

WISERD NEWS

Wales Institute of Social & Economic
Research, Data & Methods



inside ●●●

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welcome

WISERD was established with funding from the ESRC and HEFCW with the aim of strengthening the social science base in Wales though cross institutional collaboration across the HE and the public sector.

It has a strong multi-disciplinary emphasis and a keen interest in the use of multiple methods and methodological innovation more generally. The development of this complex brief has taken a lot of leg work and train miles with frequent meetings across Wales and into England. As a consequence we have all got to know each other and are now in a position to push forward the Institute's important agenda of research, training and capacity building.

The focus of 2009 was the establishment of the infrastructure of the Institute.

A calendar of regular meetings was established and work commenced on each of the Institute's primary research programmes. A highlight of 2009 was the Launch of WISERD, which took place at the Sennedd building in Cardiff Bay on 22 October 2009. Marred only by the absence of our Bangor contingent (stranded with the train in Leominster), the Launch evening was a great success as representatives from WAG, the ESRC and HEFCW met with colleagues from universities across Wales and listened to speeches from Professors Teresa Rees (Pro-VC Cardiff University) and Phillip Gummatt (Chief Executive HEFCW), stressing the importance of the collaboration that underpins WISERD's development and that of the St David's Day group of Universities. The First Minister of the Assembly the Rt. Hon. Rhodri Morgan spoke eloquently on the need for fundamental research – especially in the area of health inequalities – as a guide to the development of effective policies in Wales.

The New Year saw the Hub and the Cardiff team move into refurbished offices at 46 Park Place that are shared with the Wales Governance Centre on the Cardiff campus. This was an important development for WISERD as the building is fitted with state of the art training facilities, together with meeting rooms and hot desk space to welcome visitors and facilitate collaborative working.

The continuing focus for 2010 is on progressing with ongoing research and building sustainability for the Institute. In doing so we plan to establish further partnerships, linking in with researchers from across the HE and private sectors. In 2009 our partnership with Shelter Cymru was successful in winning research funds from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and we hope that this can serve as a model for other ventures of this kind.

meet...

THE HUB

The WISERD hub co-ordinates and oversees the work of WISERD as a whole. The Hub team consists of:



Huw Beynon
WISERD Director
beynonh@cf.ac.uk

Huw is the Director of WISERD and his responsibilities include strategic leadership of the WISERD programme of research, training & capacity building; the development of high level partnerships and development of the Institute's sustainability strategy.



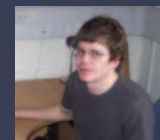
Victoria Macfarlane
Centre Manager
macfarlanev@cf.ac.uk

Victoria is responsible for the day-to-day management of the WISERD Hub, for overseeing all aspects of the coordination of research, training, networking and capacity building activities across WISERD and for ensuring continuing integration between the WISERD partners.



Scott Orford
Data Integration
Co-ordinator
orfords@cf.ac.uk

Scott works closely with Gary Higgs (WISERD Co-Director, Glamorgan) to oversee the integration of published quantitative data and quantitative and qualitative data collected as part of the localities programme of activities. He is responsible for supporting the data needs of WISERD researchers and trainers and takes a lead in identifying further funds to support additional research and innovation into data integration methods and methodologies, and in co-ordinating future research strands. Scott is also responsible for the dissemination of data integration research undertaken through WISERD



Samuel Jones
Data Technician
jones97@cf.ac.uk

Sam's tasks include assisting with the data integration programme, helping to develop, construct, maintain and archive the WISERD repositories of quantitative and qualitative data and provision of day-to-day data and technical support for the WISERD researchers. Sam also assists with the Institute's training and capacity building activities and assisting the Centre Manager and Administration team in developing and maintaining the WISERD website.



introducing...

The WISERD Partners

WISERD is made up of five partner institutions; Aberystwyth University; Bangor University; Cardiff University; University of Glamorgan and Swansea University.

Each institution has a minimum of two WISERD research staff, an administrator and linked WISERD Co-Director. In the spirit of inter-institutional collaboration, WISERD research teams are spread across the five institutions with the localities team being based in Aberystwyth, Bangor and Cardiff; the Data Integration team based in Cardiff and Glamorgan; the policy team based in Cardiff; the training and capacity building team based in Bangor and Cardiff and the quantitative research team based in Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea.

