

Advances in Qualitative Research (AQR)

Knowledge & Praxis | Online Seminar Series

We invite you to join our growing, knowledge-sharing AQR Seminar Series. The series brings together early-, mid- and senior-career researchers across disciplines and institutions to discuss social science research and to deepen understanding of qualitative methodologies in theory and practice.

The AQR Seminar Series is an initiative of the Collaborative Solutions for Social Problems Lab at Kent Business School, University of Kent, founded by Dr M. May Seitanidi. The Lab develops solutions to social and environmental problems, such as social inclusion, biodiversity and suicide prevention, in industries including construction, banking, food manufacturing and education. Its empirical work relies on qualitative methods, a strength our community cultivates and one that matters for the next generation of collaborative solutions scholars.

Join To receive seminar links, email agr-phd-request@lists.kent.ac.uk

Format Each seminar lasts 90 minutes: presentations of up to 20 minutes, each followed by discussion. Please read the linked papers in advance and bring questions and applications to your own research.

Contact AQR Series Co-ordinators Maxim Potepkin (mp833@kent.ac.uk) and Isabeau Schmidt (is377@kent.ac.uk)

Diary Methods Autumn 2026 Track Programme

28 October and 25 November 2026 | 17:00–18:30 UK time (GMT) | Online

DATE / TIME	PRESENTATION AND RELATED PUBLICATION	SPEAKERS
28 October 17:00–17:45	Using diary method to access the voices of ‘busy’ academics: Methodological insights from three diary studies <i>Qualitative Research</i> (2026), <i>OnlineFirst</i> Read the article	Professor Emily F. Henderson University of Warwick Dr Ahmad Akkad Universities of Oxford and Bath
28 October 17:45–18:30	Beyond the Body Productive: Exploring the Transformative Potential of Self-Tracking <i>Sociology</i> (2025), 59(3) Read the article	Dr Rachel Spence University of Liverpool Management School
25 November 17:00–17:45	Diary Studies in Research: More Than a Research Method <i>International Journal of Market Research</i> (2024), 66(4), 410–427 Read the article	Dr Doyin Olorunfemi University of Sunderland in London
25 November 17:45–18:30	Exploring Leader’s Day-to-Day Wellbeing in Hybrid Work: A Qualitative Diary Study <i>Original Research</i>	Isabeau Schmidt PhD Candidate, Kent Business School, University of Kent



28 October: speakers

17:00–17:45 Using diary method to access the voices of ‘busy’ academics: Methodological insights from three diary studies



Professor Emily F. Henderson

Professor and Director of the Doctoral Education and Academia Research Centre (DEAR), University of Warwick

Emily is based in Education Studies within the School of Education, Learning and Communication Sciences. Her current projects include the four-year Widening Access to Higher Education in India: Institutional Approaches (WAHEI) project and a strand of research on research centres. She is co-author of *Gendering the Massification Generation: Higher Education Access and Choice in India* (Routledge, 2024) and *Making Sense of Academic Conferences* (Routledge, 2023). She co-edits the academic blog *Conference Inference* and is Co-Convenor of the Diary Method Community, an online community of practice for diary researchers.

[University profile](#)



Dr Ahmad Akkad

**Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Education, University of Oxford
Research Fellow, Department of Education, University of Bath**

Ahmad is a College Advisor at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, a member of the Editorial Board of *Higher Education Quarterly* and Co-Convenor of the Diary Method Community. As Principal Investigator, he recently completed the RAIDARS project (Rethinking Academic Inclusion for Displaced and At-Risk Scholars), which explored mechanisms of support for displaced and at-risk scholars at Oxford (2024–2025). With Professor Maia Chankseliani, he led a strand of research at Oxford on international mobility and development in the MENA region (2022–2025).

[University profile](#)

Related publication: Henderson, E. F., & Akkad, A. (2026). Designing diary studies for academics and other ‘busy’ professionals: Challenging assumptions via the work-related diary design framework (WDDF). *Qualitative Research*. [Read the article](#)

17:45–18:30 Beyond the Body Productive: Exploring the Transformative Potential of Self-Tracking



Dr Rachel Spence

Lecturer in Marketing and Director of Studies for BA Marketing, University of Liverpool Management School

Rachel’s research draws on qualitative methods, with a particular interest in using diary methods to explore experiences and relationships as they unfold over time. Her work examines the evolving relationships between people and digital technologies and how these shape everyday practices and wellbeing. Her interests also encompass teaching, scholarship and learning.

[University profile](#)

Related publication: Spence, R., Ashman, R., Patterson, A., & Hunter-Jones, P. (2025). Beyond the body productive: Exploring the transformative potential of self-tracking. *Sociology*, 59(3). [Read the article](#)



25 November: speakers

17:00–17:45 Diary Studies in Research: More Than a Research Method



Dr Doyin Olorunfemi

Lecturer in Management, University of Sunderland in London

Doyin's research sits at the intersection of entrepreneurship, practice and learning, with a focus on how selling shapes entrepreneurial self-efficacy and development, particularly in women's entrepreneurial journeys. She is a qualitative researcher with a keen interest in diaries as a research tool. Her work engages Global South contexts, including sustainability, religious entrepreneurship and digitisation. She serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation* and is Co-Chair of the Practice & Impact SIG at the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE).

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ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Drawing on a six-month diary study of women entering direct selling, this session shows how diaries capture within-individual processes that interviews can miss. Participants will see a step-by-step design, from participant coaching to mobile-friendly diary forms, learn how to sustain engagement and manage entry fatigue, and discuss how reflective questioning can benefit participants.

Related publication: Olorunfemi, D. (2024). Diary studies in research: More than a research method. *International Journal of Market Research*, 66(4), 410–427. [Read the article](#)

17:45–18:30 Exploring Leader's Day-to-Day Wellbeing in Hybrid Work: A Qualitative Diary Study



Isabeau Schmidt

PhD Candidate, Kent Business School, University of Kent

Isabel is a PhD researcher at Kent Business School, University of Kent. Her research sits at the intersection of leadership, hybrid work and well-being, with a particular focus on the experiences and challenges of leaders navigating hybrid working environments. Her doctoral research draws on both qualitative and quantitative approaches to explore leadership in contemporary work settings. Alongside her research, she serves as the PhD Representative for the Human Resource Management Special Interest Group at the British Academy of Management (BAM) and as Co-Coordinator of Advances in Qualitative Research (AQR), contributing to academic events, knowledge exchange and collaboration within the research community.

[University profile](#)

PRESENT YOUR RESEARCH AT AQR

The series offers two seminars per term, each within a methodological focus track. Participants are encouraged to discuss applications to their own research and to develop our collective qualitative research know-how.

Would you like to present? PhD students are welcome to present early empirical findings and receive feedback from the AQR community, and researchers at all career stages are invited to share their work. We will be glad to include your research in the programme within a relevant focus track; upcoming tracks are announced through the AQR mailing list and webpage.

To propose a presentation, contact the AQR Series Co-ordinators: Maxim Potepkin (mp833@kent.ac.uk) and Isabeau Schmidt (is377@kent.ac.uk).

