

Call for Posters

Innovating for Social Change: A University-Wide PGR & ECR Competition

Presented by: The Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR), University of Sussex

The Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR) is a departmental research centre at the Department of Social Work and Social Care, School of Education and Social Work, at the University of Sussex. For more information about CSWIR, [please visit our website](#).

Introduction

CSWIR is pleased to announce a social change-inspired poster competition for Postgraduate Research (PGR) students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) at the University of Sussex.

- PGR students are defined as **individuals currently enrolled in a doctoral programme** at the University of Sussex.
- Early Career Researchers (ECRs) are defined as **individuals who have completed their doctoral degree within the past *three* years and are currently affiliated with the University of Sussex** (e.g., postdoctoral researchers, research fellows, lecturers, or assistant professors).

CSWIR champions a multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approach and strongly encourages submissions from all disciplines and Schools within the University of Sussex, including **all Faculties of the University of Sussex:**

- Faculty of Social Sciences
- University of Sussex Business School
- Faculty of Media, Arts and Humanities
- Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine

CSWIR is a unique research community driving the future of social work and social well-being. Established in 2015, CSWIR fosters a vibrant community of scholars, practitioners, students, and people with lived experience, all dedicated to pushing the boundaries of research and creating tangible social impact. Recognising that complex social issues demand diverse perspectives and innovative solutions, this competition aims to showcase the impactful research being conducted by PGRs and ECRs across the University, in alignment with CSWIR's core vision for a more just and equitable society.

We invite submissions that align with our CSWIR themes, demonstrating innovative approaches to:

- **Understanding Social Problems in a Changing World:** We seek innovative research that explores and analyses the complex social problems facing our world, particularly as they impact individuals, communities, and societies. This includes research that examines the social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental factors that shape these challenges, and their effects on diverse populations. We encourage investigations into emerging issues, systemic inequalities, and the dynamics of social change.
- **Relationship-Based Social Justice:** We are interested in research that investigates the role of relationships, equity, and empowerment in fostering social justice. This encompasses studies that explore participatory approaches, community-led initiatives, collaborative practices, and the importance of addressing power imbalances to create a more just and equitable society.

Research that promotes inclusion, challenges discrimination, and values diverse perspectives is highly encouraged.

- **Collaboration in Social Innovation:** We welcome research that develops creative and sustainable solutions to pressing social issues through collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches. This includes projects that integrate insights and methodologies from diverse fields, explore innovative interventions, and foster partnerships between researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and communities. We encourage research that emphasises real-world impact and addresses complex challenges through collaborative problem-solving.
- **Methodological Innovation & Decolonising Research:** We value research that pushes the boundaries of methodological approaches and critically examines the power dynamics inherent in research processes. This includes studies that develop and employ innovative methodologies, prioritise participatory research and co-creation of knowledge, and challenge colonial legacies within research and practice. We encourage research that promotes ethical and culturally responsive approaches, centres marginalised voices, and contributes to more equitable knowledge production.

Assessment Process and Criteria

Posters will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance to CSWIR Themes:** How well the research aligns with one or more of CSWIR's core research themes and contributes to CSWIR's vision for positive social change and well-being.
- **Innovation:** The originality and innovative nature of the research, including conceptual frameworks, methodological approaches, and potential for new insights.
- **Clarity and Visual Communication:** The effectiveness of the poster in communicating the research clearly and engagingly to a diverse audience. Particular emphasis will be placed on the use of images, graphics, and other visual elements, especially those drawn directly from the research (e.g., fieldwork photos, data visualisations), to create a compelling presentation.
- **Potential Impact:** The potential of the research to contribute to positive social change, promote social justice, inform policy and practice, and/or advance knowledge in relevant fields.

The assessment process will involve:

- **Public Sticker Voting:** All attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their preferred posters during the poster display on 17 June.
- **CSWIR Co-Directors' Assessment:** The CSWIR Co-Directors will also assess the posters based on the criteria above.

The final selection of award recipients will be determined by a combination of the public sticker vote (40%) and the CSWIR Co-Directors' assessment (60%). The awards presented by CSWIR and its partners are specifically designed to highlight excellence in each of these assessment criteria.

