

SPS Early Career Academic Annual Writing Retreat

The SPS ECAs writing retreat not only allowed for some protected time when ECAs could focus on writing but was also an important way of building community and support.

College (where initiative takes place):	College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
School (where initiative takes place):	School of Social and Political Science;
Stakeholders involved in the planning, organisation and execution of the initiative:	Researchers; ECA representatives;
Webpages:	A blog, photographs and comments are available on the SPS ECA network SharePoint.
Submitted by:	Gill Haddow
Concordat principle:	Professional & Career Development; Environment & Culture;
Area the Concordat Initiative Supported:	Environment & Culture: Wellbeing; Environment & Culture: Research Culture; Professional & Career Development: Careers Support;
Stakeholders:	Researchers
Comments:	The intention is that the writing retreat occurs annually and becomes a core part of the ECA calendar of events.
Outputs/Impact:	<p>A blog about the writing retreat was placed on the ECA SharePoint as well as feedback from some of the participants:</p> <p>“I just wanted to feedback that this writing retreat was phenomenal and an excellent combination of structure and absence of structure. It was wonderful to be able to create my writing objectives, and the fact that the key connections between those of us participating were not a shared project created a uniquely collegial environment that was super productive for me...”</p> <p>“I wanted to briefly reflect as someone who was able to benefit from being at Cromarty what a fantastic opportunity it was, and how much I gained both in terms of the time/space to get my head down, and the connections with other ECRs that have been built by being away together. It has been a hugely valuable experience, and one I hope we will be able to continue to replicate in the future. I’d also like to recognise the efforts of Laura and Sangeeta in organising everything. The venue was great, the information on getting to/from the location was clear, we were able to fully benefit from being in a beautiful location, with fantastic food and an ideal writing space, and they were both attentive to developing a supportive sense of community amongst those of us attending.</p>