Social science and COVID-19

This list includes work funded by UKRI/ESRC, the UKRI-DHSC calls, and major relevant activity being undertaken by ESRC investments in response to COVID-19.

COVID-19 and its consequences raise enormous questions about the economy, work and unemployment, mental health, education, social isolation and much more. ESRC is the major public funder of social science in the UK and has acted quickly to ensure that the pressing work that needs to be funded can be undertaken by researchers across our disciplines.

This list represents urgent work ongoing now. Further projects will be added as they are funded. Projects added since the previous version of this list are highlighted.

We are also scoping the significant future relevant work which will be needed to navigate the recovery.

Economy

Measuring the impact of Brexit/COVID-19 on UK investment, sales and productivity (Mizen, University of Nottingham). Researching impact of COVID-19 via ongoing Decision Maker Panel on sales, employment, capital and requirements/availability of credit, working patterns, non-labour inputs, business expectations. Existing investment.

Supporting fiscal policy decisions (Johnson, Institute for Fiscal Studies). Targeted analysis using new data sources (including a COVID-19 module in a large longitudinal household survey and real-time bank data). Draws on IFS’s expertise on tax and benefit policy design and familiarity with the institutional and policy context around the UK’s labour market, taxes and benefits and the public finances. New funding.

Modelling the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the UK economy (Young, NIESR). Use of NIESR’s modelling capability to estimate short-term impact of the pandemic on the UK economy, and assess longer-term issues that will influence the economic recovery and effectiveness of policy measures. New funding.

Coronavirus economics translational hub (Griffith, Royal Economic Society/Institute for Fiscal Studies). Draws together key evidence from research on the economic impact of COVID, key policy solutions, and identifies evidence gaps. New funding.

Harnessing existing research to provide rapid responses (Chadha, NIESR). Four strands of work including: using NIESR’s econometric model to provide new analysis; understanding COVID-19’s real time economic impact; public understanding of economic and policy messages; impact of the virus in less advantaged, deprived and migrant communities. New funding.

Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) (Advani, University of Warwick). Research on policies to rebuild government finances: personal income and capital gains taxation, based on HMRC Datalab data; net wealth taxation measuring UK wealth using tax data. Existing investment.

The real-time economic effects of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom (Dhingra, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics). Examining the microeconomic impact of the pandemic and lockdown on UK businesses and its interaction with the UK’s decision to leave the European Union. New funding.
Risk sharing mechanisms to mitigate the economic consequences of pandemics: mobilising insurance expertise and capital to provide solutions for the UK (Jarzabkowski, City, University of London). Developing a novel risk-sharing mechanism to effectively share pandemic business interruption risk between UK businesses, insurers and government. New funding.

Modelling the effects of pandemic control measures and financial support on businesses, regions and households (Nesheim, Institute for Fiscal Studies and UCL). Building a sectoral-regional model of the economy to assess the impacts of specific policy interventions and estimating a model of consumer behaviour to understand the effects of lockdown on households’ spending decisions and living standards. New funding.

The fiscal response to COVID-19: ‘thinking big’ on tax policy after the crisis (Chamberlain, London School of Economics). Convening a network of world-leading tax experts to provide rapid-response evidence and recommendations to government on the case for introducing a new ‘wealth tax’ for the UK. New funding.

COVID-19: tourism recovery, risk and uncertainty (Williams, University of Surrey). Providing a new evidence base on tourist intentions to underpin more accurate demand forecasts, and more targeted market research and policy measures for UK tourism in the medium term COVID-19 landscape of risk and uncertainty. New funding.


The economic linkages of COVID-19 across sectors and regions in the UK (Perez-Sebastian, University of Hull). Testing the hypothesis that economic links among locations work as vectors for the disease and are an important factor for its spread. New funding.

How the design of bankruptcy procedures impacts macroeconomic and employment outcomes in the post-COVID recovery period: lessons from previous crises (Djankov, London School of Economics). Investigating how the design of bankruptcy procedures impacts macroeconomic outcomes, and whether the design should be different during times of economic distress. New funding.

Did the furlough scheme and mortgage holidays prevent mortgage default? (McGowan, University of Birmingham). Developing a model of mortgage default that incorporates the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) and the mortgage holiday policy to quantify how many mortgage defaults the policies prevented. New funding.

Employment

The impact of COVID-19 on economic inequality and employment progression (Adams-Prassl, University of Oxford). Five additional survey waves to gather data on the impacts of the crisis on different workers and to evaluate the effectiveness of different policies aimed to smooth the effect of containment measures on living standards. New funding.

Self-employed and COVID-19 (Machin, Centre for Economic Performance). Will monitor and quantify the effect of the pandemic on the self-employed and provide timely and policy-relevant information to support government decisions. New funding.
Where does work belong anymore? The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working in the UK (Marks, University of Stirling). This study researches home-based working and interrelated issues, including organisational support, caring responsibilities, domestic relationships and psychological wellbeing. This project is designed to help understand the management of work and productivity in a crisis, providing a benchmark for understanding the impact and responses of both individuals and businesses. New funding.

The impact of economic and social changes arising from COVID-19 on foundational sectors (including food delivery and social care) (Jones, WISERD, Cardiff University). Existing investment.

Practices and combinations of practices for health and wellbeing at work (Daniels, University of East Anglia). Collecting data on how occupational health and wellbeing services are adjusting through a longitudinal case study. Existing investment.

Rescuing a ‘sick’ labour market: using online vacancy data to track COVID-19’s economic impact (Draca, University of Warwick). Identifying the impact of COVID-19 and consequent lockdown measures on labour demand, using unique real-time data on UK online job postings, combined with text analysis and causal econometric research designs. New funding.


How is the COVID-19 accidental experiment around working from home changing the way the UK will work after lockdown? (Parry, University of Southampton). Exploring how the pandemic has influenced different sectors in the UK, the longer-term implications of working from home, and which new behaviours and working practices will remain and which should be encouraged. New funding.

The economic, social, and cultural impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on independent arts workers in the United Kingdom (Maples, University of Essex). Examining the economic, cultural and social impact of COVID-19 on independent arts workers and the organisations that serve them, with the aim of informing strategies for sector recovery. New funding.

Tracking public attitudes and preferences for post-COVID-19 labour migration policies (Broadhead, University of Oxford). To track how the public perceives low- and high-skilled migrant workers in essential and non-essential occupations over the coming year, and whether these translate into changes in policy preferences that prioritise some groups over others. New funding.

Investigating the monetisation of live streams of musical performances in the wake of COVID-19 (Haferkorn, Middlesex University). Investigating optimum ways of monetising livestreamed performances, enabling musicians to quickly and effectively access new income streams. New funding.

