Security Lancaster | Lancaster University

Security Lancaster Newsletter December 2021

Security Lancaster News

GCHQ announces new academic partnership with universities

Lancaster University, along with three other North West universities, has joined together with GCHQ to create a "Security and Trust Partnership" in the region that will see closer ties between the intelligence, cyber and security agency and academia.

In a first for the agency, the new partnership will see GCHQ publish its own research jointly with the universities. Previously all research written by the intelligence services has been kept within national security circles only.

The move signals a further move towards collaboration between GCHQ, academia and industry, as laid out in the Government's Integrated Review. This partnership will allow research and knowledge related to national security issues to be shared more widely in order to help further the UK's science capabilities, enabling faster innovation in a range of strategic areas including machine learning, linguistics, behavioural sciences and criminology.

This approach will allow the agency to tap into fresh perspectives from across the universities, to bring creative thinking to national security priorities in order to enhance the safety, security and prosperity of British citizens.

Read the story in full.

New partnership to deliver cutting-edge cyber security programme for executives

Lancaster University and Templar Executives, a leading cyber security company, are joining forces to develop a unique new cyber programme aimed at executives.

This exciting new partnership combines the expertise of Lancaster University, one of the UK's premier cyber security research and education universities and executive education providers, with that of Templar Executives, an award-winning international cyber security consultancy providing strategic advice and training to governments and commercial organisations across the globe. The partners aim to design and deliver an innovative Cyber Security MBA that will help drive business resilience and growth in local and global organisations.

Targeting business leaders and executives, the Cyber Security MBA programme, which launches in 2022, will be industry-focused with an emphasis on tackling and learning from real-world examples and cross disciplinary challenges.

Supporting government ambitions for the UK to be the 'safest place to do business online' in the world, the Cyber Security MBA will highlight the need to engrain cyber security throughout organisational culture and there will be a key focus on how cyber security can drive opportunities for business growth.

Read the story in full.

How policing can better service the needs of vulnerable groups

Lancaster University will provide expertise on policing online child sexual victimisation as part of a new £10m research centre dedicated to better understanding how the police and other services can prevent and reduce vulnerabilities.

The universities of York and Leeds are to jointly lead the Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre, the first of its kind to study how vulnerabilities - such as exploitation by county lines drug networks, online child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, modern slavery, mental illness and homelessness - affect policing.

The centre is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and will be an international focal point for research, policy, practice and public debate around these issues.

It is one of six research centres announced by the ESRC this week, all of which will tackle urgent social and economic challenges.

The announcement comes at a time of unprecedented change to public services, with police increasingly at the frontline of managing the risk of harm to the most vulnerable in society.

The centre will explore how the police, public service providers (such as health, social care and housing) and other partner organisations can collaborate to prevent and respond to changing vulnerabilities and inequalities.

The centre will draw on expertise from the Police Foundation, the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield as well as Durham and Lancaster universities and Monash and Temple universities in Australia and the US.

It will have significant reach in shaping policy and practice through a network of 38 regional, national and international project partners, and it will develop and train the next generation of academics to advance new approaches to vulnerabilities research.

Read the story in full.

TAS-S Researcher Workshop

The first TAS-S Researcher workshop took place at the Lancaster House Hotel on the 24th and 25th November 2021. The event provided a great opportunity for our Post-Doctoral Researchers from Lancaster and Cranfield Universities to meet each other face-to-face for the first time. In addition, it enabled our researchers to network with PhD students and colleagues from Lancaster University's Security Institute. For further details about the event, please visit the TAS-S website.

Funding Calls

ESRC Digital Security by Design Social Science Hub+ (Discribe) - **Substantive Projects Funding Call**

The ESRC Discribe Hub+ (Digital Security by Design Social Science Hub+) is an ESRC-funded initiative that forms part of the wider Digital Security by Design (DSbD) Programme (http://dsbd.tech). The Digital Security by Design (DSbD) Programme, supported by the UK Government, aims to radically update the digital infrastructure currently underpinning the global economy, making it secure against future threats. The DSbD challenge has up to £70 million to invest in technology platforms and support for software development and business-led demonstrators. The funding is matched by £117 million from industry. The Discribe Hub+ is one part of this wider initiative, with funding in place until 2024.

This commissioning call is for substantive research projects around our four key topic areas (see below). The total funding for this call is £800,000 (at 100% fEC), of which 80% will be funded by Discribe Hub+.

All projects will be assessed on an individual basis against the Assessment Criteria outlined below.

We expect to fund around 4-5 proposals from this fund of around 12-18 months duration, but also welcome smaller more focussed projects. All projects are expected to demonstrate how they will engage with, and contribute to, the wider DSbD challenge.

