Third Sector Research Forum Conference: Collaborating for Impact

October 9th 2019

Open call for contributions: deadline end of day Monday 17th June

About the conference

_Collaborating for Impact_ is the 5th Third Sector Research Forum ‘Let’s Collaborate’ conference. This annual conference champions third sector and academic research collaboration and the evidence that comes from it. **This year’s theme is the impact of research collaboration**, the difference that it has made to people, policies and practice.

Why contribute?

Your research will reach a broad audience of third sector, academic researchers, policy makers and other people who use third sector research evidence in their work.

There’ll be opportunities to connect with people you might not usually cross paths with during your day to day work – you might meet your next research collaborator here!

It’s a supportive environment that celebrates third sector research

Who should submit a proposal?

- collaborative researchers (third sector and academic collaborators): tell us about how you know your research has made an impact; has your research been used to influence policy and/ or practice? Or, have you encountered difficulties making an impact? Have you got learning to share about what didn’t work?

- participatory research projects: talking about your impact on people (including the researchers) & communities, policy or practice

- people who have used evidence from third sector/academic collaborative research for policy or practice development (e.g. public sector, other third sector organisations, local government): what contribution has this evidence made to your work?

- collaborative researchers who have spoken at previous Third Sector Research Forum conferences/ Let’s Collaborate events to talk about the longer-term impact of their research, and their reflections/learning

- knowledge exchange/KMb practitioners who could present on practical methods or approaches that to help improve the impact of research evidence
Formats of session

We are keen to offer a diverse programme so that people can participate in different ways. Select one of the following formats for your session:

1. Roundtable discussion (1hr): Sparked off by input from you or your group of researchers, then open out to discuss your chosen topic in a small group. Please identify possible questions/areas for discussion in your session proposal. **Up to 12 participants.**

   Your roundtable will run once. Either in the morning or in the afternoon.

   OR

2. Workshop (1hr): Small workshop up to 16 participants. Large workshop/world café up to 25 participants. Workshops should be interactive, this might suit you if:
   - you have a toolkit or knowledge exchange activity that you’d like people to get involved in trying out.
   - you want to use creative outputs (e.g. film, poetry, other expressive arts) to engage people with the impacts of your research.
   - you want to explore a question or topic in a world café

   Your workshop will run once. Either in the morning or in the afternoon.

   OR

3. Interactive poster or lightning talk: 15 mins. These sessions are ideal if you want to raise awareness of the impact of your research or showcase a particular method or approach that has worked well for you. They are fast and to the point!

   You’ll have either a morning or an afternoon slot that will last for 1 hour but you will give your talk **three times over the space of that hour** (this allows people time to move between lightning sessions). Each 15 minute slot includes Question & Answer time for the audience.

   Please note: the conference organisers do not have budget to print posters.

4. Timescale
   - **Deadline for contribution proposals:** Monday June 17th
   - Notification of your contribution acceptance: by July 31st
   - Deadline for your final session descriptor (this will go in the conference programme): September 6th

5. **How do I submit a proposal?** Complete the [proposal form](mailto:TSRFconf@gmail.com) and email it to TSRFconf@gmail.com by end of the day **Monday June 17th 2019.** Any questions you have about the conference can also be sent to this email address.
Guidance on your proposal

- The conference is open to a broad audience: third sector, academic researchers, policy makers and other people who are interested in using third sector research evidence. Please keep this in mind. Some participants will have substantial research, policy or sector-specific knowledge but others will not.

- A one day conference means there is limited time for sessions. From experience we know that we won’t be able to include everything from the proposals submitted. We appreciate the time and effort that goes into to producing a contribution proposal and we’re sorry we can’t include them all.

- We aim to offer an inclusive and diverse programme. There is no expectation that everyone running a session should be a public speaking expert or an experienced researcher! We encourage people who have collaborated on a piece of research to co-present their session as we want the range of voices and perspectives from the collaboration to be represented.

- What do we mean by 'participatory research'? We’re using a broad definition to mean research that has shared ownership and involvement by the people doing the research. For example, you might refer to your research as: peer research, action research, participatory action research, community-based research.

- There will be Third Sector Research Forum members in most of the sessions and they will be happy give you practical support wherever possible- for example, by timekeeping or handing out resources or materials.

We look forward to hearing about your research!

TSRF conference planning group