

Bringing together the UCL community who use computational and data sciences or digital technologies in their research.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Digital Research Community Newsletter

Issue 7



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the UCL Digital Research Community newsletter! As we hope you already know, you are receiving this because you previously signed up for either the ARC newsletter or the old eResearch Domain newsletter.

As always, please do forward this email to any colleagues you think may be interested. If you no longer want to hear from us, you can unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of this email, although we would be very sorry to see you go...

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Community Updates](#) | [Training & Workshops](#) | [UCL Events](#) | [External Events](#) | [Dates for your Diaries!](#)

## Last call for submissions



ARC proudly presents

## 'The Festival of Digital Research & Scholarship'

**Join us this summer - 11th June 2024**

**for a celebration of all aspects of digitally-enabled research & scholarship**

**We are now inviting abstract submissions for presentations, posters and proposals for workshops & demonstrations** to showcase work being achieved across all of UCLs digital communities!

We encourage submissions of past, present and future works to be made by both PhD students and staff of all career stages - **deadline Friday 26th April 2024.**

Click below for more information about the event - including how to submit an abstract  
and prizes!

Attendee registration will be opening soon...

EVENT INFORMATION

## **Community Updates**



## Fair Data Accelerator: Social and Cultural Barriers to Data Sharing

UKSRC Webinar: **Monday 29th April 10-12:30 BST**

Learn about what insights have arisen from exploring data sharing challenges and barriers across the UK digital research infrastructure landscape.

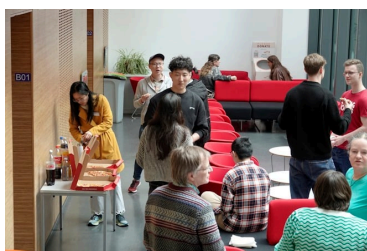
Explore whether these challenges reflect your experiences and values.

Find out how you could address these challenges in your research community or Digital research infrastructure.

Find out how you could participate in the FAIR Data Accelerator to develop professional development, training or community engagement activities.

[More info](#)

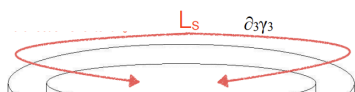
[Register to join us!](#)



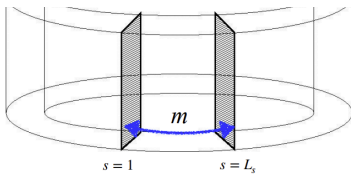
## Report from the new ARC Cluster Club

The ARC Cluster Club is an opportunity for students at all levels to develop their programming and high performance computing skills. Our first session took place on Wednesday 24th April, with 10 students from across UCL participating in a Python-based murder mystery challenge! The club is open to all UCL students regardless of their existing knowledge and skills, so it was nice to see that - although many were understandably a little nervous about what was going to be expected of them - they left with smiles on their faces, along with some goodies and (hopefully) a sense of achievement. Well done to all of our first participants and we hope to see you again soon! The next session is on **Wednesday May 29th 2024 at 2:30pm**, so please do sign up if you haven't already - new participants are always welcome.

[Find out more and sign up.](#)



## The importance of collaboration - ARC and DiRAC's latest engagement



When time is scarce on a research project, it is more important than ever to continuously plan and effectively collaborate with the whole team. Connor Aird was one of the ARC Research Software Engineers involved in the collaboration with DiRAC - he describes how it ended up being a perfect demonstration of this, in [our latest case study](#).



## Tech meets Teach & Code Socials

On **Wednesday 8th May from 3-5pm** we will see the ARC TechSocial (in association with KQCodes) join forces with our termly Teach & Code Social, meaning that this month we will have the luxury of hearing from 2 speakers! ARC's Dr James Wilson will be 'Introducing STEP-UP' - a 4 year EPSRC funded project to create a 'people infrastructure' of expert technical talent, along with career opportunities to support them, and Dr Ben Waugh from the department of Physics & Astronomy will then describe the approach taken, and the tools used, to teach and assess programming as part of the first-year practical skills course in the Department of Physics and Astronomy (along with the challenges they faced).

