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## Welcome to Issue 13!

Welcome to Issue 13 of the ARK newsletter, our last in 2011. We hope you have enjoyed hearing about and using many of our resources over this year, and will continue to do so in 2012. This edition of the newsletter highlights a range of events coming up in the New Year – we hope to see you there!

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## ARK seminars

Our most recent seminar - 'Public Attitudes to Social Care Provision and the Future of Social Care for older people in Northern Ireland' – took place on Tuesday 22 November. A video recording of this event is available [online](#).

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The next seminar in the series is 'Facing the challenge: The impact of the recession and unemployment on men's health in Ireland' and will be presented by Owen Metcalfe (Institute of Public Health in Ireland).

The seminar will take place on Tuesday 14 February 2012, at NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, from 12:00-13:00, followed by lunch. The seminar is free, but places must be booked via email [info@ark.ac.uk](mailto:info@ark.ac.uk) or telephone 028 71675513.

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Another date for your diary is Tuesday 13 March, when Gráinne Kelly (International Conflict Research Institute, University of Ulster) will present a seminar on 'Progressing reconciliation, Setting future priorities for Northern Ireland'.

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## Other ARK events

### **Data, Policy and Practice: the potential of secondary data analysis**

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has recently announced a major initiative, the [Secondary Data Analysis Initiative](#), to deliver high-impact policy- and practitioner- relevant research through the deeper exploitation of the major data resources created by the ESRC and other agencies.

ARK is hosting a half-day workshop on Wednesday 11 January 2012 to highlight the opportunities afforded by this initiative to researchers, practitioners and policy makers. The event will showcase a range of datasets and how they can be used to develop high-impact research. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss ideas for bids with possible collaborators.

The event will be held in Queen's University. Further information and booking details can be found on the [ESDS website](#).

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## Research on the Road: Belfast

As part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science, ARK and NICVA ran two introductory workshops on research methods for the voluntary and community sector in Omagh and Newry. Due to high demand, we are repeating this half-day research methods seminar in Belfast on 31 January 2012. There will also be a 'surgery' for participants to ask representatives from ARK and NICVA's Research Unit for advice. These events are especially tailored for the voluntary and community sector. Further details and booking information are available on the [NICVA website](#).

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For information on all past and forthcoming ARK events, view the [Events](#) section on the ARK website.

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## Recent publications

'[Developing social care policy: the public voice](#)' (Research Update 78), by Ann Marie Gray, Lizanne Dowds and Paula Devine was released in November to accompany an ARK seminar. This timely research is based on data from the 2010 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey.

ARK produces a range of publications, including Research Updates and fact sheets. Most of these are available online. For a full list of publications, as well as links, visit our [Publications](#) page.

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## About ARK

ARK is a joint initiative between Queen's University and the University of Ulster, and began in 2000. Our mission is to make social science knowledge on Northern Ireland easily accessible to the widest possible audience. Most of our dissemination is via our website at [www.ark.ac.uk](http://www.ark.ac.uk), which is divided into four main areas:

- [Surveys](#)
- [Conflict, Politics and Elections](#)
- [Policy, Research and Resources](#)
- [Outreach, Dissemination and Training](#)

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## Contact us

For more information on ARK, please visit our website at <http://www.ark.ac.uk>

If you wish to contact us, please email [info@ark.ac.uk](mailto:info@ark.ac.uk)

You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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