The WISERD Hub which houses the centralised administration team and the Director is based in Cardiff but in practice works across all five institutions.

For further information please see: www.wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/



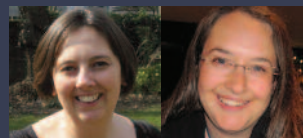
Rhys Davies
Senior Research Fellow
in Quantitative Methods
daviesor@cf.ac.uk

Rhys has a key role in the research capacity building programme and contributes to the WISERD programme of quantitative skills development across the partner institutions. Rhys also takes a lead in identifying further funds to establish WISERD as a major centre for quantitative and mixed methods research.



Claire O'Neill
Training and Capacity
Building Co-ordinator
oneillcb@cf.ac.uk

Claire is responsible for organising and coordinating assessments of training needs and for ensuring the delivery of effective training and capacity building events and activities. Claire's role involves ensuring that TCB activities are integrated into, and benefit from WISERD data and methodological developments. Claire also assists in identifying further funds to support additional training and capacity building activities, and in co-ordinating further TCB proposals



Tina Woods & Alex Williams
Administrators
woodst1@cf.ac.uk
williamsam9@cf.ac.uk

Tina and Alex provide administrative support to the WISERD hub and WISERD at Cardiff teams. They also act as a point of contact for external queries and assist with the organisation and co-ordination of meetings, events and conferences. Tina and Alex are part time and work Monday to Thursday.



Ian Stafford
Research Associate (policy)
staffordim@cf.ac.uk

& Clair Wilkins
Researcher in
Quantitative and
Evaluation Methods,
wilkinsce1@cf.ac.uk

Both part of the WISERD policy team. Ian's role is to develop and implement mixed methods for the evaluation of policy interventions, comparative policy analysis and to contribute policy expertise to a successful programme of empirical investigation. Clair has a role in developing and implementing research methods for the rigorous evaluation of social and policy interventions. She is also tasked with facilitating the integration of quantitative and qualitative methods, and developing cross-disciplinary learning in the design and execution of evaluation studies.

WISERD

Programmes of Work

Data Integration

The identification, archiving, integration and management of existing Welsh data sets; including the identification of areas of data deficit, and the examination of issues, challenges and opportunities involved in methodological innovation and the development of mixed and integrative methods.

Activities include the construction of a meta-data base and data portal, the enhanced development of GIS methods and the development of frameworks for the integration of qualitative and quantitative data.

Key Contact for the data integration programme is Scott Orford.
Email: orfords@cardiff.ac.uk

Training & Capacity Building

Research capacity building, training and networking, leading to the development of inter-institutional research teams with a strong emphasis on addressing identified deficits in research skills in Wales, and able to make a significant contribution to national research capacity building in the social and economic sciences.

WISERD has a commitment to the provision of high quality research training and methodological development in quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, and to supporting research collaborations and developments.

Key contact for the Training and Capacity Building programme is Claire O'Neill.
Email: ONeillCB@cardiff.ac.uk

Policy

A programme of policy analysis and evaluation, including emphases on the Wales policy context, comparative policy analysis and developing / implementing mixed research methods for the rigorous evaluation of complex policy interventions.

WISERD aims to maximise the relevance and impact of its work on public policy in Wales and elsewhere; engaging local, regional and national policy communities; developing policy relationships and research processes to maximise the quality and value of social science research for policy formulation and evaluation.

Key Contact for the Policy programme is Paul Furlong.
Email: furlongp@cardiff.ac.uk

Knowing Localities

The phased study of localities across Wales, which serve as sites of detailed (qualitative and quantitative) data collection, methodological development and the interdisciplinary interrogation of place.

This programme focuses upon the complex and long-term relationships between localities, identities, citizenship, communities and economic and social regeneration; and will form the basis for future research projects and inter-institutional / interdisciplinary research collaborations.

