



Course Code & Title	LISS2139 Publishing Scholarly Monographs in the Social Sciences and Humanities				
Convenor(s)	Josie Dixon				
Institution	N/A		Department	N/A	
Academic Year	2025-26	Term	Summer		
Number of sessions	2 (same day)		Length of session(s)	Session 1: 1.5 hours Session 2: 4 hours	
Type of training	General research				
Day, Date		Start – End		Location	
11/5/2026		10:30 – 12:00 (session 1) 13:00 – 17:00 (session 2)		Session 1: Room 1.10, Franklin Wilkins Building, King's College London Room G/8, Waterloo Bridge Wing, King's College London	
Enrolment Links:	Available to book on SkillsForge from 2 March 2026 . Click the course link to log in and register. Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)				

How to Book the Course

Please note that the course consists of **TWO SESSIONS**, with a different booking method for each.

Please use SkillsForge to book the **FIRST SESSION** of the course.

For the **SECOND SESSION** of the course, due to the high demand and limited space available, we ask interested participants to complete a short application form, and the booking function of SkillsForge **will not be used**. **Please login to SkillsForge to find the application form.**

The application timeline can be found below:

- Application opens: 2 March 2026
- Application closes: 17 April 2026 5PM
- Application outcomes: 19 April 2026



Priorities will be given to LISS DTP funded students and postdocs, but non-LISS students are welcome to submit their application.

The course is designed for doctoral students in the final stage of their degree, or postdocs, when they are ready to focus on the transition between a thesis and a book.

Course Description

The present climate is notoriously difficult for scholarly publishing, and making a first approach to academic presses with the fruits of your doctoral research in a book proposal can be a daunting and uncertain business. This course is designed to demystify the task, shedding light on the decision-making process and helping researchers considering book publication to present their work to publishers in the most effective way.

Session 1 (10:30 – 12:00):

A presentation with questions and discussion on the current state of the academic publishing industry, designed to give an understanding of the market and conditions in which publishers operate. It includes discussion of the profound changes brought about by digital publishing, open access and AI, and how this volatile climate affects the reception of publishing proposals.

Session 2 (13:00 – 17:00):

This workshop encourages participants to view their research as others will see it, along the line that stretches from commissioning editors and peer-reviewers all the way down the supply chain to booksellers, library suppliers, purchasing librarians, review editors and the prospective readership. This involves thinking about the market, choosing and approaching a publisher, and understanding how to represent your work to best advantage. The workshop also deals with challenges relating to specialism and interdisciplinary work. Discussion and exercises ensure that the material remains practically based throughout. Handouts and recommended reading are supplied.

Meet your Course Convenors

In a 15-year career in scholarly publishing, Josie Dixon was Senior Commissioning Editor in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division at Cambridge University Press and Publishing Director for the Academic Division at Palgrave Macmillan. She now works as a publishing and research training consultant. and has given workshops and lectures in over 100 universities in the UK, Europe and the USA. More details at <http://www.lucianconsulting.com>

Session 2 Outline

The second session (workshop programme) is as follows:

- What is a monograph?
- From PhD to publication – scoping out the transition



- Understanding publishers' thinking
- Specialism and finding the broader appeal
- Interdisciplinarity
- Thinking more commercially: content vs packaging
- Who are you writing for? Who needs it and what will they gain?
- Sales pitch and USPs
- Choosing the right publisher and making your approach
- What makes a good book proposal?
- Choosing a title

Lunch (12:00 – 13:00) will be provided, and there will be a comfort break in the afternoon with tea/coffee.

Previous Feedback on the course

University of Cambridge

'This workshop should be made mandatory by the University.'

'By far the most useful workshop that I have participated in at either Cambridge or Oxford'

'Comprehensive information on publishing, highly relevant to career development and not found anywhere else.'

'Thank you for getting such an experienced, first-class professional to give the course.'

'The publishing industry is one of the most daunting aspects of the post-dissertation future, so it was wonderful to have it explained and to be given strategies by an expert in the field.'

University of Durham

'simply brilliant, and inspirational.'

University of Leicester

'I cannot remember the last time I learned so much in a day!'

University of Oxford

'Josie was a wonderful teacher and helped us to reconceptualise our thesis research for a wider audience/application. I came away from the session full of new ideas and energy. I especially liked the fact that she read through our thesis abstracts and suggested new titles - this kind of individual attention was fantastic.'

'Don't miss it. This workshop is a must.'

University College London

'by far the most effective course that I have been on over the past three years. It was directly applicable, informed by someone who had good experience in the industry.'

University of East Anglia



London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences

'what a wonderful event. I took about 20 pages of notes on the day, plus she distributed handouts in the workshop. She is a great resource.'

University of Pennsylvania

'Fantastic. It was incredibly useful and has given me new hope in this difficult publishing environment.'

Stanford University, California

'enormously helpful and productive. It was terrifically organized, and conceived, and helped me think very much from the publisher's perspective. Every piece of information she offered was golden!'

University of Antwerp

'Absolutely brilliant. Very inspiring and honest speaker. Eye-opening.'

Goethe University, Frankfurt

'I learned so much and the atmosphere was fantastic. Clear articulation, very good focus and structure, with vivid illustration.'

'Elegant, entertaining and inspiring. Josie is very professional and experienced and could answer any question.'

'Perfect.'

'I enjoyed every minute.'

'Awesome.'

Gothenburg University

'Very much needed. Professional, entertaining, inspiring.'

Number of students

Maximum number of places available: 16

Please be reminded that the TWO SESSIONS of the course are booked by different methods. Please refer to the top of this page for more information.