The impact of COVID-19 on recent graduates’ career decisions and outcomes (Tomlinson, University of Southampton). Investigating how the COVID-19 crisis is experienced across the most recent graduate population, its impacts on their career behaviour and outcomes and which graduates may be most affected. New funding.

Health, social, economic and cultural impacts of COVID-19 on migrant essential workers in the UK (Wright, University of Glasgow). Investigating the health, social,
economic and cultural impacts of COVID-19 on the migrant essential workforce and how these might impact on their continued stay in the UK. New funding.

**The impact of COVID-19 on unemployment and earnings inequality** (Carrillo Tudela, University of Essex). Evaluating how effective different labour market policies are at reducing the impact of the pandemic on unemployment and earnings inequality. New funding.

**Occupational changes and skill mismatch following COVID-19: implications for graduates in the UK** (Robinson, University of Kent). Investigating how the distribution of workers across occupations has changed during the COVID pandemic, and how such changes have affected the match between workers’ education and the requirements of a particular occupation. New funding.

**Effects on businesses and their responses including relationships with workers**

**Measuring the effects of COVID-19 on businesses and the economy** (Mizen, University of Nottingham). The project draws on the ongoing Decision Maker Panel to gather fortnightly/monthly data on the business response to COVID-19, feeding into the Bank policy committees. The project is creating a data archive of a matched dataset using ONS surveys to provide detailed analysis of employment, investment and sales growth. It will also assess the resilience to shocks from a survey focused on management practices. New funding.

**Understanding and explaining management practices to promote higher productivity in UK businesses** (Riley, NIESR). Extending ONS-Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), Management and Expectations Survey (MES) of ~25,000 businesses with 10+ employees drawn from and linked to the 2016 Annual Business Survey sample. Existing investment.

**Gig workers: unsung heroes and a strategic role in the UK national response to the COVID-19 pandemic** (van Tongeren, University of Manchester) This project researches different risk mitigation measures and social distancing strategies to understand how delivery workers contribute to the UK’s national response by delivering to households and how they could potentially contribute to transmission. New funding.

**Young graduates’ engagement in new training** (Del Bono, Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC), University of Essex). To what extent have young graduates engaged in new training as a result of the impact of the pandemic on the jobs’ market. Existing investment.

**Real-time evaluation of the effects of COVID-19 and policy responses on consumer and small business finances** (Stewart, University of Warwick). Creation of a new real-time economic characterisation of consumer and firm behaviour using mass transaction data. New funding.

**Entrepreneurial resiliency, innovation, and change during the COVID-19 crisis** (Spigel, University of Edinburgh Business School). Production of rapid information to help entrepreneurs and policymakers understand how the impacts of the crisis change over time and how firms can build strategic resiliency in the face of an unprecedented crisis. New funding.

**Waste management during the COVID-19 outbreak: investigating a critical sector in crisis** (Balayannis, University of Exeter). Investigating how this critical sector is responding to, and affected by, COVID-19 — particularly in terms of the safety of its workers. New funding.
Resilience of the UK seafood system to the COVID-19 disruption (RiseUp) (Franco, Scottish Association for Marine Science). Collecting evidence on the impacts of COVID-19 disruption across the UK seafood industry, how these are managed by businesses and how impacts are propagating through the supply network. New funding.

Quantifying and simulating the impact of social distancing policies on firm-level productivity (Fetzer, University of Warwick). Analysing the impact of social distancing policies in the workplace in the UK on firm and organisation level productivity. New funding.

Understanding the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on UK manufacturing and identifying priorities for renewal through innovation (MacBryde, University of Strathclyde). Addressing and mitigating the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the UK manufacturing industry. New funding.

Business creation in the UK (Savagar, University of Kent). Constructing and analysing a population-wide dataset of new company registrations in the UK using Companies House administrative data to understand the economic implications of COVID-19 on geographic regions and economic sectors of the UK. New funding.

The role of health and safety representatives in COVID-19 (Moore, University of Greenwich). Identifying the role that health and safety representatives have played during COVID-19, lessons learned and best practice for future waves or pandemics. New funding.

Understanding the financial impact of COVID-19 on the UK care home sector — implications for businesses and the workforce (Fotaki, University of Warwick). Addressing the impact of COVID-19 on the care home sector and assessing its financial viability as well as requirements for recovery and resilience. New funding.


Responses by SMEs

Impact of COVID-19 on staff mental health and well-being in SMEs: strategies and interventions to support workforce and boost productivity (Kumar Dey, Aston University). Research on mental health and productivity within small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). New funding.

From productivity to prosperity (Driffield, University of Warwick). Analysing impact on small firms and supply chains. Existing investment.

Supporting the SME response to COVID-19: survey on technology adoption (Overman, London School of Economics). Undertaking a survey of SMEs across the UK to shed light on the extent to which SMEs have been adopting technologies or organisational practices that we might consider to be “productivity enhancing”. New funding.

UK SMEs: quantifying their pandemic risk and credit risk exposures in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis (Duygun, University of Nottingham). Using Artificial intelligence techniques to quantify the pandemic risk exposure of SMEs through constructing a novel Pandemic Risk Index and to assess SMEs’ credit risk accurately and efficiently by developing a novel Python programme suite. New funding.
**SMEs and the macroeconomic response to COVID-19** (Duncan, University of Kent). Studying the effects of lockdown and other UK government policy responses on small and medium enterprises by incorporating SMEs into a general equilibrium model of the UK economy. New funding.

**Small and medium enterprises’ (SMEs) digital footprints and its ethical implications during COVID-19 outbreak and beyond** (Arda, Brunel University London). Developing an analytical framework that can help SMEs to better understand their digital footprints and their ethical implications. New funding.

**Place**

**What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth** (Overman, London School of Economics). Research on the evidence to help places rebuild their economies and identify the leading indicators that might help them understand the impact of the pandemic on different areas. Existing investment.

**WISERD** (Jones, Cardiff University). The role of City Regions and place based polices in supporting and renewing local economies in the aftermath of COVID-19. Existing investment.

**The geography of post COVID-19 shutdown recovery risk in UK economic activity. Implications for recovery inequality and targeted stimulus** (Matheson, University of Sheffield). Producing data measuring the shock, the multiplier, and the COVID-19 shutdown recovery risk for UK neighbourhoods. New funding.

**Locked down, locked out? Local partnership resilience in the COVID-19 pandemic** (Buchan, Edinburgh Napier University). Investigating local partnerships and their adaptations to the pandemic, allowing new and innovative responses to be identified and promoted, to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 and other crises on the most disadvantaged groups. New funding.

**Supply chains**

**Food system impacts of COVID-19** (Winter, University of Exeter). This research examines the extent of continuity and dislocation in the supply chain across different foods, including changes in routes to markets, the barriers to change, and the regulations, incentives, investments or interventions which might be required to optimise supply chain adjustments and ensure fairness. New funding.