Key contact for the Knowing Localities programme is Martin Jones.
Email: msj@aber.ac.uk

For further information on the WISERD research programmes please visit: www.wiserd.ac.uk

Local Knowledge in Context Programme

The 'local knowledge in context' research programme is based at WISERD in Cardiff, and is concerned with the development and testing of ethnographic and qualitative methods for understanding place and locality in the context of community participation, citizenship, identities, regeneration and sustainability. This suite of qualitative fieldwork projects focuses on detailed and ethnographic explorations of locality, place and the articulation of local knowledges.

The projects are being utilized to explore different perceptions of locality, the ways in which embedded experience impacts upon local knowledges, the relations between local and other forms of knowledge, and the ways in which knowledges are represented in everyday social worlds and spaces. The projects are contributing to the methodological development and research capacity building agendas of WISERD. In particular the projects are developing mobile and multimodal methods for research engagement, data generation and analysis.

Three projects are currently supported under the programme;

- **Safeguarding Children and Young People in Local Communities;** exploring the ways in which neighbourhoods, families and professionals understand, identify and manage risk within a local setting (led by Sally Holland)
- **Young People and Place;** exploring young people's understanding and use of local public and private spaces, and the implications for lifestyle choice and policy concerns (led by Emma Remold and Gabrielle Ivinson).
- **Local Knowledge, Spatial Practice and the Urban Patrol;** exploring professional geographies of care and inequalities in public space, focussing on the routine maintenance of urban fabric (led by Tom Hall).

Associate Membership of WISERD

WISERD welcomes enquiries from researchers and interested persons from relevant backgrounds and disciplines to become involved in its activities as Associates of the Institute.

Associate members of WISERD are individuals who have interests and expertise in social and economic research in Wales, policy analysis and evaluation, methodological innovation and development, and research capacity building. They are primarily (but not exclusively) drawn from the five partner institutions of WISERD.

Benefits of Membership

Associate members have the opportunity to contribute to the strategic vision, current work programmes and future development of WISERD. Benefits of associate membership include;

- Opportunities to access to the resources available at and through the WISERD Hub.
- Appropriate access to the integrated datasets co-ordinated, developed and held at WISERD.

- Regular updates on and priority invitation to WISERD research and capacity building events
- Opportunities to make appropriate use of the WISERD name and brand for research development and capacity building events
- Opportunities to be a member of consultative groups for the various strands of the WISERD work programmes, including consultation on the development and sustainability of WISERD, with opportunities to develop and extend research themes and priorities
- Opportunities to work directly with WISERD researchers on specific areas of common interest
- Responsibilities of Associate Membership Associate members have a significant role to play in the development and sustainability of WISERD. The responsibilities of associate members are;
- To actively seek opportunities to engage with and participate in the activities of WISERD, including interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research collaborations.

- To develop research projects that can wholly or part be based under the auspices of WISERD, and that can be used to contribute to the sustainability of WISERD. This includes, where feasible and appropriate, developing proposals with WISERD that can include funds to support and develop the WISERD infrastructure
- To participate in consultations, from time-to-time, to inform the research and capacity building agendas of WISERD.
- To respond positively to requests for contributions to training and capacity building events
- To occasionally act as reviewers of proposals for linked research projects and publications
- To acknowledge WISERD, as appropriate, in research proposals, communications and publications
- To provide expert and timely advice to the WISERD Director and executive group

Applying to be an Associate Member of WISERD

Colleagues can apply directly to one of the WISERD partner institutions or alternatively can apply to the WISERD Hub. Membership is conferred by WISERD partners on an individual basis, and is designed to be inclusive. Associate members are asked to complete a simple form providing information areas of research interest and real / potential links with WISERD. Members will be listed on the WISERD website, unless they request otherwise.

For further information visit:
<http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/get-involved/wiserd-associate-members/>



Affiliated Projects

Affiliated projects play a key role in developing the research programme and future research agenda, as well as enhancing the research capacity of WISERD. All projects affiliated to WISERD share a focus on high quality social and economic research in the Welsh context.

They also share a commitment to methodological development and enhancing research capacity.