Poster Format

Posters should be designed to be visually engaging and informative, summarising key aspects of your research including background, methods, findings (early or final). The poster size should be A1 (black and white or colour). We strongly encourage the inclusion of images, graphics, and other visual

elements from your research (e.g., fieldwork photos, data visualisations) to enhance the presentation of your work. Posters can be printed for £15 through the University printing services. CSWIR will cover the cost of printing the first 20 posters.

Please note that selected images from the submitted posters may be chosen for inclusion on the CSWIR website to further showcase research relevant to CSWIR's core vision and themes.

Awards

In recognition of outstanding research, CSWIR will present the following awards to PGRs and ECRs across the University of Sussex:

- **Faculty of Social Sciences Associate Dean's Award for Research Excellence (PGR):** This award, presented in partnership with the Associate Dean, acknowledges research by a PGR student that demonstrates exceptional scholarly merit and innovation, aligning with the assessment criteria for Innovation.
 - Prize: £100 voucher
- **Faculty of Social Sciences Associate Dean's Award for Research Excellence (ECR):** This award, presented in partnership with the Associate Dean, acknowledges research by an ECR that demonstrates exceptional scholarly merit and innovation, aligning with the assessment criteria for Innovation.
 - Prize: £100 voucher
- **School of Education and Social Work ESW DRKE Award for Critical Social Inquiry (PGR):** This award, honouring the work of the School of Education and Social Work's Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (DRKE), celebrates research by a PGR student that pushes the boundaries of critical social inquiry, a core value of CSWIR, aligning with the assessment criteria for Relevance to CSWIR Themes and Potential Impact.
 - Prize: £100 voucher
- **School of Education and Social Work ESW DRKE Award for Critical Social Inquiry (ECR):** This award, honouring the work of the School of Education and Social Work's Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (DRKE), celebrates research by an ECR that pushes the boundaries of critical social inquiry, a core value of CSWIR, aligning with the assessment criteria for Relevance to CSWIR Themes and Potential Impact.
 - Prize: £100 voucher
- **CSWIR Emerging Researcher Award:** This award, chosen by the CSWIR Co-Directors, recognises the exceptional potential of an emerging researcher (PGR or ECR) whose work aligns with CSWIR's vision and demonstrates strength across all assessment criteria, with a particular emphasis on Potential Impact.
 - Prize: £100 voucher

Deadlines and Key Dates

- **Deadline for Expression of Interest: by Wednesday 23 April 17:00PM** - Email cswir@sussex.ac.uk with your name, position, department/school/faculty, and poster title,

a 250-word explanation of how your poster aligns with CSWIR aims, confirmation of your availability for the poster display session, and confirmation of your current PGR or ECR status

- **Notification of Expression of Interest Acceptance: Friday 25 April** - EOI submissions that have met competition requirements will be invited to submit a poster. Further details on poster submission guidelines will be provided upon expression of interest.
- **Poster Electronic Submission Deadline: by Monday 26 May 9:00** – Electronic versions of posters submitted. Assessment criteria will be based on posters meeting all competition requirements. Any remaining posters will not be considered. Accepted posters will be printed by CSWIR at no charge.
- **Poster Display, Voting, and Prize Announcement: Tuesday, 17th June 12:00-14:00** - Presenters must be in attendance and available to display their posters and answer questions. Any presenters not in attendance will have their poster withdrawn from the competition and responsible for reimbursing poster printing costs.
 - 12:00-13:30: Poster Display and Public Sticker Voting. Attendees will vote by placing stickers on their preferred posters.
 - 13:30-14:00: Prize Announcement and Award Ceremony. This portion of the event will include speeches from the prize giver, the announcement of winners, presentation of awards, and winner's speeches.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and celebrating the excellent and diverse research being conducted by PGRs and ECRs across the University of Sussex!

FOR ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT CSWIR Co-Director, Dr Henglien Lisa Chen, Associate Professor <h.l.chen@sussex.ac.uk>

YOURS SINCERELY,

The Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR) Co-Directors,

Dr Henglien Lisa Chen and Dr Jeri L. Damman, Associate Professors