**COVID-19: food and nutrition security during and after the COVID-19 pandemic** (Rivington, James Hutton Institute). The aim of this study is to conduct an initial rapid food and nutrition security risk assessment and explore options for changes in agricultural production, trade and distribution to protect food and nutrition security without jeopardising wider ecological and climate goals.

**Feeding the nation: seasonal migrant workers and food security during the COVID-19 pandemic** (Barbulescu, University of Leeds). Examining the recruitment and experiences of seasonal agricultural migrant workers throughout harvest seasons 2020 and 2021. New funding.
Medical and healthcare

Remote-by-default care in the COVID-19 pandemic: addressing the micro-, meso-, and macro-level challenges of a radical new service model (Greenhalgh, University of Oxford). Researches micro- (technical tools, clinical techniques), meso- (organisational change) and macro (national infrastructure) aspects of new remote service model in primary care to understand/disseminate best practice. New funding.

Rapid evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic response in palliative and end of life care: national delivery, workforce and symptom management (CovPall) (Higginson, King’s College London). This project rapidly evaluates the palliative care response to COVID-19 to improve care. New funding.


Necessary discussions: advance care planning for nursing homes in a COVID-19 outbreak (Brazil, Queens University Belfast). Develop and evaluate an online advance care planning (ACP) COVID-centric intervention for nursing homes during a COVID-19 outbreak to improve care at the end of life. New funding.

Supporting family carers in making decisions for older relatives with dementia (Davies, University College London) This project will produce an evidence-based decision aid for family carers and people with dementia for use in the management of COVID-19. New funding.

DETERMIND (Banerjee, University of Plymouth). Developing new empirical data on how best to support dementia sufferers and their carers and identifying predictors of better and worse outcomes. The project will generate practical guidance for services and families on how best to support people with dementia and carers. Existing investment.

DETERMIND-C19: impact of COVID-19 on people newly diagnosed with dementia and their family carers, a mixed method study nested in DETERMIND (Banerjee, University of Plymouth). Examining how a group of 266 people newly diagnosed with a range of severities of dementia in the months before the COVID-19 lockdown and their carers have been affected by COVID-19 and the predictors of better and worse outcomes. New funding.

Identifying and mitigating the individual and dyadic impact of COVID-19 and life under physical distancing on people with dementia and carers (INCLUDE) (Clare, University of Exeter). Understanding the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic and the resulting restrictions on people with dementia and their carers, and developing resources to address the negative and potentially harmful effects of this situation. New funding.

Understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on the provision of NHS health care and patient outcomes (Propper, Imperial College London). Providing a detailed description of the extent to which non-COVID-19 NHS activity has been affected by COVID-19, who is most affected, and how patient outcomes have changed. New funding.

Rapidly formed COVID-19 teams in the NHS: implications for leadership, teamworking, career intentions and individual mental health (Connelly, Oxford Brookes University). Examining how non-technical factors for healthcare delivery (leadership, social support and cohesion, communication, shared mental models, co-ordination) and expected moderating factors (occupational background, preparedness, work-life balance, home situation, proximity, workforce allocation models) impact on perceived COVID-teamworking
and performance, individual team member wellbeing and team member employment retention intentions. New funding.

**Exploring remote working practices for patient public involvement and engagement in health and social care research — responding to COVID-19 and rising health inequalities** (Frith, University of Liverpool). Facilitating and improving ways of doing patient public involvement and engagement remotely and increasing the diversity of public contributors in health and social care research. New funding.

**Experiences of COVID-19 and recovery: learning from polyphonic voices for communities, policy makers and health and social care providers** (Ziebland, University of Oxford). Documenting and understanding experiences of living through COVID-19 to provide public-facing resources for information and support. New funding.

**Establishing the impact of COVID-19 on the health of domiciliary care workers in Wales: developing a model for UK service planning and carer support** (Robling, Cardiff University). Generating rapid high-quality evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on the health of domiciliary care workers to inform public health interventions for safer working practice and additional support for care workers. New funding.

**Should I stay or should I go? NHS staff retention in a post COVID-19 world, challenges and prospects** (Weyman, University of Bath). Examining the impact of the acute demand for NHS services during spring 2020, and the unknowable profile of demand over coming months on NHS staff resilience and associated impacts on their health and wellbeing. New funding.

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**Care homes and adult social care**

**Burden and impact in care homes** (Shallcross, University College London). This project aims to support the management of COVID-19 in care homes by establishing a real-time surveillance system using data from a large care home chain and a virtual stakeholder network to expedite rapid learning during the pandemic and ensure pragmatic solutions are widely disseminated. New funding.

**Understanding and improving antimicrobial prescribing in care homes: a multidisciplinary approach** (Dickson, University of Dundee). Working with care home staff on COVID-19 including an in-depth case study and a survey of care home staff and GPs who prescribe for care home residents. Existing investment.

**WISERD** (Jones, Cardiff University). Spatial inequalities in access to residential care homes in Wales and a detailed case study in the area covered by the Regional Partnership Board in West Wales. Analysis of how the legal and policy context related to third sector adult social care provision has changed in light of the pandemic, and how third sector care providers have responded. Existing investment.

**Supporting adult social care innovation** (Malley, London School of Economics). Researching adult social care, how adult social care organisations are engaging with the NHS and changes in care delivery during the pandemic. Existing investment.

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**Education**

**Identifying effective remote literacy teaching methods for primary-aged children** (Jones, Bangor University). This project researches effective remote, evidence-based
literacy instruction for primary-aged children, across a range of literacy abilities, in order to mitigate the negative effect of school closure. New funding.

The effects of social distancing policies on children’s language development, sleep and executive functions (Gonzalez-Gomez, Oxford Brookes University). This project follows up a UK-wide cohort of children aged 8 to 36 months to capture changes in key environmental variables and measure their impact on children’s vocabulary size and executive function. New funding.

A duty of care and a duty to teach: educational priorities in response to the COVID-19 lockdown (Moss, UCL Institute of Education). This research explores the challenges the pandemic sets primary schools, using surveys and telephone interviews to analyse how teachers weigh a duty of care (for their pupils’ well-being and welfare) and a duty to teach (given their responsibilities for curriculum delivery). New funding.

Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on young peoples’ learning, motivation, wellbeing, and aspirations using a representative probability panel (Macmillan, University College London). Collecting and analysing high-quality data on young people (ages 12-19) in England using an existing representative sample to assess the impact of the cancellation of exams and home learning experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic on pupils’ learning, motivation, wellbeing, and aspirations. New funding.

The impact of COVID-19 related school closures on foundation skills in reception children (Nash, University of Leeds). Analysing the impact of school closures on pupils who are at the important transition point between reception and Year 1. New funding.

