Yes', please provide details on the further ways the new AHRC fellowship scheme or other funding schemes could be used to support early career researchers:

While alert to the need to support early career researchers it may well be there is a growing need to attend to the research growth and development of 'mid-career' researchers, who are often at a stage where, perhaps unlike in the natural sciences, good work is maturing and is at risk of failing to attract support because it is seen to be arising from neither ECR's nor from senior established figures.

Q10 How far do you agree with the statement that the AHRC should further improve its support for the development and training of postgraduates?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11 What are the key training needs of postgraduate students in your field? For each example, please provide details of any further ways in which the AHRC could support these needs:

There is a clear need and appetite for methodological training to improve rigour in A&H research. Resources for collaborative institutional provision would be effective. many of our members feel the block grant support scheme for postgraduate research support has overly concentrated PGR activity, against the evidence of the RAE that research excellence is to be found in many and diverse institutions. There is also strong support for the provision of training for PG supervisors as well as for students themselves.

Q12 What do you see as potentially vulnerable or emerging subject areas in which the AHRC should support postgraduate research and training?

We are especially concerned with subject areas which are vulnerable because they fall between the perceived remit of the AHRC and ESRC.

Q13 What do you see as areas of national importance in which the AHRC should support postgraduate research and training?

The notion of 'national importance' is a difficult one, unless it simply and specifically means areas defined as such by Government. The role of a research council is, among other things, to support research whose immediate utility and application may not be obvious.

Partnerships and Networks

Q14 Please list any organisations you feel the AHRC should have strong partnerships with. For each organisation, please describe why a close relationship would be particularly beneficial:

Organisation:	Benefits:

Q15 Do you think the AHRC should do more to develop strong international collaborations for UK arts and humanities researchers?

Yes No Don't Know

If 'Yes' please provide details of any further ways the AHRC should facilitate international research collaboration:

Other Comments

Q16 Do you have any further comments regarding future directions of the AHRC?

Context Information

Please provide the following information which will help us place your comments in context. These details will be used solely for the purpose of analysing responses to this consultation. You do not have to provide this information.

Q17 Are the answers to this questionnaire an individual or collective response?

Individual

Collective

If this is a collective response and you are happy to do so, please provide details of who else has been consulted or contributed to your response:

These views are those of the Media, Communication, and Cultural Studies Association, and are submitted on behalf of its Executive Committee after discussion at that committee and consultation with the membership

Q18 If you are happy to do so, please provide the names of any subject groups, Learned Societies or other groups of which you are a member?

MeCCSA is itself a member of the ALSSS but the views expressed here are those of MeCCSA.

Q19 If you are happy to do so, please provide the name of your Academic Institution:

N/A

Q20 Which of the following best indicates your position at your institution?

- Research Student
- Research Assistant
- Research Associate
- Lecturer
- Senior Lecturer
- Principal Lecturer/Reader
- Professor

Please indicate whether you would be happy for us to contact you individually as a follow up to this consultation

If so, please provide your details below

Name: Prof. Peter Golding

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Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your thoughts and comments are much appreciated.

Please return this form to: fdfeedback@ahrc.ac.uk

Or alternatively post to:

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