Deadline: Submissions by 4pm on the 11th Jan 2021

Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022: Civil Security for Society - Cluster 3

Horizon Europe has a wide variety of open calls for civil security for society, with closing dates in September, October or November 2021, or February or November 2022. Some of these also include security, cyber security, AI, and/or infrastructure.

Horizon Europe Cluster 3, 'Civil Security for Society' aims to address challenges arising from persistent security threats, including cybercrime, as well as natural and man-made disasters.

These include seven destinations as follows:

[Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism (total budget €56m across 19 calls)](#)

[A Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe (€28m across 14 calls)](#)

[Effective management of EU external borders (€30.5m across 10 calls)](#)

[Strengthened Security Research and Innovation (€16m across 9 calls)](#)

[Increased Cybersecurity (€67.5m across 8 calls)](#)

[Resilient Infrastructure (€20m across 4 calls)](#)

Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society - Cluster 2

Cluster 2, 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' aims to meet EU goals and priorities on enhancing democratic governance and citizens participation, on the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage, and to respond to and shape multifaceted social, economic, technological and cultural transformations. Cluster 2 mobilises multidisciplinary expertise of European social sciences and humanities for understanding fundamental contemporary transformations of society, economy, politics and culture. It aims to provide evidence-based policy options for a socially just and inclusive European green and digital transition and
recovery.

Horizon Europe has a wide variety of open calls for culture, creativity and inclusive society, with closing dates in September 2021 or April 2022. These include three destinations as follows:

[Innovative research on social and economic transformations](#) (17 calls) – including "Integration of emerging new technologies into education and training" and "Socio-economic effects of ageing societies". Total budget €147m.

[Innovative research on the European cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries](#) (16 calls) – including "Green technologies and materials for cultural heritage", "Preserving and enhancing cultural heritage with advanced digital technologies", "Effects of climate change and natural hazards on cultural heritage and remediation", "Games and culture shaping our society" and "Towards a competitive, fair and sustainable European music ecosystem". Total budget €144.5m.

[Innovative research on democracy and governance](#) (14 calls) – including "Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy" and "Politics and governance in a post-pandemic world". Total budget €81m.

Autonomous Resilient Cyber Defence – Intelligent Agents

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) is launching a new Innovation Focus Area (IFA) called Autonomous Resilient Cyber Defence , which aims to develop self-defending cyber security systems for military operational platforms and technologies.

 [Read the competition document now and submit your idea](#).

Helping the military shrink its cyber attack surface

The defence sector is diverse and continually growing, with a large integrated network of legacy cyber technologies. This presents a substantial and diverse surface area for cyber enabled attack to disrupt military operations.

Being able to accelerate next generation hardware and software technologies to phase out the cyber vulnerabilities within current computer networks is vital in order to reduce defence exposure to cyber attack.

So, the [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) (DASA) is launching a new [Innovation Focus Area](#) (IFA) called [Reducing the Cyber Attack Surface](#), which aims to develop technologies that reduce the opportunity for cyber attacks on Ministry of Defence (MOD) systems and platforms.

Read the competition document now and submit your idea.

Build a network to enable resilient solutions for future UK systems

Apply for funding to develop a network to enable the resilience of future UK urban systems during a crisis event.

The full economic cost of your project can be up to £2.25 million. ESPRC and DST will fund 80% of the full economic cost.

We will fund your network for three years.

Digital Society Network Plus: exploring people's relationships with digital technologies

Apply for funding to develop a network to research people's relationships with technology.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for ESRC funding. Your project must be social science-led and at least 50% within ESRC's remit.

Your network is expected to:

- generate insights into the relationships between people and technologies by carrying out and funding research
- build interdisciplinary capability
- bring people together across disciplines to connect researchers exploring people's relationship with technology.

The full economic cost of your project can be up to £4 million. We will fund 80% of the full economic cost. Your project can last up to five years.

Manufacturing the future

Manufacturing the future investigator-led research grants are for researchers at UK higher education institutions, research council institutes, UKRI-approved independent research organisations and NHS bodies.

We encourage collaboration with other researchers, industry, the public sector and other relevant partners.

We are looking for researchers in engineering, physical sciences, information and communications technologies, and mathematical sciences who want to apply their expertise to manufacturing challenges.

We have up to £3 million available for projects each quarter, dependent on demand and the quality of the proposals. There are no deadlines.

We will award 80% of the full economic costs of the project, and your organisation must agree to find the balance.

Seminar Series

Happening Today!

[Industrial Perspectives of Artificial Intelligence](#)

Dr Nick Colosimo - BAE Systems - Friday 10th December from 2-3pm

[Join the seminar](#)

Our full list of upcoming seminars can be found [here.](#)

From all of us at Security Lancaster, we would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Become a member of Lancaster's Security Institute

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