Mind the gap: educational inequalities during COVID-19 (Rabe, University of Essex). Analysing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on educational outcomes with a view to understanding whether some groups of students have been more negatively affected than others, including by students’ gender, socio-economic background and ethnicity. New funding.

Augmented feedback to enhance motor and artistic learning during social distancing (Versace, Queen Mary, University of London). Validating the efficacy of different remote teaching methods and tools on physical and artistic training, including artificial intelligence augmented feedback. New funding.

Investigating how nurse education prior to and during COVID prepares nurses for the pandemic: an analysis of what works (Malone, Oxford Brookes University). Analysing student nurses’ experiences of education both before and during the pandemic (including between the first and second waves) and their experience of on-line learning. New funding.

Essential experiences in science: addressing the gap in primary enquiry-based practical science created by lockdown and aiding school recovery (Billingsley, Canterbury Christ Church University). Discovering best practice and testing the efficacy of interventions on children’s enquiry skills, scientific literacy, science capital, academic self-concept and attitudes to learning. New funding.

Leading school learning through COVID-19 and beyond: online learning and strategic planning through and post lockdown in English secondary schools (Baxter, Open University). Investigating how school leaders in state secondary schools in England are strategically planning for the management of online learning over the next 2 years, and how this builds on current practices. New funding.
Other public services

Child protection and social distancing: improving the capacity of social workers to keep children safe during the COVID-19 pandemic (Ferguson, University of Birmingham). The project explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child protection, social workers and service users, with specific reference to the novel use of digital technologies in a period of institutionalised social distancing. New funding.

Welfare at a (social) distance: accessing social security and employment support during the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath (Scullion, University of Salford). This project will provide rapid evidence on how the benefits system is meeting the challenges resulting from the pandemic. New funding.

COVID-19 and councils’ finances: understanding risks and impacts & improving policy (Phillips, Institute for Fiscal Studies). Analysing population and financial risks facing English councils, changes in residents’ incomes and spending, and how different English councils’ spending and revenues are changing during the course of the crisis. New funding.

Understanding and learning from the impact of COVID-19 on probation’s work to improve the health of people under its supervision (Sirdifield, University of Lincoln). Improving understanding of the nature and impact of COVID-19 responses on a) health-related probation practice, b) the lived experience of seeking health support whilst under probation supervision, and c) partnership working and pathways into care. New funding.

Optimising outcomes from procurement and partnering for COVID-19 and beyond: lessons from the crisis (Simmons, University of Stirling). Analysing how local authorities can maximise the impact of, and leverage additional value from, procurement. New funding.

Voluntary sector

How to understand, scale and maximise the effectiveness of volunteer responses to COVID-19 (Burchell, University of Sheffield). This project will address the knowledge gap around the community resource mobilisation, infrastructural support and capacity building measures required to organise the scale and pace of volunteering needed to maximise the effectiveness of responses to COVID-19. New funding.

Assessing financial vulnerability and risk in the UK’s charities during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis (Mohan, University of Birmingham). Analysing the impacts on charities of the severe financial constraints they will experience due to the immediate and longer-term economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis. New funding.

COVID-19 and VCSE organisations response (King, Nottingham Trent University). Providing real-time data and learning on how COVID-19 is impacting the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. New funding.

Mobilising voluntary action in the four UK jurisdictions: learning from today, prepared for tomorrow (Hardill, Northumbria University). Evaluating social welfare voluntary action responses to the pandemic to help guide the UK volunteer effort to support the national recovery and preparedness for future crises. New funding.

Mobilising the voluntary and community sector to address the unmet needs of the UK LGBT+ population during COVID-19 (Hudson, NatCen Social Research). Undertaking mixed-methods research to identify and explore the impact COVID-19 has, and will continue
to have, on the UK LGBT+ population, and how the LGBT+ voluntary and community (VC) sector can be mobilised to address community need. New funding.

**Psychological resilience**

**Supporting parents, adolescents and children during epidemics with a focus on mental health** (Waite, University of Oxford) The project tracks children and young people’s mental health throughout the COVID-19 crisis through an online longitudinal survey completed monthly throughout the pandemic by parents/carers of children aged 2-16 years and young people themselves (11-16 years). New funding.

**Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy** (CAGE) (Fetzer, University of Warwick). Research and working paper on increase in Google searches indicative of anxieties and economic fears. Existing investment.

**A longitudinal mixed-methods population study of the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: psychological and social adjustment to global threat** (Bentall, University of Sheffield). Longitudinal survey on changes in mental health and psychosocial functioning from beginning to end of the pandemic, identifying vulnerable groups needing help. New funding.

**Facilitating the public response to COVID-19 by harnessing group processes** (Drury, University of Sussex). Building upon understandings of psychological group processes to address how to develop and sustain shared identity and social solidarity during pandemics. New funding.

**Psychosocial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: identifying mental health problems and supporting wellbeing in vulnerable children and families** (van Goozen, Cardiff University). Evaluating the social and emotional impacts of COVID-19 on primary school children and identifying how negative consequences can be mitigated. New funding.

**Monitoring socioeconomic and mental health trajectories through the COVID-19 pandemic** (Smith, NatCen Social Research). Using the nationally representative data collected monthly by the UKHLS COVID panel to assess the pandemic’s ongoing impact on individuals’ mental health and financial situation, and how this differs among subgroups of the UK population. New funding.

**Supporting people bereaved during COVID-19: a mixed methods study of bereaved people’s experiences and the bereavement services supporting them** (Harrop, Cardiff University). Investigating the grief experiences, support needs and use of bereavement support by people bereaved during the pandemic, and the adaptations, challenges and innovation involved in delivering equitable bereavement support.

**A national observatory of children’s play experiences during COVID-19** (Potter, University College London). Establishing a ‘National Observatory of Play’ to capture children’s experiences of the pandemic, which will offer insights into the often-overlooked worlds of play and peer cultures, informing policy and practice during the pandemic and the ‘new normals’ beyond. New funding.

The impact of COVID-19 fear: evidence to inform social, health and economic recovery (Douglas, University of Stirling). Constructing a robust and evidence-based survey instrument for COVID-19 fear, using the instrument to measure prevalence among older people in Scotland, and relating this to willingness to re-engage across social, health and economic domains as society adjusts to what may be termed the ‘new normal’. New funding.

Societal resilience

UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (Gibb, University of Glasgow). Housing policies introduced during lockdown. Existing investment.

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on nutrition (O’Connell, Institute for Fiscal Studies). This project uses real-time longitudinal data on a large representative sample to provide evidence on whether vulnerable people (including the elderly, those on low incomes, and those with young children) are having difficulties accessing essentials and maintaining a healthy diet. New funding.