This free, informal hybrid event is for anyone with an interest in the computational methods and technology behind research, or in teaching research computing skills, and is an opportunity to discuss and learn about useful tools and techniques which may help with your work - the **informal discussion and networking after the talks will take place over pizza and refreshments!**

[Book your ticket](#)

For future events, keep an eye on the [ARC website](#).



## ARC Drop-in Sessions

A reminder that we have resumed our in-person drop-in support sessions - these are for all research staff and research students, where you can get support and advice to help plan and tackle problems with your research. If you have any problems related to the following areas, we should be able to help:

- choosing the right software, hardware and services,
- research programming,

- task automation and scripting,
- high performance computing,
- storing large datasets,
- Research Data Storage (RDS) service induction,
- handling sensitive data,
- research data management (including writing data management plans).

If the problem is likely to need a lengthy discussion (half an hour or more) or requires very specific knowledge (e.g. of an unusual programming language) it would be very helpful if you could email a short summary of your problem to [arc@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:arc@ucl.ac.uk) at least 2 days before the session, so we can try to make sure a member of staff with appropriate expertise is available.

The next drop-in session is on **Tuesday 7th May 2024 from 11am - 12pm**, at [40 Bernard Street \(UCL Careers\) Room 204](#).

[Further details](#) of the drop-in sessions and other support available.

## Training & Workshops



### ARC Training

You can find a [full list of ARC-provided training](#) on our Education pages - including self-paced courses via Moodle, for example, [our new Introduction to High Performance Computing at UCL](#) which also runs termly as a synchronous online workshop.

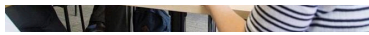
If an in-person or online instructor-led course has no dates listed, please fill in our [expression of interest form](#) and we will contact you as soon as we have dates for the next session.

**Registration will be opening soon** for our in-person Software Carpentry Workshop in May - [check here for details](#). This workshop will teach you Bash, Git and R to help make your research more reproducible.



### Research Data Management Training

Learn how to write an effective data management plan for a project proposal or grant application!



Our colleagues in Library Services' Research Data Management Team run training sessions for writing data management plans, both online and in-person.

To find out more and to book a place, see their [booking calendar](#).



## Digital Skills Development Training

UCL's Digital Skills Development Team runs a variety of free training courses, many of which may be of interest to researchers - [details of the full course programme for the term 3 can be found here](#).

Upcoming data analysis and visualisation in-person and online courses include:

- [DSD: Software for success: Winning with charts](#) **16 May, 14:00 - 14:00**
- [DSD: Software for success: Survey tools](#) **30 April, 13:00 - 15:00**
- [DSD: An Introduction to R with Rstudio \(campus-based\)](#) **23 May or 6 June, 10:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Data visualization in R with ggplot2 \(campus-based\)](#) **1 May, 14:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Getting started with Stata \(campus-based\)](#) **15 May, 10:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Scripting Stata's Tables and Collections \(Campus-based\)](#) **5 June, 14:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Scripting Stata Graphs](#) **21 May, 14:00 - 16:00**
- [DSD: In a Nutshell: Starting an Nvivo Project](#) **9 May, 14:00 - 15:00**
- [DSD: Introduction to REDCap for research](#) **8 May, 13:00 - 14:00**
- [DSD: Qualtrics Tips and Tricks](#) **2 May, 13:00 - 14:00**

Programming courses include:

- [DSD: In a Nutshell: Git version control](#) **4 June, 13:00 - 14:00**
- [DSD: Dive into Git version control](#) **5 June, 10:00 - 13:00**

## HPC Summer School

Saturday 22nd June 2024 to Saturday 6th July 2024,



EPCC (Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre), part of the University of Edinburgh, is the UK's leading centre of Supercomputing and Data Science expertise. It is running a two-week long residential programme in High Performance Computing (HPC), giving undergraduate students at UK universities the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of how to use HPC systems, including transferable skills in software development and performance programming. Students will have access to ARCHER2, the UK's most powerful supercomputer with over 700,000 CPU-cores.

