



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

Institution/Nominee	University of Exeter
Title	Professor Liz Trinder at the University of Exeter for research that led directly to government proposed divorce legislation to prevent family conflict and end the blame game
Submission	<p>Divorce affects more than 100,000 families in England and Wales every year, yet there had been no major empirical study since the 1980s on how divorce laws operate and the impact on couples and families.</p> <p>Research led by Professor Liz Trinder at the University of Exeter and funded by the Nuffield Foundation first provided solid evidence that the current divorce laws based on ‘fault’ increases conflict and suffering for separating couples and their children.</p> <p>Professor Trinder’s landmark ‘Finding Fault’ study then directly resulted in new government legislation which, when it becomes law, will benefit a million families over the next decade through a clearer, fairer and less harmful divorce process.</p> <p>The proposed legislation is also of historic legal significance as ‘fault’ has been central to divorce law since 1660.</p>