WISERD (Jones, Cardiff University). Follow-up interviews with families in South Wales to consider how families have responded to COVID-19 in relation to their family relationships and attitudes. Existing investment.

Wales Centre for Public Policy (Martin, Cardiff University). Briefings papers on promoting a Green Recovery, supporting the groups hit hardest by recession, impact on public services. Existing investment.

Assessing policy to address the medium-run impact of COVID-19 on income and health inequality with models informed by the history of disease outbreaks (Angelopoulos, University of Glasgow). Assessing interventions to mitigate the medium-run implications of COVID-19 on income and health inequality. New funding.

COVID-19: human rights implications of digital certificates for health status verification (Beduschi, University of Exeter). Evaluating whether and how digital certificates for health status affect our enjoyment of data privacy and the protection of our human rights, and assessing whether there are effective ways to mitigate any potential risks for these rights, thus informing decision-making in this area of national interest. New funding.

Carrying the work burden of the COVID-19 pandemic: working class women in the UK (Warren, University of Nottingham). Analysing data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study to fill an urgent need by identifying and responding to difficulties experienced by working class women in real time. New funding.

Meeting food vulnerability needs during COVID-19: applying a systems approach to evidence based policy and practice (Lambie-Mumford, University of Sheffield). Applying a systems approach to enable understanding and monitoring of activities to enhance or provide food access to vulnerable people during the COVID-19 outbreak, including both financial and direct access. New funding.

Periods in a pandemic: how UK period poverty initiatives are managing with COVID-19 related challenges (Williams, Birmingham City University). Providing insight into how UK-based period poverty initiatives and projects are mitigating challenges linked to COVID-19 by examining how they are continuing to meet the needs of those experiencing period poverty and identifying any gaps in provision. New funding.


The impact of COVID-19 on the provision of early years childcare in England and Wales (Hardy, University of Leeds). Generating large-scale, detailed evidence on challenges related to early years childcare, enabling development of solutions and policy measures to support safe and financially sustainable childcare provision. New funding.

Childcare and wellbeing in times of COVID-19: developing crisis-resilient care solutions (Naumann, University of Edinburgh). Collating an evidence-base providing the most comprehensive picture on how the pandemic has affected families’ childcare arrangements and wellbeing in the short- and longer-term, and developing a co-produced policy toolkit providing community-based implementation and practice pathways. New funding.

Why do households repay their debt during the COVID-19 crisis? Wellbeing and financial implications (Mamatzakis, Birkbeck, University of London). Examining the impact of the pandemic and government interventions on household debt repayments and on household financial resilience. New funding.

Youth economic activity and health (YEAH) monitor (Henseke, UCL Institute of Education). Addressing the UK’s need for robust evidence on the pandemic’s consequences for youth employment, learning and psycho-social wellbeing. New funding.

Recovering from COVID-19: informing, supporting and developing guidance for local resilience (Shaw, University of Manchester). Understanding how government develops plans for short-term, transactional ‘recovery’ and how they think strategically about longer-term, ambitious, transformational change. New funding.

Migrant remittances and COVID-19: practices of care during crisis (Datta, Queen Mary, University of London). Examining shifts in the nature, patterns and direction of remittance sending in response to COVID-19, tracking the impact of the pandemic on migrants’ labour market experiences, BAME migrants’ vulnerability to the virus and the needs of transnational families. New funding.

Developing practical ethics of care for the dead and bereaved: learning from the ways COVID-19 disrupted and reshaped funeral provision (Entwistle, University of Aberdeen). Addressing neglected ethical aspects of funeral provision, including questions of the fairness and moral dimensions of distress evident in family members’ and funeral directors’ worries about not fulfilling important responsibilities, or doing wrong, to those who have died or been bereaved. New funding.
Vulnerable groups

Outreach to domestic abuse victims in times of quarantine (Kirchmaier, London School of Economics). Explores how best to reach isolated domestic abuse victims using non-traditional means to provide them with a safer means of contacting the police. New funding.

Disabled people and COVID-19 in the UK (Shakespeare, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). Disabled people’s short- and medium-term experiences of the epidemic, including the impact of social isolation, the interruption of support on wellbeing, the barriers and facilitators of this process and lessons that can be learned for policy and practice. New funding.


COVID-19: families, children aged 0-4 and pregnant women: vulnerabilities, resources and recovery in Tower Hamlets (Cameron, University College London). Examining changing family support services and emergent community resources such as mutual aid and peer networks. New funding.

Homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic: homeless migrants in a global crisis (Stewart, University of Portsmouth). Examining the biographical narratives of St Mungo’s clients in London in relation to their experiences of homelessness during the coronavirus crisis. New funding.


Impacts on social connections and wellbeing of COVID-19 policies in the older population: CFAS cohort over 75s (OPPO) (Brayne, University of Cambridge). Undertaking a new wave of interviews that will enable direct assessment of the mental health impact of social distancing measures, and of changes to communications and social networks, in older people in three diverse geographies of England including rural areas and those with high social deprivation. New funding.

COVID-19 and rough sleepers: a randomised controlled trial to evaluate models of housing and support to reduce infection and homelessness (Mackie, Cardiff University). Conducting the first ever randomised controlled trial in the UK to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of permanent housing on the risk of COVID-19 infection and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness. New funding.

Supporting separated migrant children to thrive during COVID-19 (Copland, University of Stirling). Examining how separated migrant children (aged 12 -18) experience the COVID-19 crisis and how it has impacted on their connectivity to networks and services. New funding.

Assessing the impact of COVID-19 and COVID-related decision-making on forced marriage vulnerability in the UK (McCabe, University of Nottingham). Charting and understanding the impact of COVID-19 and COVID-related decisions on children and adults vulnerable to, and already experiencing, the crime of forced marriage. New funding.
Safeguarding victims of domestic abuse during COVID-19: challenges and opportunities (Chantler, Manchester Metropolitan University). Informing the development of national safeguarding policies and practices regarding domestic abuse in pandemics and other emergency situations. New funding.

Removing rights from the vulnerable: the impact of COVID-19 social care “easements” (McHale, University of Birmingham). Examining the short- and longer-term impacts of easements (suspension of the application of certain provisions under the Care Act 2014) on service users’ fundamental rights. New funding.

The impact of COVID, lockdown and subsequent easing on recovery in an ongoing international study of people in recovery from drug addiction (Best, University of Derby). Providing evidence on the effectiveness of online supports and identifying gender-specific risks and intervention strategies to support addiction recovery. New funding.

