

1st International Conference on e-Social Science

Manchester

June 22nd 24th 2005

Initial Announcement and Call for Submissions

< www.ncess.ac.uk >

The vision of the 'Grid' first emerged as a solution to the highly specialised computing infrastructure requirements of particle physics. The past five years, however, have seen the Grid's potential recognised by the wider scientific research community and the emergence of new forms of research practice now encapsulated in the notion of 'e-Science'.

Now, members of the social science research community in the UK and elsewhere are beginning to explore how they can use the Grid and to explore the prospects for 'e-Social Science'. This year, for example, has seen the creation in the UK of the National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS).

The opportunities presented by the Grid for social science research are numerous and intriguing. The Grid will make it possible for new computational tools to be brought to bear on a diverse range of social science research problems; it will make established social science datasets more readily accessible and easier to integrate; it will make feasible the collection and management new kinds of data on an unprecedented scale. Beyond enhancing existing research methods, however, e-Social Science also brings with it the prospect of articulating a radically new research agenda and encouraging the formation of new forms of research community.

Realising the full potential for e-Social Science will be a major challenge and calls for a major collaborative effort from social scientists and Grid developers. As a contribution to meeting this challenge, NCeSS is very pleased to announce the first international conference on e-Social Science.

We invite contributions from members of the social science and Grid research communities with experience of – or interests in – exploring, developing and applying e-Social Science research methods, practices, tools and technologies.