

CENTRE FOR ADVANCEMENT IN REALIST EVALUATION AND SYNTHESIS (CARES)

8th Annual CARES Summer School for Realist Methodology Training

August 2nd – 12th, 2021

www.realistmethodology-cares.org/2021summerschool

The 8th Annual CARES Summer School for Realist Methodology Training is a two-week online event to train researchers, evaluators, commissioners, students and others in the principles and practice of realist methodology. The application of realist methodology to research and evaluation requires capacity development. For many, collective effort and co-learning is fundamental to developing an inspired view for undertaking this approach. Through active engagement during the summer school, participants will:

- explore if realist methodology is a right fit given scope and nature of inquiry;
- identify/address/overcome research design challenges;
- develop programme/middle range theories and context-mechanism-outcome (CMO) configurations;
- receive individualized consultations with facilitators;
- have the opportunity to present work-in-progress;
- gain exposure to a diversity of projects and share knowledge;
- have time between sessions for data immersion and writing;
- network and collaborate online in a growing community of practice for realist inquiry
- become comfortable crossing the boundary of observable-level theorizing and collectively theorize deeper aspects of reality in complex research areas.

The training takes place using three modalities: didactic training sessions; one-to-one consultations; and an online discussion forum. Over the course of the two-weeks, participants will have the opportunity to receive individualized attention on their projects in which they talk through research design issues, show work-in-progress analyses and receive feedback.

Facilitators

Dr. Justin Jagosh is an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Liverpool and Director of the Centre for Advancement in Realist Evaluation and Synthesis (CARES). He runs a full-time consultancy for realist methodology training, mentorship and consultation. Previously he served as a co-investigator on the NIHR funded RAMESSES II project to develop quality guidelines and reporting standards for Realist Evaluation.

Dr Sonia Dalkin is an Associate Professor of Applied Health Research at Northumbria University. Sonia has significant experience in realist approaches, providing training in the approach throughout the UK and internationally. In 2018 she co-authored 'Doing Realist Research', published by Sage. Her work portfolio reflects her realist experience with projects in palliative care, long term conditions and public health.

Dr. Kevin Harris is a Principal Lecturer at Hartpury University with a focus on realist evaluation in health and social change programmes. He is passionate about building capacity for realist methodology with practitioners in programme settings and to that end is involved in a number of commissioned evaluations utilizing realist methodology in conjunction with additional approaches.

Fee

Professional: £675 Early Bird* (£775 Regular)

Student: £525 Early Bird* (£625 Regular)

(Students must have full time student status)

*Early Bird ends July 2nd, 2021

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June-July 2021 Realist Methodology Training Programme

www.realistmethodology-cares.org

June 3-4 & 7-8, 2021: **Introduction to Realist Methodology: Evaluation and Synthesis-Online**

4:00pm – 7:00pm British Summer Time (BST)

<https://realistmethodology-cares.org/june2021introtorealismethodology>

Examine the fundamentals of realist evaluation and synthesis and develop your skill for recognizing the observable and hidden forces that produce outcomes in complex interventions. Explore the advantages and challenges of using this methodology in evaluating or synthesizing evidence - to move past the question of 'was it successful?' to better understand how, for whom, and under what circumstances interventions produce their particular outcomes.

June 10-11 & 14-15, 2021: **Constructing Excellent Initial Programme Theories-Online**

4:00pm – 7:00pm (BST)

<https://realistmethodology-cares.org/june2021constructingexcellentinitialprogrammetheories>

Practice constructing initial programme theories in line with retroduction. Learn to differentiate between poorly and well articulated generative causal theory statements. Gain an understanding of the difference between generative and successionist causal statements. Develop rival theories to improve objectivity. Create initial programme theories suitable for testing against empirical evidence.

June 24-25 & 28-29, 2021: **Philosophical Foundations of Realist Evaluation-Online**

4:00pm – 7:00pm (BST)

<https://realistmethodology-cares.org/june2021philosophyofrealistevaluation>

Improve analytical capacity and conceptual thinking through realist philosophy. Understand and articulate key philosophical concepts essential to complexity theorizing using a realist lens. Learn how to articulate, explain and defend philosophical underpinning of realism and the implication of these for applied scientific realism (realist evaluation & realist synthesis)

July 1-2 & 5-6, 2021: **Enhancing Technique for Realist Qualitative Interviewing-Online**

4:00pm – 7:00pm (BST)

<https://realistmethodology-cares.org/july2021realistqualitativeinterviewing>

Conduct interviews to collect data that supports ontological depth and unearths causal mechanisms while remaining trustworthy. General principles of realism and realist methodology will be provided along with a look at key papers on realist qualitative interviewing (Pawson 1996, Manzano 2016). Explore implementing these principles with examples, role playing and feedback.

July 8-9 & 12-13, 2021: **Coding, Configuring and Conveying In Realist Analysis-Online**

4:00pm – 7:00pm (BST)

<https://realistmethodology-cares.org/july2021codingconfiguringandconveying>

Practice coding, configuring and conveying complex evidence in clear terms without compromising the integrity of the analysis. Build your capacity to use the CMO configuration in a heuristic rather than instrumental manner. Through exercises and consultation improve your analytical thinking, clarify realist methodological principles and find motivation for advancing your realist analyses.

Facilitator: **Justin Jagosh, Ph.D**

Justin Jagosh, Ph.D is a mentor, trainer and consultant for Realist Methodology. Since 2014, he has directed the Centre for Advancement in Realist Evaluation and Synthesis (CARES) and is currently an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Liverpool (UK). He was a co-investigator on the NIHR-funded RAMESES II project to develop quality and reporting guidelines for Realist Evaluation and is a co-investigator and consultant on numerous research contracts involving realist methodology. For more detail:

<https://realistmethodology-cares.org/about>