Investigating the use of temporary accommodation to house asylum seekers and refugees during the COVID-19 outbreak (Guma, Edinburgh Napier University). Exploring the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on asylum seekers and refugees living in the UK, focusing on those individuals placed in temporary accommodations such as hostels and hotels. New funding.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on criminal justice journeys of adult and child survivors of sexual abuse, rape, and sexual assault (O’Doherty, Coventry University). Providing insights into the impact of the pandemic on the criminal justice system in sexual offence cases and identifying any changes to procedures precipitated by COVID-19 that might offer longer-term benefits for survivors and stakeholders. New funding.

COVID-19 impacts on children under 5 in temporary accommodation — co-developing solutions from lockdown to the recovery phase (Lakhanpaul, University College London). Describing the national impact of COVID-19 on under 5s and their families living in temporary accommodation and utilizing co-production to identify suitable, acceptable and feasible integrated cross-sector public health intervention solutions for the recovery phase. New funding.

Children and young people living in poverty: COVID-19 needs and policy implications (Todd, Newcastle University). Addressing the UK’s knowledge gap in understanding the needs of children and young people aged 5-18 living in poverty in the context of COVID-19. New funding.

Care leavers’ transitions to adulthood in the context of COVID-19: understanding pathways, experiences and outcomes to improve policy and practice (Munro, University of Bedfordshire). Exploring care leavers’ pathways and outcomes in the context of COVID-19, and developing tools to support best practice to meet the needs of different ‘sub-groups’ within the leaving care cohort, including those at high risk of poor outcomes. New funding.

Responding to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in the context of COVID-19 — resilience, adaptation, and new forms of care (Hopkins, Newcastle University). Investigating and comparing both the response of organisations who provide services for refugees and asylum-seekers, and the lived experiences of refugees and asylum-seekers in the context of a global pandemic in Scotland and England. New funding.

Financial lives and wellbeing in low-income groups post COVID-19 (FinWell-Covid) (Biosca, Glasgow Caledonian University). Identifying changes in the wider social
determinants of health induced by COVID-19 itself as well as its associated interventions (e.g. social distancing and isolating) in some of the most economically vulnerable members of society. New funding.

**Coping with the COVID crisis in prison** (Maruna, Queen’s University Belfast). Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on prisoners with a focus on what should happen next to transition out of the crisis. New funding.

**Learning from the impact of and recovery from COVID-19 within prisons: the effect of COVID-19 management and the environment on wellbeing and harm** (Davies, Swansea University). Examining the impacts of prison restrictions implemented in response to COVID-19 and the subsequent easing of these on psychological and behavioral outcomes and identifying key factors associated with differences in response to restrictions / easing. New funding.

**Vulnerable children in a hostile environment: the legal and social impacts of COVID-19 on young unaccompanied asylum seekers in England** (Stalford, University of Liverpool). Evidencing how unaccompanied asylum seeking children and their legal, welfare and civil society representatives are responding to the delays and disruption in front line services. New funding.

**Exploring BAME differences**

**Consumer Data Research Centre** (Paul Longley, University College London). Using the CDRC Modelled Ethnicity Proportions 1997-2016 (LSOA Geography) and Ethnicity Estimator software to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on different groups in society, particularly those in BAME categories. Existing investment.

**Identifying and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities experienced by people from BAME backgrounds working in health and social care** (Hatch, King’s College London). Identifying ethnic inequalities in mental health and occupational outcomes amongst NHS staff in the context of COVID-19. New funding.

**Security, crime and public order**

**Monitoring the effects of the pandemic on illicit online trade** (Baronchelli, City University of London). This project will build an infrastructure to monitor dark web trading in COVID-19-related goods and services. New funding.

**Understanding inequalities project** (McVie, University of Edinburgh). Working with the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland on the policing of the coronavirus pandemic, collecting data on the use of the police powers, and data from public opinion surveys, as part of a scrutiny review of Police Scotland’s use of the coronavirus powers during the lockdown period, and the transition into the next phase of regulation. Existing investment.

**Developing fake news immunity** (Musi, University of Liverpool). This project uses Natural Language Processing techniques to identify topics and understand the structure of the fake news ecosystem. These principles will be operationalised in a digital platform with a chatbot for training citizens to spot misinformation. New funding.

**Human rights, big data and technology project** (McGregor, University of Essex). Researching the human rights implications of the use of new and emerging technologies during the pandemic. Existing investment.
Responding to the COVID-19 domestic abuse crisis: developing a rapid police evidence base (Hohl, City, University of London). Providing a near real-time evidence base to inform the police approach to the apparent surge in domestic violence and abuse (DA) triggered by the COVID-19 lockdown in the UK. New funding.

Domestic abuse: responding to the shadow pandemic (Walklate, University of Liverpool). Evaluating the efficacy of policy and practice innovations by both the police and courts to deal with the immediate crisis and explore their viability for future practice in face of ongoing service demands and the fiscal impact of such as the longer-term consequences of the global pandemic take root. New funding.

Reducing the unanticipated crime harms of COVID-19 policies (Farrell, University of Leeds). Drawing on crime science, this research will will anticipate crime effects of prolonged, graduated or cyclical exit strategies. New funding.

COVID-19 and child criminal exploitation: closing urgent knowledge and data gaps on the implications of pandemic for county lines (Brewster, University of Nottingham). Assessing changes and continuities in perpetrator behaviour resulting from social distancing, showing whether criminal business models are likely to change due to a changing risk and/or profitability profile. New funding.

Pandemic policing: public attitudes towards compliance and organisational resilience (Charman, University of Portsmouth). Analysing the experiences of police officers and police leaders in exceptional circumstances and exploring the physical and psychological challenges of pandemic policing. New funding.

The youth justice system’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic: implications and impacts for policy, practice and justice-involved children (Smithson, Manchester Metropolitan University). Explore the impact of COVID-19 on each stage of the youth justice system. New funding.

Investigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on stranger sex offender behaviour and victim vulnerability (Woodhams, University of Birmingham). Examining how COVID-19 has altered offender behaviour, as well as who is vulnerable to sexual violence and in what circumstances. New funding.

Virtual justice: enhancing accessibility, participation and procedural justice in family courts and tribunals during the COVID-19 pandemic (Mulcahy, University of Oxford). Drawing on existing research and extensive consultation to produce a central repository of good practice materials and a series of audio-visual guides. New funding.

Supporting the interviewing and legal representation of crime victims and suspects using digital communication methods: is it remotely possible? (Oxburgh, Northumbria University). Producing timely evidence-based reports and resources to facilitate shared good practice around the challenges of conducting interviews remotely via digital means and the impact of not having legal and other third-party representatives in physical attendance to represent suspects. New funding.

Environment

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions on recreation and use of green space in Wales (Jones, Bangor University). Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the use of local green space by different social groups. New funding.
COVID-19: the local as a site of food security resilience in the times of pandemic: opportunities, challenges and ways forward (Krzywoszynska, University of Sheffield). Working with key businesses and organisations in the local food sector, this project will use surveys, interviews, citizen science, and backcasting to provide timely evidence on sector robustness, adaptability, and its route to transformation in the post-pandemic context. New funding.

