

Chair of Campaign Board

A Chair is needed for the Board of the [Campaign for Social Science](http://www.campaignforsocialscience.org.uk), to start 1st January 2018.

Background

The Campaign for Social Science was launched at the House of Lords in January 2011. The objective of the Campaign is to raise the profile of social science in policy, Parliament, the media and wider public by:

- Informing and influencing public policy with social science evidence.
- Being regularly in the news and in the media with comment on social science issues.
- Speaking with authority on the state of social science.
- Championing the benefits of investment in social science education and research.

Further information can be found at www.campaignforsocialscience.org.uk and in the Annual Reports, the most recent of which is for 2015 - 16. These are available on the website or in hard copy from the Campaign office.

Key features are our high-level engagement and advocacy on policies relevant to the social sciences (e.g. the Higher Education & Research Bill, Brexit); responses to government and Parliamentary consultations; policy projects such as the Business of People (2015) and Health of People (2017); Campaign Annual Lecture by an eminent social scientist; and the Westminster launch of at least two issues per year of the *Making the Case for the Social Sciences* series.

The Campaign is wholly reliant on donations for its funding. These come from Higher Education Institutions, learned societies, publishers and individuals, and a Supporter Scheme has been launched this year to secure forward commitments.

The Campaign is sponsored by the Academy of Social Sciences (which retains legal and financial responsibility) and the Chair of the Campaign Board sits ex

officio on the Academy Council and is a member too of the Academy Executive Committee.

The Academy is a membership based organisation, comprising around 1100 individual Fellows and 42 member Learned Societies. It focuses particularly on professional matters in relation to its membership, while the Campaign is outwards facing and engages a wider audience on policy and practice issues where social science has a key role to play. In some senses, the Campaign is the influencing and fund raising arm of the Academy.

The Campaign operates in a semi-autonomous manner. It has its own 18-person Board drawn from right across the academic, policy and practitioner communities, with particular representation from within the devolved administrations.

The Board has been chaired since inception by

- 2010 -12 - Professor Tony Crook CBE FAcSS (a former Pro Vice Chancellor at the University of Sheffield, a former Chair of Shelter UK and currently a member of the Board of the Royal Town Planning Institute).
- 2013 (*Interim*) – Professor Michael Harloe FAcSS (a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Salford).
- 2013 + - Professor James Wilsdon FAcSS (Professor of Research Policy and Director of Impact & Engagement, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield).

Professor Wilsdon has advised the Campaign Board of his intention to step down from the role at the end of 2017, by when he will have completed almost five years in the role. During his time as Chair, the Campaign has strengthened its position as a leading advocate for the social sciences and gained substantially in influence in respect of public policy debates.

The Role

The role of the Chair is to represent the Campaign publicly, be its advocate with Government and other related public bodies, develop its strategic vision and direction, represent and speak on its behalf at events and meetings, chair the Board and work closely with the Campaign Director, Head of Policy and small office team.

A commitment of around 2 - 3 days a month is needed to fulfil these responsibilities**. It is hoped that a Deputy Chair could then also be appointed to share in some of the work as has occurred previously.

The role is unremunerated, but all reasonable expenses are paid in line with normal policies.

The Person

This is a substantial role, requiring the person to be:

- A social scientist, or an individual who is respected by the social science community and can bring wider skills and experience, whether from within academia, policy, business and/or third sector research, the media, or other social science related fields.
- Recognised and held in esteem by one or more of these fields.
- A good public speaker and presenter. Media friendly and media experienced.
- Experienced at dealing with Government and other public bodies at a senior level.
- Knowledgeable about how public policy is formed and influenced.
- Able to network with key individuals crucial to promoting the Campaign.
- Confident in fundraising*, with an appropriate record of achievements.
- Experienced at chairing meetings (this is not a first chair appointment role) and in encouraging the active participation of all Board members.
- Able to work collaboratively and constructively with the executive team.

** Around £80-100,000 needs to be raised annually and Reserves stand at £100,000 currently.*

***A typical month would include at least three of the following groups of activities:*

1. Advocacy. Meeting key people to promote the Campaign. Could be engaging with policymakers, networking with key influencers, developing a new organisational partnership or meeting potential donors.
2. Think pieces and media activity. Engaging with the media and writing think pieces on topical issues affecting the social sciences and / or commenting on current issues has been a key feature of the current incumbent's discharge of the role.¹
3. Public Presentation. Make or lead a presentation at a Campaign event or a public event hosted by one of our supporting universities.
4. Fundraising. Engaging with actual or potential donors about their support for the Campaign.
5. Chair meetings of the Campaign Board, which are held quarterly.
6. Represent the Campaign at the *Strategic Forum for the Social Sciences*, which meets twice a year, and is convened by the British Academy.
7. Originate and / or respond to discussion with the Board and Executive colleagues about strategic Campaign and fundraising issues. These discussions are mostly carried out by telephone or email.
8. Encourage active participation by Campaign Board members outside of formal Board meetings.
9. Attend meetings of the Academy Council, which are held quarterly and participate in teleconferences of the Academy Executive Committee, which occur from time to time.

Application

Information on the process for application can be found at www.gatenbysanderson.com.

Further information about the recruitment process can be obtained from Juliet Taylor of Gatenby Sanderson on 0207 426 3990, Professor Roger Goodman, Chair of Council at the Academy on 01865 614853, or Stephen Anderson, Executive Director on director@acss.org.uk or 020 7682 4662.

¹ See e.g. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2015/feb/25/social-science-is-vital-too>; <https://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2016/nov/24/autumn-statement-what-will-an-extra-47-billion-do-for-uk-science-and-innovation>; <https://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2016/feb/18/the-anti-lobbying-clause-will-undermine-evidence-policy-and-the-public-interest>