Affiliated projects are of two main kinds;

1. General Affiliation

Existing and new social science research and capacity building projects with a strong Wales, policy, localities or methodological focus. Funded separately from WISERD, these are projects where affiliation to WISERD could bring mutual benefit.

2. Specific Affiliation

Social science research or capacity building projects developed directly and in collaboration with WISERD (partners and / or hub). These are projects funded separately to the WISERD start-up funds, but clearly developed in response to the main WISERD research agenda. These projects will be co-ordinated and supported by the WISERD team, will include funding proposals to sustain and develop the WISERD infrastructure, and will have WISERD affiliation built into them from the outset.

Such projects should, where possible, be cross – institutional, and co-directors at partner institutions should be made aware of bids in preparation at the earliest opportunity. Final proposals will be approved by the WISERD Executive team prior to submission for funding.

Benefits of Affiliation with WISERD

- Join an interdisciplinary network of social science researchers across Wales
- Have the opportunity to access the resources available at and through the WISERD Hub. This includes assistance with further research proposal development, assistance in establishing cross – institutional research networks, assistance with accessing and using secondary data resources, assistance with developing methodological training and capacity building events
- Can co-locate project researchers to work alongside other WISERD projects
- Are able to use the WISERD name and brand, to appropriately support research, communication, networking and capacity building events
- Will benefit from priority access WISERD training and research capacity building events.

Responsibilities of Affiliation

It is expected that affiliated projects will;

- Actively seek opportunities to engage with and participate in the activities of WISERD, including interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research collaborations.
- Respond positively to requests for contributions to training and capacity building events
- Acknowledge WISERD as appropriate, in communications, publications and future research bids
- Play a role in ensuring the future development and sustainability of WISERD

To find out more visit:

<http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/getinvolved/wiserd-affiliated-projects/>

Grants, Projects and Collaborations



To date, WISERD has submitted several successful grant bids, these include

An Evaluation of the Women's Turnaround Project

(in collaboration with the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice) – funded by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS Cymru). This project will explore the women's and stakeholder's perspectives on what women need and whether the Turnaround project in North Wales has achieved its aim in helping women to move forward in achieving their targets. Using a mixed methods approach, the research will evaluate whether the Turnaround project has altered the behaviour/life-styles of the women participating in the research and how far any changes were internalised (from the perspective of the women) rather than just an external perception (on the part of workers).

Evaluation of the 2006-11 Census Programme

WISERD researchers from Cardiff and Swansea universities have been funded by the ESRC to carry out an evaluation of the 2006-11 Census Programme. A range of evidence will be reviewed in order to evaluate the four main areas of the Programme: the Census units, the usage of datasets, programme co-ordination and the future development of the programme.

An Analysis of the Correlates of Self Reported Work Illness in the Labour Force Survey

(in collaboration with Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre & Bangor Business School) — funded by the Health and Safety Executive this project seeks to gain a better understanding of how work impacts upon health and how these relationships contribute to our understanding of observed trends.

Factors Associated with the Effective Involvement of Workers in Health and Safety Management

(in collaboration with Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre) — the programme, funded by the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work, will undertake analysis of the data on management of health and safety and psychosocial risks at work that were gathered through the European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER).

2009 European Social Fund Leavers Survey

(in collaboration with the Work Economy Research Centre, IFF research and Old bell 3 ltd) — This project funded by the Welsh Assembly Government aims to assess the effectiveness of the European Social Fund elements of the Convergence and Competitiveness Programmes.

Quality of Life in Ethnic Neighbourhoods in Europe

(in collaboration with colleagues from City and Warwick Universities) — This project funded by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions is concerned with examining the degree of integration of people for whom their national origins or those of their parents lies in a country outside the European Union.

Young People and Housing; Identifying Policy Challenges and Solutions for 2020

(in collaboration with Shelter Cymru and colleagues from the School of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff) — The project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looks at issues around young people and housing going forward into 2020.

Social Participation and Identity: Combining Quantitative Longitudinal Data with a Qualitative Investigation of a Sub-sample of the 1958 Cohort Study (Wales sample)

This project is a joint venture with the Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies and the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-cultural change (Manchester University). The main study, funded by ESRC, is undertaking 180 qualitative interviews with cohort members of the 1958 National Child Development Study. WISERD has been funded by the Welsh Assembly Government to undertake an additional 60 interviews within Wales.

