



Social Science Research

RSO Conference, Leeds , January 2023

Penny Harvey & Tracy Badham

Social Science Research

- Discipline Lead is now Penny Harvey, Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester
 - Director of 'The Beam' nuclear and social research network, Dalton Nuclear Institute
 - Elected Fellow of British Academy, the Academia Europaea, the Norwegian Academy of Science & Letter, Academy of Social Sciences (UK)
 - Deputy Chair of CoRWM, independent advisory body to government
 - Formerly Director of the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change
- SME is now Tracy Badham, Social Impact Manager at NWS
 - Tracy has been with NWS for 2 Years and has national oversight of NWS links with schools & colleges and working with suppliers to deliver social value to our communities
 - Tracy previously worked in oil & gas sector, latterly on education and sustainability programmes in north Africa

Social Science Research - Need



- The GDF is a social infrastructure, designed to protect people and the environment. NWS needs to secure a positive commitment by a community willing to host the GDF, and to facilitate local economic benefits and growth for the host community.
- GDF delivery needs a robust mode of engagement that hinges on an informed understanding of how "communities" take form and how they change over time.
- There is an huge and ever-growing portfolio of approaches that could be mobilised to support this research.
- Comparative, historical and contemporary research can provide insight into the socio-economic, cultural, political and institutional framings that shape both the GDF siting process and responses to it.
- Research is also needed to support initiatives to achieve on-going and sustainable local involvement in decision making.

Social Science – Postdoctoral Research Assistant



- First time NWS had supported social science through the RSO
- Project Title: “Engaging with intergenerational justice in radioactive waste management”
- Supervised by Matthew Cotton, Professor in Public Policy at Centre for Social Innovation, University of Teesside, Middlesbrough
- Researcher is Dr Lee Towers. PhD (2022) in Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Law from University of Brighton.

Social Science – PhD Student

- First time NWS supported social science PhD
- Project Title: “Rethinking nuclear risks and how we treat these.”
- Supervised by Eugene Shwageraus, Professor of Nuclear Energy Systems Engineering, at the University of Cambridge.
- Student is Sannah van Balen, MPhil in Nuclear Energy from the University of Cambridge.
- Sannah is the founder of ‘The Empowered Atom’ – a knowledge platform that promotes the fusion of art/science for critical thinking and collaboration on the challenges of climate change.

Social Science – Forward Look

- NWS wishes to develop the social science work to better support communities, statutory bodies, and policy makers.
- Third call for proposals is in process of evaluation
- A workshop was held in 2022 to bring together those who had responded to the initial call for projects to share learning and consider way forward
- Hope to build on this by strengthening the network of those engaged in the sector.
- As the GDF siting process continues, look to broaden the network to include social scientists who are working in relevant spheres outside the nuclear sector (e.g. infrastructure, regeneration, community development, social mobility)