Consumer Data Research Centre (Singleton, University of Liverpool). Review of pandemic impact on mobility patterns and how this has impacted air pollution. Existing investment.

Nature engagement and wellbeing pre, during and post COVID-19: Supporting the UK (green) recovery (Gatersleben, University of Surrey). Working with Natural England to examine the impact of Covid-19 on nature engagement and wellbeing in the UK and support Government strategies aimed at ameliorating impacts and managing recovery. New funding.

The role of the neighbourhood environment in shaping the mental health consequences of COVID-19 (Waqas, University of Bradford). Testing the extent to which features of the neighbourhood environment moderate the mental health consequences associated with the coronavirus pandemic. New funding.

Behavioural science and behaviour change

Network for integrated behavioural science (Starmer, University of Nottingham). Multiple projects including work on the impact (and possible unintended consequence of) messages to promote conformity with social distance recommendation and developing an experimental design to measure people’s perceptions of when people would consider using NHS services. Existing investment.

Rapid co-design, implementation and evaluation of a digital behaviour change intervention to improve hand hygiene and limit spread of the COVID-19 outbreak (Yardley, University of Southampton) This project evaluates how an existing digital public health intervention can be rapidly adapted and optimised for the changing needs of an infection outbreak. New funding.

Virus watch: understanding community incidence, symptom profiles, and transmission of COVID-19 in relation to population movement and behaviour (Andrew Hayward, University College London). This large project involves establishing two national household cohorts to measure symptoms and behaviour. This will be extended through the optional use of an app allowing individuals’ mobile phones to be used as GPS trackers to enable secure transfer and analysis of detailed movement patterns. New funding.

A mixed-methods evaluation of advice on isolation and health-seeking to contain transmission (Oliver, Public Health England). A rapid evaluation of supported isolation (quarantine) to assess the extent to which people adhere to advice and the impact isolation has on their mental health and wellbeing. New funding.

Mental health research network (Fancourt, University College London). The COVID-19 Social Study is a panel study of the psychological and social experiences of adults in the UK during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus run by UCL. Over 75,000 people are currently participating in the study, completing weekly online surveys about their experiences and behaviours. www.MARCHNetwork.org/research. Existing investment.

Understanding the dynamics and drivers of the COVID-19 epidemic using real-time outbreak analytics (Edmunds, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) This
project monitors contact and precautionary behaviours in a representative cohort and
gathers data on risk awareness and perceived efficacy of interventions to refine transmission
models, improve forecasting, and assess the effectiveness of social distancing measures.
New funding.

**Healthcare workers: an in-depth virological analysis and behavioural study during the outbreak** (Nastouli, University College London). This project researches the risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 in health care workers using longitudinal sampling methods, tracking of movement and studies of behaviours and attitudes. New funding.

**COVID-19: cancer attitudes and behaviour study** (Brain, Cardiff University). Generating rapid evidence based on public views/response, informing public health interventions to encourage timely symptom presentation, screening engagement and cancer-related health behaviours in the wake of the pandemic. New funding.

**COVID-19: developing evidence-based messages to encourage preventive health behaviours** (Dempster, Queen’s University Belfast). Conducting a systematic review of the determinants of behaviours (such as handwashing and social distancing) that aim to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses. New funding.

**Social learning about COVID-19 vulnerability and social distancing in high density populations: the case of UK urban dwelling Bangladeshis** (Tang, King's College London). Examining the role of social learning in how messages are accessed and interpreted and whether and how the health interactions are mediated by friends, family members and acquaintances. New funding.

**Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in mass transit using behavioural science** (Dahlgaard, King's College London). Using insights from behavioural science to design and test the efficacy of interventions aimed at increasing compliance with recommended behaviours. New funding.

**Forecasting and influencing product returns and fraud rates in a COVID-19 world** (Frei, University of Southampton). Combining behavioural research with the development of explainable AI that retailers can use to mitigate the economic and ecological effects of product returns. New funding.

**Supporting parents and kids through lockdown experiences (SPARKLE)** (Sonuga-Barke, King’s College London). A rapid deployment randomised controlled trial evaluating whether an intervention in the form of a digital public health parenting intervention can reverse the negative effects of lockdown. New funding.

**Capitalising on COVID-19 as a trigger for positive change in food waste behaviour** (Kaptan, University of Leeds). Identifying the factors that have affected food waste behaviours under lockdown; developing, implementing and systematically evaluating interventions to support positive behaviour change; and disseminating outcomes across the UK. New funding.

**Motivational interviewing for contact tracing: developing co-produced training to improve practice** (Atkinson, University of Manchester). Considering the feasibility of developing and delivering brief, accessible motivational interviewing training for contact tracers. New funding.
Decision making

**nCoV: understanding the dynamics of policy development and healthcare worker behaviour in the UK during the COVID-19 public health emergency** (Sheard, University of Liverpool). Researching how UK policymakers arrive at decisions during the outbreak, and their impact on UK healthcare workers. New funding.

**Enhancing the use of ResilienceDirect in the COVID-19 response: a comparative analysis of Local Resilience Forums** (Sage, Loughborough University). Producing the first independent evidence base for Local Resilience Forum practitioners, national policymakers and scholars to understand how ResilienceDirect is being used to facilitate LRF collaboration and rapidly circulating best practices through RD to enhance the UK’s planning and response to COVID-19. New funding.

Data and Data Collection

**Understanding Society COVID-19 study** (Benzeval, University of Essex). New monthly survey wave on the established Understanding Society longitudinal study, exploring the impact of the pandemic on the UK population, covering employment, income, health, family, education and civic engagement. Existing investment.

**English Longitudinal Study of Ageing COVID-19 sub-study** (Steptoe, University College London). Two new waves of this established longitudinal study investigating the current and changing impacts of COVID-19 on older men and women. New funding.

**WISERD Education Multi Cohort Study** (Jones, University of Cardiff). New data collection from existing cohort of young people from across secondary schools in Wales. Existing investment.

**COVID-19 app store and data flow ecologies** (Dieter, University of Warwick). Empirical analysis of emerging ecologies of COVID-19 apps and their governance through app stores, and of the data flows of prevalent apps within this domain. New funding.

**ADR Wales** (Ford, Swansea University and Jones, Welsh Government). The team has come together to leverage existing and new datasets and apply their expertise to provide evidence to reduce the impact of the epidemic on the Welsh population using the SAIL Databank, an ADR Wales partner. Existing investment.

