

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Research Agendas in Social Sciences and Humanities

An Early Career Researcher Workshop, 10.30-16.30, 27 July 2016, University of Nottingham

Sponsored by the University of Nottingham Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Centre (DTC)

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Workshop Aims

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been described as a global challenge on par with climate change in terms of significance, reach and complexity. AMR refers to the phenomenon of bacteria and other micro-organisms becoming resistant to antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents that are used in human medicine, livestock farming and parts of industry. AMR is seen as a challenge particularly for human health as the ability to treat and prevent life-threatening infections is at stake. However, the roots of and responses to this challenge cut across a variety of sectors and domains including prescribing, patient and consumer practices, environmental management, waste management practices, water treatment, infection control, architectural design, agricultural systems and research and innovation in rapid diagnostics, new antibiotic classes and appropriate business models. AMR also cuts across global North and South contexts and the interface between them.

The aim of this workshop is to introduce AMR issues and stimulate thinking amongst early career researchers in the social sciences and humanities on how they might engage with a major new agenda for research. Research funders have emphasised the need for interdisciplinary work in AMR, and social sciences and humanities are expected to play a significant role. AMR is the first topic around which all seven UK research councils - including the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) – have come together under a single initiative. In addition to the currently open ESRC call for proposals (AMR Theme 4: Behaviour in the health-care setting and beyond), future funding opportunities for AMR currently appear to be promising.

Targeted Audience

We invite PhD students and early-career postdoctoral fellows from science and technology studies (STS), sociology, anthropology, development studies, environmental social sciences, health studies, business studies, economics, human and cultural geography, arts, education, politics and policy studies, ethics and law to participate in the workshop. Workshop participants are not expected to have previously done research on AMR.

The workshop will not specifically focus on developing bids for the ESRC AMR Theme 4 call as the ESRC has already organised such events. It will instead take a longer-term view towards building future research capacity on a complex challenge that is likely to remain significant for years to come. In the near term, we can also expect research opportunities

arising from successful ESRC Theme 4 grants where investigators look to bring early career researchers into their projects.

Draft Programme (subject to revision)

10.00-10.30: Arrival and refreshments

10.30-10.45: Welcome and outline of workshop aims

10.45-12.00: Talks by Sujatha Raman (Co-Director for Research, Institute for Science and Society, University of Nottingham), Helen Lambert (ESRC Research Champion for AMR, University of Bristol), Christie Cabral (Research Fellow in Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol) and the University of Nottingham ESRC DTC team on AMR

12.00-12.30: Discussion

12.30-1.30: Lunch

1.30-2.00: Interdisciplinary research and research funding strategies

2.00-3.00: Break-out groups: Individual research interests and options for work on AMR

3.00-3.15: Coffee break

3.15-4.15: Reporting from break-out groups

4.15-4.30: Wrap-up

Registration Information

The workshop is free of charge. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. UK travel costs (standard class rail-fare) will be covered on a first-come, first-served basis – please get in touch early with an estimate of your costs.

To register, please contact Josephine Go Jefferies on lixjq21@nottingham.ac.uk