For further information on WISERD projects please visit: www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/

WISERD Thematic Reference Groups

WISERD has been actively engaged in involving staff across the five universities in developing its research themes. As part of this nine thematic reference groups are in the process of being established.

These are convened by associate members of WISERD and bring together groups of experts in their particular substantive fields. They are an important mechanism for ensuring inter-institutional collaboration and are tasked with developing pan-Wales discussions and advice on each of the following key themes:

Health, Wellbeing & Social Care

(convener Gareth Williams, Cardiff University)

Language, Citizenship & Identity

(convener Graham Day, Bangor University)

Employment & Training

(convener Philip Murphy, Swansea University)

Economic Development & Regeneration

(convener Kevin Morgan, Cardiff University)

Crime, Public Space & Policing

Partnership established with the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ)

Housing

(convener Peter Mackie, Cardiff University)

Transport

(convener Owen Clark, Glamorgan University)

Environment, Tourism & Leisure

(convener Michael Woods, Aberystwyth University)

Education & Young People

(not yet established)

For further information or to register your interest in a particular thematic group please contact Victoria Macfarlane, email: macfarlanev@cf.ac.uk or Tel: 029 208 75345.

You can also visit: www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/networks/wiserd-reference-groups/

Spotlight On...

Data Integration Programme

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Wales is a diverse country economically, socially and culturally, with distinct geographical differences in population characteristics. But as a nation it has been neglected in terms of small area mapping and analysis of social data. Part of the Data Integration Team's programme of work is to explore new ways of mapping Welsh social data for small areas to allow new insights into the spatial differences and diversity of the Welsh population.

One important and underused source of Welsh data is the annual Living in Wales survey. This has been undertaken since 2004 with the most recent release being 2007. It has an average annual response rate of around 7,500 households. The survey covers a variety of social, economic and opinion based questions and is the only survey (apart from the census) to allow Welsh national social data to be mapped below the level of the Unitary Authority. As way of illustration, we have analysed eight attitudinal questions relating to aspects of the respondent's local neighbourhood. By pooling response data from the 2004-07 surveys, we performed a cluster analysis on these questions. This categorised the response data into five distinct groups based upon variations in neighbourhood attitudes. These five groups were mapped at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level which represents large neighbourhoods within Wales.

Here a conventional map of Wales, with neighbourhoods represented by land area, and a cartogram of the same area, in which the neighbourhoods have been distorted in proportion to population size, have been used. This distorted map of Wales, with the rural areas in mid- and west Wales shrunk and the densely populated areas of south and north-east Wales expanded, presents a clearer picture of where most people, and hence respondents, live.

Neighbourhood type 1 is characterised by people who trust most of their neighbours and who believe that their neighbourhood is a very good place to bring up children. Over half talk to their neighbours on most days, and regard their friendship as meaning a lot to them. They tend to ask their neighbours for advice and for favours and to borrow things from them. They have a very good sense of belonging to the area and tend to see themselves as similar as other people in their area and are willing to work with others to improve the neighbourhood. These neighbourhoods are predominately rural and are concentrated in mid-, west and north-west Wales.

Neighbourhood type 2 is characterised by people whose attitudes are quite similar to those in neighbourhood type 1, with two main exceptions. The first is that they trust their neighbours a lot less than in neighbourhood type 1, with fewer than half trusting most of their neighbours and a quarter trusting very few of them.

The second is that only a quarter believe that their neighbourhood is a very good place to bring up children, although half think that it is a fairly good place. These neighbourhoods are almost exclusively found, and almost entirely compose, the neighbourhoods of the Welsh valleys.

Neighbourhood type 3 is characterised by people having attitudes to the place where they live that tend to reflect the Welsh average. These neighbourhoods are predominately the suburbs of the cities in south Wales or the semi-rural hinterland that surround them.

They can also be found in the more affluent areas of the coastal fringe of north Wales and the market towns of mid-Wales.

