



University of Essex

**THE Awards 2019 – Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences**

Institution/Nominee	University of Essex
Title	Online harm reduction – a statutory duty of care and regulator
Key personnel	Professor Lorna Woods, Professor of Internet Law at the University of Essex, and Will Perrin, former government adviser and trustee of the Carnegie UK Trust.
URL	<a href="https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/project/harm-reduction-in-social-media/">https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/project/harm-reduction-in-social-media/</a>
Submission	<p>The UK government’s proposals for reducing Online Harms, which aim to establish the UK as a world leader in the protection of internet users, stem from unique research by Professor Lorna Woods of the University of Essex and William Perrin of the Carnegie UK Trust.</p> <p>Across seven co-authored blogs, completed between February and May 2018 (and subsequently collected into a report, with funding from The Carnegie UK Trust), the authors sought to shift the debate from publishing and content, to harm prevention, developing a detailed plan involving a statutory duty of care, overseen by an independent regulator.</p> <p>At a time of significant public concern, their research was a game-changer, offering a workable solution, inspiring a national newspaper campaign, rallying civil society groups and influencing lawmakers, at home and abroad.</p> <p>Impact like this, within months of publication, is rare indeed. Rarer still when achieved with no upfront funding.</p>