

BECOMING A SOCIAL SCIENTIST

A guide to career skills for postgraduates

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Alison Firth qualified as a barrister, practising in intellectual property chambers from 1983, following a first degree in physics and teaching in London and Lima. Since 1987, she has held full time university teaching posts, first at Queen Mary, University of London and now at the University of Newcastle, where she is professor of commercial law. Her research centres on the law of intellectual property and its

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Nigel Gilbert is professor of sociology and Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Surrey, Guildford, UK. He is editor of Sage's *Researching Social Life* (2001) and co-author with Jane Fielding of *Understanding Social Statistics* (2005). He has also written or edited 15 other books, including *Simulation for the Social Scientist* (2005) with Klaus G. Troitzsch, Open University Press and many scholarly articles. He started one of the first full-time Masters courses in Social Research Methods in the early 1980s at the University of Surrey and more recently a Masters course in Digital Technologies and Society. His main research interests are in new social science methods, especially social simulation, and in innovation.

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Katrina Jungnickel is a researcher interested in new technology, urban sociality and visual methodologies. She has worked on various commercial and interdisciplinary research projects within the fields of visual culture, art, technology and sociology and is currently a postgraduate student at INCITE at the University of Surrey.

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Rowena Murray is Reader in the Educational and Professional Studies department of the Faculty of Education at the University of Strathclyde (in Glasgow). Her area of research is academic writing. She has produced video packs on Thesis Writing, Research Supervision, The Viva and Writing for Publication. In addition to many research papers in various scholarly journals, she is the author of *How to Write a Thesis* (2002) and *Writing for Academic Journals* (2005) both published by the Open University Press-McGraw-Hill, Maidenhead.

Kate Orton-Johnson completed her PhD as a member of Incite (incubator for critical enquiry into technology and ethnography) at the University of Surrey where her doctoral thesis examined student use of new technologies and innovations in teaching and learning in higher education. Her research interests are centred around the sociology of new technologies, the implications of technological innovation in higher education, ‘virtual’ and ‘online’ research methodologies, the practical and ethical issues surrounding ICTs as both research tools and field sites and representations of identity and the self online. Kate joined the department of Sociology at Surrey as a lecturer in September 2004 and teaches courses on the Sociology of Technology and Youth Cultures.

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Sociology of Health and Illness 25 5: 429-456.

Nina Wakeford is Director of the Incubator for Critical Inquiry into Technology and Ethnography.(INCITE) research centre in the Department of Sociology, University of Surrey. Her previous research projects include studies of internet cafes, women's discussions lists and the use of ethnography by new technology designers. Along with colleagues at INCITE she is interested in the ways in which collaborations can be forged between ethnographers and those from other disciplines, such as engineering and computer science. As part of the Intel-funded project studying the 73 bus route in London she has begun to research blogs as a data collection tool.