Accommodation will be provided, travel costs will be covered and successful students will receive a bursary of £490 for subsistence.

**Applications are open until 11:59 AM on Monday 6th May.**

[Further details and applications](#)



## ARCHER2 HPC Online Training

ARCHER2 Training is provided by EPCC (Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre) as part of the ARCHER2 (Tier 1) national high performance computing service and is free of charge to research staff and students from academic institutions.

Self service courses (always open):

- [Shared Memory Programming with OpenMP](#)
- [Message-Passing Programming with MPI](#)
- [QM/MM with GROMACS + CP2K](#)
- [Hands-on Introduction to HPC](#)

[Details of other training \(including in-person\) provided by ARCHER2](#)



## UK Data Service Training

The UK Data Service runs a comprehensive programme of free, online introductory training - coming up in May:

- [Ethical and legal guidelines in data sharing](#), **9 May, 10:00 - 11:30**
- [Introduction to anonymisation techniques for social sciences research data](#), **11 June, 10:00 - 11:30**
- [Best practices for documenting social sciences research data](#), **18 June, 10:00 - 11:30**

If you've missed a workshop, recordings of past UK Data Service events are made available on the [UKDS YouTube channel](#).

## CLOSER Learning Hub

Longitudinal studies track the same individuals and households over time. They are powerful research tools to help us understand how our early circumstances and experiences influence our later lives. The [CLOSER Learning Hub](#) has information and resources to help you explore longitudinal studies and get you started using the data.

## UCL Events



### BioFAIR Roadshow

30th April @ UCL

**BioFAIR - A BioCommons infrastructure for UK life science researchers.** ELIXIR-UK has conceived a new digital research infrastructure that enables the data and processing resources of ELIXIR and other partners to be delivered to researchers across the UK. A national BioCommons will maximise the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability (FAIR) and Reproducibility of life science data and data workflows. [Further information about the roadshow](#) - registration now open!



## Byte-Sized Breakthroughs

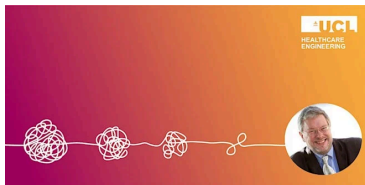
30th April, 5pm, UCL Bloomsbury Studio

The UCL Institute of Healthcare Engineering presents a showcase of the latest breakthroughs in health tech. You won't hear any stuffy jargon or long-winded tangents here. Our researchers have just five minutes to tell you about their wonderful (and sometimes weird) research. The talks will be funny, moving and, dare we say it, educational?

This is a relaxed, friendly event aimed at anyone with an interest in science and health. Even if that doesn't sound like you, you might be surprised!

Ticket cost: £8 (£7 students/concessions)

[Further information and booking](#)



## The Post Office Horizon scandal and NHS digital healthcare - what do they have in common?

Thursday 9th May 2024, 1-2 pm, UCL Bentham House, XG03 Moot Court

The shocking ITV drama Mr Bates vs The Post Office brought the Post Office Horizon scandal to everyone's attention. Sadly the Horizon scandal parallels some of the digital scandals in the NHS.

Harold Thimbleby (Emeritus Professor of Computer Science, Swansea University) will be giving suggestions to improve the quality and safety of digital healthcare. The seminar will share some digital stories, but leave you with ideas about possible strategic improvements to digital healthcare.

[Further information and booking](#)



## Festival of Early Stage Researchers Hackathon: Utilise AI to address real world problems

10th May, 9:00 - 17:00, UCL BaseKX

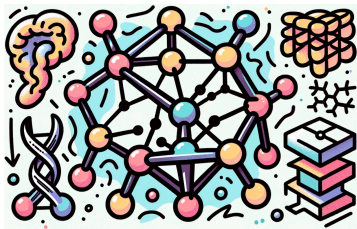
Use your knowledge to develop innovative solutions which implement AI to address real world problems at this one-day hackathon for UCL research students and

this one-day hackathon for UCL research students and research staff.