Neighbourhood type 4 is characterised by people with a mix of attitudes towards their neighbourhood. Fewer people tended to strongly agree that they rely on their neighbours for advice, favours and friendship and fewer people strongly agreed that they have a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood and that they thought themselves as similar to their neighbours. Fewer people trust most of their neighbours with a third trusting very few people at all. Despite this, around half believe that it's a fairly good place to bring up children with a further fifth believing that it is a very good place. These neighbourhoods are located in more deprived areas of Wales and generally outside of the former mining communities.

They are concentrated in the south Wales urban areas and the coastal fringe of north Wales.

Who's Who in the Data Integration Team



Scott Orford



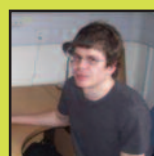
Richard Fry



Rob Berry



Gary Higgs



Sam Jones



Neighbourhood type 5 has the fewest members and is perhaps the least neighbourly. Only a quarter trust many people in their neighbourhood and over half trust few people or no-one at all. Two fifths believe that it is a fairly good place to bring up children but nearly one third thinks that it is a poor place. Fewer people talk to their neighbours compared to the other neighbourhood types with a quarter talking to them less than once or month or never. Here, people are less likely than in the other neighbourhood types to see neighbours as friends and less likely to ask advice and favours from them.

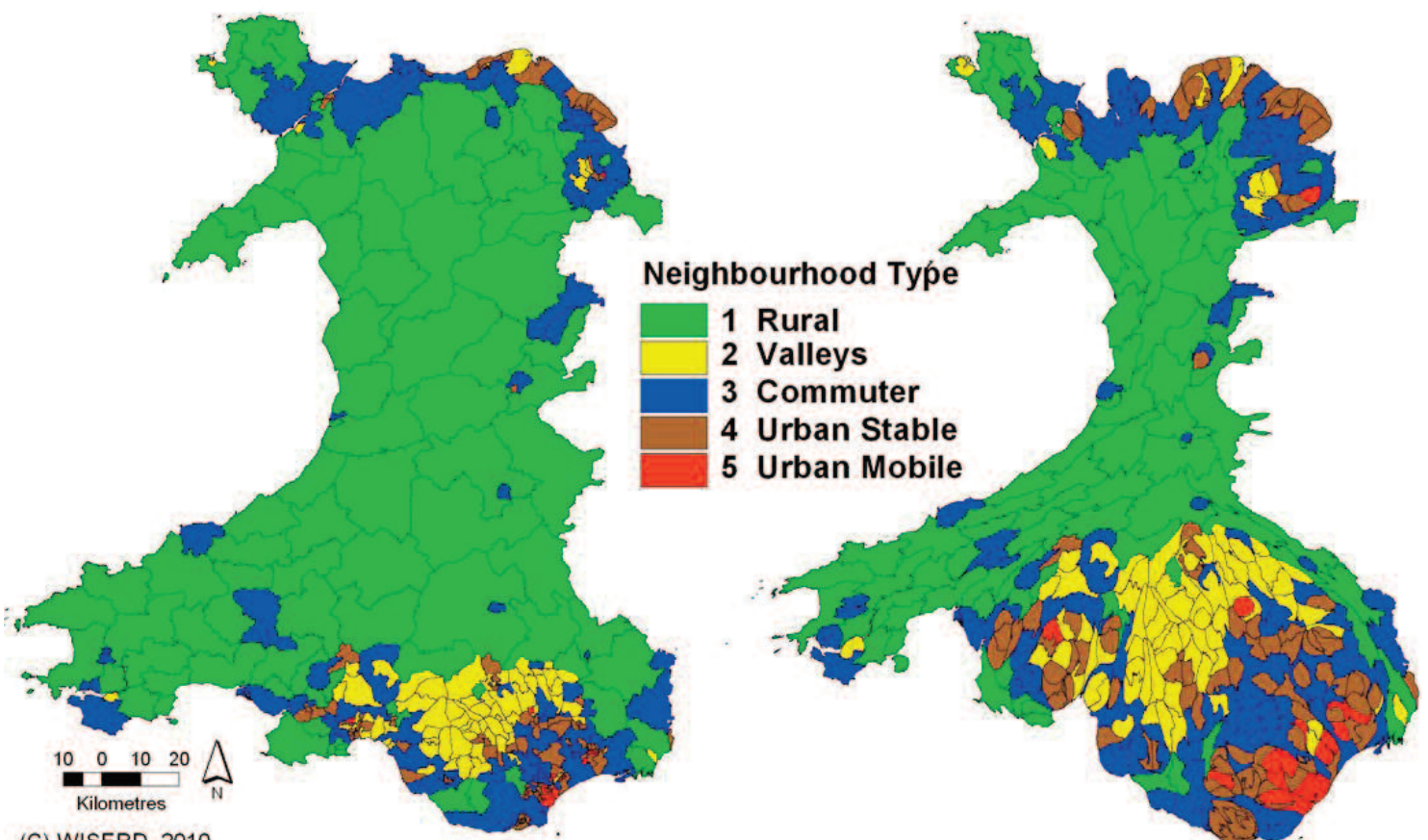
They have less of a sense of belonging and are less likely to see themselves as similar to others in their neighbourhood. These neighbourhoods are predominately found in the inner-cities of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea and very rarely outside of these areas.

