



Awards 2025

Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	Kingston University, in collaboration with The Open University, the Mary Stevens Hospice, Dimensions, MacIntyre and Voluntary Organisations Disability Group
Submission title or project name	Co-designing a toolkit for end-of-life care planning with people with learning disabilities
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Irene Tuffrey-Wijne and Dr Becky Anderson-Kittow (joint project leads); Dr Andrea Bruun and Sarah Gibson (joint project managers); Richard Keagan-Bull, Amanda Cresswell, Leon Jordan and David Jeffrey (research assistants with a learning disability); and Jo Giles (support research assistant for the researchers with a learning disability)
URL	https://www.victoriaandstuart.com/
Submission	There are about 1 million people with learning disabilities in England. They are often excluded from conversations about death and dying. This can lead to severe distress, complex grief disorders and a lack of person-centred end-of-life care. To address this, a team of researchers with learning disabilities at Kingston University led a project to develop a toolkit of resources that enables people with learning disabilities to be involved in death conversations and end-of-life care planning. More than 200 people were actively involved in co-creating the resources, including 36 people with learning disabilities, families, care staff, managers, doctors and nurses. To encourage engagement, the team held webinars throughout the project, co-presented by people with learning disabilities and attended by more than 6,000 people. The toolkit is now widely used by learning disability services. Marie Curie, the UK's leading end-of-life charity, has funded the toolkit as a print and deliver service later this year.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	University of Glasgow
Submission title or project name	Overtourism in Spain and Scotland – a community approach
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Guillem Colom-Montero
URL	https://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/arts/aboutus/socialmedia/podcast/headline_1068303_en.html
Submission	Dr Guillem Colom-Montero's research into tourism and local communities in Spain and Scotland has uncovered that, despite having radically different tourism histories, the two countries are experiencing similar impacts from growth in the industry. Through his academic work and public engagement activities, Dr Colom-Montero has established himself as a leading authority on overtourism and its social, cultural and economic tensions. By adopting a people-centred, place-based perspective, his work has enhanced understanding of the everyday experiences of local groups in overcrowded destinations, reframing academic and public debates to highlight the need for a reimagined approach. Dr Colom-Montero has become a regular contributor offering expertise about overtourism in highly influential radio and TV programmes. His research, engagement and impact highlights the societal relevance of modern languages and cultures research and the role it has in helping us understand the world we are living in and the changes we need to make.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	University of Leicester
Submission title or project name	Tracing tobacco's legacy in bone – a groundbreaking archaeological discovery
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Sarah Inskip
URL	
Submission	The Tobacco, Health and History Project, led by Sarah Inskip at the University of Leicester, is a pioneering interdisciplinary study uncovering the long-term health impacts of tobacco use in historical populations. Despite tobacco's early global reach, little was known about its consumption patterns before the 20th century. Funded by a UK Research and Innovation Futures Leaders Fellowship, the project analysed 1,000 archaeological human skeletal remains (15th to 19th century) from England and the Netherlands, integrating metabolomics, palaeopathology, historical archaeology and dentistry. A key breakthrough was the development of a metabolomic approach in collaboration with Leicester's van Geest Multi-OMICs Lab, proving that archaeological bone retains usable small molecules (<i>Scientific Reports</i>). Findings revealed unexpectedly high tobacco use among women (<i>Science Advances</i>) and linked tobacco consumption to socio-economic status and disease patterns. By bridging humanities and STEM, the Tobacco, Health and History Project reshapes historical narratives and offers invaluable insights into tobacco's enduring health consequences.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	University of Salford
Submission title or project name	Time well spent: lessons from pioneers of the four-day working week
Nominee / key personnel	Dr David Frayne; Professor Daiga Kamerade
URL	
Submission	The University of Salford has been at the forefront of research on the four-day working week – a bold policy to reduce weekly working hours without any loss in pay. Our research is helping to demonstrate the exciting potential of this policy, deepening understanding of its impacts and unearthing best practice. Between them, David Frayne and Daiga Kamerade have co-led research on the world's largest private sector pilot, on a groundbreaking government-commissioned public sector pilot, and on a UK-first pilot of the four-day week in a local authority. It is hard to overstate the public and political impacts of these projects. Staff participating in the pilots overwhelmingly want the four-day week to continue, and most organisations involved are maintaining their four-day week policies. Our researchers have engaged widely with businesses, unions and international media, have addressed politicians across the UK and have informed the design of a prospective Welsh national pilot.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	University of Exeter
Submission title or project name	Post Office scandal
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	The Post Office scandal is one of the largest miscarriages of justice in modern English history. Current estimates suggest that as many as 1,000 victims were wrongly prosecuted; many more lost their livelihoods, and thousands had money taken from them. University of Exeter researchers are probing the devastating impact on those involved and are working to focus attention on the systemic and widespread professional failings and misconduct of lawyers and Post Office executives. This has ensured that professional misconduct by lawyers is a primary focus of the ongoing public inquiry, and has aided sub-postmasters in their search for compensation and justice.



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Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Institution Name	Northeastern University - London
Submission title or project name	Mapping Black London
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://mappingblacklondon.org/ https://mappingblacklondon.org/
Submission	Mapping Black London (MBL) combined traditional archival research with innovative data visualisation and spatial mapping to uncover forgotten stories of Black Londoners from the 16th century onwards. This £250,000 project, funded by Northeastern University, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the British Academy, addressed the inaccurate post-war narrative of multiracial British history that negatively impacts Black Britons' sense of belonging. The multigenerational, transatlantic research team overcame fragmented source materials using modern technology, creating the first interactive map of 3,000 Black Londoners and revealing previously unknown information about figures such as Charles Ignatius Sancho through innovative StoryMaps. The research achieved extraordinary public impact: 160,000 exhibition visitors at <i>Unforgotten Lives</i>, 24,900 website views and community workshops. Research even informed Paterson Joseph's novel and acclaimed one-man play about Charles Sancho. The project has secured further funding for curriculum development, creating collaborative networks with The Black Curriculum and exam boards to re-centre Black experiences within "mainstream" British history.