**ADR Scotland** (Dibben, University of Edinburgh and Halliday, Scottish Government). Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician and ADR Scotland Co-Director, sits on the Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group. This Group has set up a Data Task Force, which is chaired by Roger and includes in its membership ADR Scotland’s other director, Professor Chris Dibben, as well as other members of the partnership. The purpose of the taskforce is to enable evidence-based policy and operational decisions by organisations in Scotland responding to the current Covid-19 situation. Existing investment.

**ADR Northern Ireland** (O’Leary, Queen’s University Belfast and Carey, NISRA). Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) researchers have been assisting in the production and continuous development of official weekly deaths statistics, recently supplemented with specific analysis of Covid-19 related deaths. They are investigating how data linkage opportunities may broaden the existing evidence base to support decision making related to Covid-19, as well as the impact Covid-19 is having on society. Existing investment.
ADR UK investment into ONS (Stokes, ONS). Several new Covid-19 datasets have been made available in the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS). In addition, ONS is jointly leading the government's large-scale virus infection and antibody test study, for which the SRS, which receives funding from ADR UK, is hosting the data and analysis. Existing investment.

Will COVID-19 change what the public expect of government? (Curtice, NatCen Social Research). New waves of NatCen’s mixed mode random probability panel to assess how attitudes have changed at both the aggregate and the individual level. New funding.

Understanding the economic, social and health impacts of COVID-19 using lifetime data: evidence from 5 nationally representative UK cohorts (Goodman, University College London). Survey data collection and novel linkages in the UK’s unique series of five national longitudinal cohort studies which have captured detailed social, economic, developmental, behavioural, attitudinal, and physical and mental health data on large representative samples since birth. New funding.

Co-producing knowledge about the impacts of emergencies/pandemics: developing remote participatory visual methods using smartphones (Marzi, London School of Economics). Responding to the challenges of methodological co-production and participatory action research that arise during emergencies by developing an innovative remote participatory visual method using smartphones. New funding.

Consumer Data Research Centre (UCL / Liverpool / Oxford). The Joint Biosecurity Centre and Office for National Statistics with the support of Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, with funding provided by the ESRC’s Administrative Data Research UK programme, are working together to enable localities in England access to detailed local COVID-19 data by creating Local Data Spaces in the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS). These Local Data Spaces will facilitate safe and secure access to granular COVID related data and help provide greater analytical opportunities and insights on the pandemic for Local Areas. Existing investment.


Learning from international experience

Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) (Fetzer, University of Warwick). An international team from 12 institutions, including Harvard, Cambridge, IESE, etc, is collecting survey data on how citizens prepare for and cope with the pandemic. To date, more than 100,000 participants in 150 countries have taken part. Existing investment.

Life with corona (Justino, Institute of Development Studies). IDS, ISDC and UNU-WIDER collecting real time data on the coronavirus and its social and economic impacts, to build a global knowledge base about how people are dealing with the epidemic (including on focus on trust, which was key in the response to the Ebola). Existing investment.

Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) (Elkomy, University of Surrey). Researching health, economic and social aspects including risk perception and how it adversely affects economic activity and empirically testing effects of different population characteristics and health factors on mortality rate. Existing investment.
Trust and trustworthiness in national and global governance (Jennings, University of Southampton). An online national survey in the UK, US and Italy which includes questions on COVID and political trust. Focus groups exploring political trust in towns and cities relating to COVID. Existing investment.

Understanding Chinese government containment measures and their societal impacts (Duckett, University of Glasgow). This project compiles a database of policy documents (from government websites) that set out containment measures. It researches how these measures have evolved, use text and computational analysis of newspapers and social media, and conduct local fieldwork on societal impacts in urban/rural areas. New funding.

Strengthening & accelerating the global research response to COVID-19 by sharing methods and knowledge between countries, networks and organisations (Lang, University of Oxford). This project helps diffuse methods and knowledge across international networks, and facilitates knowledge sharing and the provision of policy relevant information in nations and places where existing research capacity is low. New funding.

Optimising antibiotic use along surgical pathways: addressing antimicrobial resistance and improving clinical outcomes (Holmes, Imperial College London). Researching COVID-19 at country level to capture data from high-middle and low-income countries on political factors, economic influences, sociological trends, technological innovations, ecological factors, legislative requirements and industry (PESTELI framework). Existing investment.

COVID-19 international comparative research and rapid knowledge exchange hub on diagnostic testing systems (Hopkins, University of Sussex). Identifying the key elements of testing systems that have contributed to effective performance, including measures taken that have facilitated preparedness and resilience before the crisis, as well as those rapid innovations that have helped countries to deal with a fast-evolving pandemic. New funding.

Gendering the UK’s social policy response to the COVID-19 crisis (Cook, King’s College London). Gather information on global social policy responses and assessing the extent to which they are gender sensitive. New funding.

National recovery and resilience: learning from elections during a pandemic (James, University of East Anglia). Drawing out comparative lessons about mitigating steps that can be put in place to protect electoral integrity during the COVID-19 pandemic to develop policy recommendations for stakeholders involved in the organisation of elections in the UK and in other countries. New funding.

Policy and practice responses to families living with domestic violence and abuse under COVID-19 in 4 countries: generating knowledge to inform recovery (Stanley, University of Central Lancashire). Harnessing the global nature of policy and practice responses to domestic violence and abuse under COVID-19 by examining policy and practice responses in the UK, Australia, Ireland and South Africa. New funding.

Communication

Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (Semino, Lancaster University). Researching international communication and use of metaphors around COVID-19. Existing investment.

British Election Study (Fieldhouse, University of Manchester). Wave 20 of the BES internet panel will ask questions on COVID-19 and its impact on political opinion including exposure...
COVID-19: what are the drivers of the Islamophobic infodemic communications on social media (Awan, Birmingham City University). Examining the interaction between miscommunications and conspiracy theories on social media. New funding.

Identity, inequality, and the media in Brexit-COVID-19-Britain (Tyler, University of Exeter). Examining the resonances and contrasts in the ways in which the inequalities of COVID-19 and Brexit have been framed by the media and everyday experiences. New funding.

COVID-19 (mis)information exposure and messaging effects in the United Kingdom (Reifler, University of Exeter). Examining COVID-19 information and beliefs, including whether inaccurate information and conspiracy thinking can be effectively countered by informational interventions. New funding.

OPTIMising general public uptake of a COVID-19 vaccine: a mixed methods study (OPTIMUM) (Stead, University of Stirling). Collecting and analysing data on public attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines, identifying barriers and facilitators to uptake (including understanding, trust, social media (mis)information, and delivery/practicality issues) and working with policymakers and planners to develop intervention and campaign strategies for optimising vaccine uptake. New funding.

Social trust, crisis perceptions, and viral misinformation over the course of the COVID-19 emergency period (McAndrew, University of Bristol). Analysing whether endorsement of conspiratorial accounts of the pandemic undermines trust and compliance, or whether the relationship works the other way around. New funding.