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Promoting European cooperation in developing responses to research security challenges: Online Events Series

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Operationalising “research security” measures has become a defining challenge for research organisations and is one that disproportionately affects research managers as the need for enhanced due diligence and engagement with regulatory compliance measures increases significantly.

In January 2024, the [European Commission Council Recommendation on Research Security](#) highlighted the need to enhance research security across Europe and outlined the creation of a European centre of expertise on research security, the development of tools to support research organisations and consistency of approach, as well as plans to change the EU’s dual-use export regime.

In April 2024, the presenters delivered a research security summit as a pre-conference event at the EARMA 2024 (European Association of Research Managers and Administrators) Annual Conference in Odense, Denmark. The purpose of the event was to build links in the European research management community by sharing knowledge and practice on operationalising research security guidelines and to establish a basis for further collaboration to build the capacity of research managers to identify and mitigate research security risks in international collaborations.

The aim of this online event series is to address the needs of the research management community identified at the EARMA research security summit in Odense. The presenters, will host a series of three free to attend online events focused on the following research security areas most relevant to European research managers:

- 1) Research security risks: insider threats (October 21st 2024)
- 2) Resources for managing research security risks (November 15th 2024)
- 3) Products to support research security management (December 12th 2024)

Each session will provide practical support to research managers including discussion of case studies, signposting to publicly available tools and resources, and commercially available products.

About the presenters

The presenters, Jennifer Johnson, Sapna Marwaha, Linsey Dickson and Joe Timlin, authored the ARMA UK [‘Complex Collaborations’ report](#) in which they found that research organisations in the UK are experiencing unprecedented challenges relating to the complexity and cross-cutting nature of [national research security guidelines](#) and the underpinning legislation. The report, which engaged research managers and funders across the UK and international stakeholders in the USA, Canada and Australia, identified a need for immediate action that offers practical solutions to stakeholders at every level, in addition to longer-term responses and cultural change.

Jennifer Johnson represents ARMA and Loughborough University on the Working Group for the Higher Education Security Forum and the Consultation Group for the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) review of security protections in academia. She is regularly called upon by sector

bodies to discuss UK approaches to operationalising a response to research security issues with international groups, for example through Universities UK. She is a member of the International Network of Research Management Societies Council, and Chair of their working group.

Sapna Marwaha is Deputy Chair of the [Association of Research Managers and Administrators](#) (ARMA) and has been actively engaged in the national response in the UK. She is also a member of the European Association of Research Managers and the Society of Research Managers International based in the US, having presented on research security, together with Joe Timlin, at their respective conferences in Odense and [Seattle](#). Sapna has published thought leadership on research security in [research professional](#) and [wonkhe](#).

Linsey Dickson is a past chair of the INORMS working group and a member of ARMA. She has presented on research security across Europe and internationally and was asked to represent the Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN) as a thematic expert at the stakeholder meeting on Research Security organised by the European Commission and contributed to their advocacy work on Research Security and the EU Framework Programme. Linsey also presented at the CEEasia Forum 2024, roundtable event to address the urgent need for enhancing research security in higher education across Central Europe.

Joe Timlin supported the ARMA Complex Collaborations and subsequent FCDO SIN projects and offers a key operational perspective having implemented research security controls at Northumbria and Loughborough universities. He holds institutional relationships with RCAT and NPSA; is an active contributor to ARMA Training and Development and the HEECA Security Sub-Group; and has represented the sector at national and international events including the UUKi and SIN Research Security events in London, Paris and Rome.



UK Science
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1) Research security risks: insider threats

Event summary

Research security is generally understood as the measures taken to identify and protect the integrity of the system of international research collaboration from the actions of hostile actors who might seek to exploit or undermine it. The threats posed by hostile actors are varied, encompassing traditional academic engagement such as collaborative research, staff and student mobility, cyber security and personnel.

This webinar will focus on **Insider Threat** or the ways in which hostile actors might seek to gain access to research through insiders who have knowledge of, or access to, an organisation's infrastructure and information and could knowingly or inadvertently gain access to sensitive research or knowledge for illegitimate purposes.

Event details

Date: Monday 21st October

Time: 09:30 – 11:00 (UK GMT)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Click [here](#) to book!

2) Resources for managing research security risks

Event summary

This event will consolidate existing guidance to support research security, highlighting the availability of national guidelines developed in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and European Member States such as Denmark.

Speakers will also hear from the G7 Academy, a repository developed by G7 members to support research security, and from research managers who have developed their own tools and resources using open source research to identify and mitigate research security risks.

Event details

Date: November 15th 2024

Time: 09:30 – 11:00 (UK GMT)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Click [here](#) to book!

3) Products to support research security management

Event summary

During this session attendees will hear from users of commercially available software to support research security management. Users will describe solutions that support different aspects of research security management including workflow management, third party due diligence and research data analytics, providing an operational perspective on their use with an opportunity for Q&A.

Event details

Date: December 12th 2024

Time: 09:30 – 11:00 (UK GMT)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Click [here](#) to book!

If you have any questions please contact S.S.Croucher@lboro.ac.uk