

Warwick Q-Step Newsletter March 2018

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Q-Step Overview

[Warwick Q-Step Centre](#) is now approaching the end of the first phase of funding (5 years). There have been a number of developments since the Advisory Board last met, including new staff and research success. This newsletter summarises some of our main activities, we hope you find it useful.



Warwick Q-Step Centre Welcomes New Director

We are delighted to welcome [Professor Ulf Liebe](#), who joined us in January as the new Director of Warwick Q-Step Centre. Professor Liebe joins us from the University of Bern, Switzerland, and his research interests include discrimination, environmental behaviour, multifactorial survey experiments, prosociality, survey methodology, and sustainability. We look forward to working with Professor Liebe over the coming months.

The Current Team

The full [Warwick Q-Step Team](#) is now in place:

Professor Ulf Liebe	(Director)
Dr Roxanne Connelly	(Deputy Director)
Dr Philippe Blanchard	(Associate Professor)
Dr Vincenzo Bove	(Associate Professor)
Dr Michael Castelle	(Assistant Professor)
Dr Stella Chatzitheochari	(Assistant Professor)
Dr Andreas Murr	(Assistant Professor)
Dr Nigel de Noronha	(Teaching Fellow)
Dr Florian Reiche	(Teaching Fellow)
Zahida Hussain	(Centre Manager)
Craig Franklin	(Q-Step Co-ordinator)

First Cohort of Warwick Q-Step Graduates

The first graduating cohort from Warwick Q-Step Centre received their undergraduate degrees during this summer's degree ceremonies. We are immensely proud of our students' achievements over the past three years! Read more about the celebrations [here](#).



Spring Camp

Our annual [Quantitative Methods Spring Camp](#) brings together students from across the University to apply cutting-edge quantitative methods to real-world problems. The theme of last

year's event was "forecasting". [Read more about the event and view the presentations.](#)

This year's Spring Camp will take place on 19-20 March 2018 and the theme will

be *Data Visualisation*. The two-day event will provide an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and postgraduate students to gain experience of learning and working with others

in a range of professions and disciplines, as well as developing the conceptual and practical/computational tools one can use for communicating with data. Further details [here](#).

Q-Step Seminar Series

Last academic year we piloted a Q-Step Research Seminar Series and we are pleased to announce that following a successful year, the series is running again this year. The series brings together staff and students from throughout the university who are interested in social science research using quantitative methods. Find out more and view the programme [here](#).



Q-Step Students Participate in National Numeracy Challenge

Warwick Q-Step Centre is participating in a project that the Nuffield Foundation is running in conjunction with [National Numeracy](#). The National Numeracy Challenge is supporting universities in benchmarking students' numeracy levels, to facilitate their progression and to assess progress. The first phase of the project finished in December 2017 and aimed to improve students' engagement with and confidence in their numeracy.

Other News

Q-Step Launches 3 New Masters Degrees

In October we launched three new [postgraduate degree programmes](#) delivered in collaboration with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, the Department of Politics and International Studies and the Department of Sociology:

- [MSc in Big Data and Digital Futures](#)
- [MSc in Quantitative Social Research](#)
- [MA in Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods](#)

Masterclass Programme

Warwick Q-Step Centre has developed an ambitious programme of [masterclasses](#) delivered by specialists in quantitative methods for social sciences. We have already delivered 5 successful sessions this year with future workshops scheduled on spatial statistics, deep learning and agent-based simulation. Find out more and view the programme for 2017/18 [here](#).



Q-Step Collaborations

New Partnership with IBM

A new Big Data ethics course is to be supported by IBM and taught in collaboration with colleagues from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM), Computer Science and Warwick Business School. Read more [here](#).



Interdisciplinary Module: Computer Modelling for All

Warwick Q-Step Centre has also been working with other discipline areas to develop a module that will expose undergraduate students to data analysis and computing, working in collaboration with colleagues in Computer Science and Education Studies. Find out more [here](#).



A step-change in quantitative social science skills

Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE

Placements

Warwick Q-Step students undertake a compulsory paid work placement during their undergraduate degree and present their experiences at our Placement Poster Presentation event. This annual event is a showcase of the experiences of final year Q-Step students who have completed the placement and is an opportunity for students to present the quantitative data research skills they have developed over the course of their placement. Read more [here](#).

Poster Presentation Prize

Congratulations to Elena Mylona, the winner of the 2017 Q-Step Placement Poster Prize for her work which was also presented on BBC's Woman's Hour. View her poster [here](#).



Research

Members of the Q-Step team are currently engaged in various research activities. Recent projects include:

"Social Status and Prosociality: A Cross-Cultural Study in Four Selected Countries"

Professor Ulf Liebe, Director of the Q-Step Centre is currently working on a 3-year project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and German Research Foundation.

European Commission Project on the Evaluation of EU Migration Policies

Dr Vincenzo Bove recently spent 3 months at the European Commission Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy, working on a [project](#) aimed at evaluating current EU migration policies and making recommendations for improvement. Dr Bove has now been awarded a grant by the Swedish Research Council to work on a 3-year project entitled "Who keeps the peace and why does it matter?" Read more [here](#).

Have Socio-Economic Inequalities in Childhood Cognitive Test Scores Changed? A Secondary Analysis of Three British Birth Cohorts.

[Dr Roxanne Connolly](#) has received a Secondary Data Analysis Initiative Grant from the Economic and Social Research Council for this collaborative project. Find out more [here](#).

Nuffield Developments

The Nuffield Foundation continues to be actively involved in the running of the QM degree programmes. They are currently taking a number of steps to try and boost the visibility of the new quantitative social science degrees nationwide, including the development of a Q-Step prospectus. They are also assisting with the implementation of alumni networks as the first cohort of QM students graduate. The Q-Step programme is being reviewed this year, both internally within the university and externally by the Nuffield foundation.