An important observation from the analysis is the way that 'geography' emerges through mapping the results of the cluster analysis. There were no explicitly geographical variables in the cluster analysis but strong spatial patterning in the clusters is obvious. This indicates that the attitudes of people in Wales towards the neighbourhood in which

they live are very similar – people living in similar places tend to share similar attitudes and these attitudes are strongly embedded within particular parts of Wales. The distinctive clustering of neighbourhood type 2 within the Welsh valleys but rarely outside of this area is a good example of this strong spatial clustering in attitudes.

For further information on the data integration programme visit:
<http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/dataintegration-theme/> or contact the **WISERD Data Integration Co-ordinator, Scott Orford** by email: orfords@cf.ac.uk or tel: 029 208 75272

Classification of Welsh Middle Layer Super Output Areas using social attitudes data from the Living in Wales survey 2004-07



WISERD Partnerships

WISERD is interested in establishing partnerships with organisations (in the public, private and voluntary sectors) who have interests and expertise in social and economic research in Wales, policy analysis and evaluation, methodological innovation and development, and research capacity building.

These partnerships will play an important role in supporting and developing the research and capacity building programmes of WISERD enabling it to;

- widen its methodological base and expertise
- enhance its capacity to respond to funding and research opportunities
- extend links and relationships across the social science and policy communities
- broaden the audience for social scientific research and analysis.

Partners will share a focus on high quality social and economic research in the Welsh context. They will also share a commitment to methodological development and enhancing research capacity. WISERD Partners:

- Join an interdisciplinary network of social science researchers across Wales
- Have access to the resources of the WISERD hub
- Can develop reciprocal secondment opportunities
- Are able to use the WISERD name and brand
- Will be given advance notification of WISERD training and research capacity building events

It is expected that partners will;

- Respond positively to requests for contributions to training and capacity building events
- Acknowledge WISERD, as appropriate, in communications, publications and future research bids
- Assist the access of WISERD projects to field locations and data
- Play a role in ensuring the future development and sustainability of WISERD

To learn more about WISERD partnerships please visit: www.wiserd.ac.uk/get-involved/wiserd-partnerships/ or contact the WISERD Hub team by email: wiserd@cf.ac.uk or tel: 029 208 79338



Visitors to WISERD

WISERD has had a number of visitors since moving into new premises in January 2010.

In February the annual WISERD Advisory board meeting was held with senior representatives of social science schools across the UK and USA in attendance including

Professor Bren Neale, Director of the ESRC Timescapes programme, University of Leeds,

Professor Patrick Sturgis, Director, National Centre of Research Methods, University of Southampton, and chair,

Professor Ray Hudson, Durham University.

Professor Michael Burawoy visited WISERD in February for a fortnight. The visit was facilitated by the Centre for Global Labour Research which provided Michael with a Montague Burton Visiting Fellowship. During his time in Cardiff Professor Burawoy delivered two workshops and a public lecture and had many informal meetings with WISERD staff and colleagues from other schools. He left to take up the position of Mellon Distinguished Visiting Professor, at Witswatersrand, Johannesburg but is expected back in Cardiff later this year.