At the end of the day, you'll pitch your idea for a product or service to the rest of the group, with prizes awarded for the best pitches.

This is 'no-code' hackathon, you won't be expected to do any coding. You also don't need any prior knowledge of AI, just enthusiasm and an interest in working with others to develop innovative solutions.

[Further information and booking](#)



## Thomas Young Centre May Events

**15 May, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Venue: UCL Roberts Building, LT 106**

TYC AI Interest Group Inaugural Seminar: A foundation model for materials chemistry – Gábor Csányi, University of Cambridge

[Further information and booking](#)

**30 May, 1:00 pm- 6:00 pm**

**Venue: B29 - Bush House SE 2.12**

TYC DMFT mini-workshop – Correlations, Topology, and Entanglement in Materials

Registration deadline: **Friday 3 May 2024**

[Further information and booking](#)

**CENTRE FOR  
LONGITUDINAL  
STUDIES**

## Cross-cohort comparative analysis in the British cohort studies: opportunities and challenges

**Wednesday, 22 May 2024, 12–1 pm (online, MS Teams)**

The UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) is pleased to announce their next webinar for researchers interested in conducting cross-study comparative analysis in two or more cohort studies.

Comparative research initiatives are increasingly prominent components of health and social sciences, yet they are notoriously challenging to conduct. This

webinar will discuss the challenges of cross-study

webinar will discuss the challenges of cross-study comparative research and possible solutions. The session will be live, and there will be a Q&A where you can put your questions to our panel of experts.

This online webinar is free to attend but registration is essential.

[Further information and booking](#)

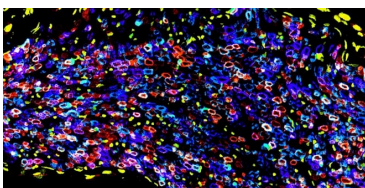


## **London Hopper Colloquium**

**Friday, 24 May 2024, 9:30 - 16:00, 66-72 Gower Street**

UCL Computer Science in collaboration with CISCO, BSC, and EPSRC is organising the 17th edition of London Hopper colloquia at UCL on the 24th May 2024. Hopper is an event organized for female postgraduate students and researchers building a career in Computer Science. As a highlight, we have a competition for female postgraduate students, to come and present their research. All that is needed is to enter a short (upto 300 words) abstracts, follow the following link. **The deadline is midday on 3rd May 2024.**

[Further information and booking](#)



## **UCL Imaging Science Technology Platform Symposium**

**Friday 7 June 2024, 9:00 - 17:30, UCL East**

This full day event will connect users and experts across UCL campuses to share knowledge and expertise, foster discussion, collaboration and connection around the topics of bioimaging and imaging analysis.

Topics:

- Multi-modality imaging
- Imaging across spatial scales

[Further information and booking](#)



## Open Science Conference 2024

**Theme: Open Science & Scholarship in Practice**

**Thursday, June 20th, 2024 1-5pm** (followed by Poster display and networking)

**UCL Institute of Advanced Studies, Wilkins Building**

We are delighted to announce the forthcoming UCL Open Science Conference 2024, scheduled for June 20, 2024. We are inviting submissions for papers and posters showcasing innovative practices, research, and initiatives at UCL that exemplify the application of Open Science and Scholarship principles. This internally focused event aims to showcase the dynamic landscape of Open Science at UCL and explore its practical applications in scholarship and research, including Open Access Publishing, Open Data and Software, Transparency, Reproducibility, Open Educational Resources, Citizen Science, Co-Production, Public Engagement, and other open practices and methodologies. Early career researchers and PhD students from all disciplines are particularly encouraged to participate.

[Further information about the conference and submission of papers and posters](#)

**(deadline now extended to Friday, May 3rd 2024)**

## External Events



### SSI Collaborations Workshop 2024 (CW24)

**CW24** takes place in Warwick University, UK on the **30th April to the 2nd of May**, bringing together researchers, developers, innovators, managers, funders, publishers, policy makers, leaders and educators to explore best practices and the future of research software.

Themes are:

- Environmental Sustainability
- AI/ML tools for science
- Citizen Science

It will be a hybrid event and [registration is open](#).

## Lessons from Covid-19 Data

**30th April 2024, 15:00 - 16:30 (online via MS Teams)**

The [Data Resources Training Network](#) is pleased to announce the first of our 2024 webinar series, co-organised by the NCRM, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Urban Big Data Centre, European Social Survey and the UK Data Service.

This free webinar will focus on secondary, quantitative data. The speakers will be:

- Jools Kasmire from the UK Data Service (UKDS), who will give an introduction to the datasets available.
- Alle Bloom who will cover the response of UKDS to the pandemic.
- Rosie Mansfield who will present evidence from four British longitudinal studies on the interrelationships between social isolation and loneliness and their correlates among older British adults before and during the lockdown.

Each talk will be followed by a quick-fire question-and-answer slot.

[Further info and registration](#)



## 22nd Research Data Alliance Plenary

**14-23 May 2024**

Early Bird registration is now open! Grab your ticket at a reduced price before sales end on April 5th!

[Register now](#)

Curious about the programme overview?

[Take a look here](#)

## Labour Force and Annual Population Surveys User Conference 2024

**23 May 2024, 9:30am - 4:30pm, Islington, London**

Are you interested in research using the UK Labour Force and Annual Population Surveys? Do you want to know the latest developments in the data?

This free conference, organised by the UK Data Service in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics, will be held in London at Lift, Islington on 23 May 2024. Please

note this is an in person event, there will be no option to join online.

[Further info and registration](#)



## Edinburgh Open Research Conference 2024

**29 May 2024, 8:30am - 6pm (online option)**

In this year's Open Research Conference we are addressing the big challenge: culture change. It is not simply enough to facilitate open access and FAIR Data. We also need to embed best open research practice within our institutions, we need to make them standard practice. But how can we go about achieving this?

Join us for a discussion on these topics where we will consider the role of next generation metrics, education, training and skills development in this process. We will also look to other contexts in which positive shifts in culture are actively taking place: EDI, Health and Wellbeing, and research integrity. What can we learn from these contexts, and how can we collaborate to make a more equitable and open research environment?

[Further info and registration](#) (registration closes 24th May)

## Dates for your Diaries!



### CLOSER 2024 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Conference and Training Event

CLOSER is excited to announce our ECR Conference and Training Event, **Bridging Research Policy: Unleashing the potential of longitudinal research for societal impact**, will take place in central London on **Wednesday 18 September 2024**. This bespoke event will showcase and celebrate the work of ECRs and provide a range of practical training workshops.

[Find out more.](#)



### MMM Hub Conference & User Meeting 2024

**29 - 31 October 2024**

## Venue: Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge

Early Bird registration deadline - 18h August 2024

Standard registration deadline - 15th September 2024

Abstract submission deadline: 1st September 2024



## Computing Insight UK 2024 is Going Bigger and Better

**5-6 December 2024**

[Computing Insight UK will be moving to a new venue in 2024!](#)

The UK's premier conference for HPC and associated science, organised by STFC's Scientific Computing department, will still be held at the Manchester Central Convention Complex, but we are moving into the bigger Exchange Hall and Exchange Auditorium. This move marks the biggest change to the Conference since its introduction 34 years ago and is a direct result of the tremendous growth we have seen over more recent years.

Follow the [CIUK website](#) for updates.

**Subscribe to this newsletter**

---

Regards,

UCL Centre for Advanced Research Computing

*Copyright © 2024 UCL ARC, All rights reserved.*

[Unsubscribe](#) [Forward](#)