In March **Professor John Macinnes** (Edinburgh University) visited WISERD. He hosted a discussion on The Crisis of Quantitative Methods in UK Social Science in the WISERD Offices.

In May **Dr Susan McVie** and **Dr Helen Brown** from the Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMEN) visited WISERD to discuss potential opportunities for collaborative working.

On 9th of June **Dr Peter Brabham** from the Cardiff School of Earth and Social Sciences to deliver a talk entitled "An Earth Scientist's View Of Post Industrial South Wales"

On 16th June **Professor Patrick Sturgis** from the NCRM hub visited WISERD Swansea to deliver a talk entitled "Do neighbourhoods generate fear of crime?"



Prof Bren Neale



Patrick Sturgis



Prof Ray Hudson



Prof Michael Burawoy



Prof John Macinnes



Dr Susan McVie



Dr Helen Brown



Dr Peter Brabham

WISERD and the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods

WISERD is a partner of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) (www.ncrm.ac.uk). Like the NCRM, WISERD forms part of the ESRC's strategic approach to improve the standards of research methods across the UK social science community.

The NCRM was established in 2004 and has a distributed centre, with a co-ordinating hub based at the University of Southampton School of Social Sciences, and nodes based at other HEIs. Phase 1 nodes ran from 2005-08, and phase 2 nodes are funded from 2008-11.

Qualiti, a phase 1 node was based at Cardiff University School of Social Sciences under the directorship of Professor Amanda Coffey. Current NCRM nodes include nodes on the administrative data,

Bayesian methods, statistical modelling, CAQDAS, real life methods and simulation. WISERD and the NCRM will be collaborating on training and capacity building activities, designed to advance methodological understandings and practice. The WISERD hub office in Cardiff also manages bookings for one of the five ESRC regional training centres.

The NCRM co-ordinates the ESRC Research Methods Festival. The 4th festival took place on 5-8 July 2010

at St Catherine's College, Oxford, UK. The Festival engages social scientists across a wide range of disciplines and sectors and at different points in their research careers and is an excellent opportunity to find out about methodological developments and debates. WISERD convened a number of sessions at the festival.

training

WISERD Training & Events September 2010 to January 2011

Tuesday 14th September 2010 –
9.30am to 12.30

Social Network Data Analysis Using UCINET

Trainer:

Dr Mamata Parhi, WISERD Swansea

Venue:

Main Arts Building, Bangor University

Friday 17th September 2010

Mapping your Research Data

Trainer:

Dr Robert Berry and Dr Richard Fry,
WISERD Glamorgan

Venue:

WISERD Training Room, 46 Park Place

Tuesday 21st September 2010

Locating and Using Data Resources on Wales

Trainer:

Various –colleagues from the Welsh
Assembly Government and WISERD

Venue:

WISERD Training Room, 46 Park Place

Tuesday 5th October 2010

Joint BERA/TLRP Research Training Workshop: The Role of Theory in Educational Research

Speakers:

Professor Alan Felstead, Dr Daniel Bishop,
Professor Richard Daugherty, Dr Richard
Watermeyer

Venue:

Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University

Monday 11th October 2010

Data Management and Analysis for Social Researchers Using Excel

Trainer:

Mr Rhys Davies, WISERD Cardiff

Venue:

WISERD Training Room, 46 Park Place

Tuesday 12th October 2010

Downloading and Exploring Survey Data from the UK Data Archive

Trainer:

Dr Stephen Drinkwater, WISERD Swansea

Location:

Room B19 James Callaghan Building,
Swansea University

Wednesday 20th October 2010

A One-Day Workshop on the Three Cohort Studies Undertaken by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies

Trainers:

Staff from the Centre for Longitudinal
Studies, Institute of Education, London

Venue:

Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University

Thursday 28th October 2010

Safe Researcher Training

Trainers:

Dr Mark Elliot – Director of the Cathie
Marsh Centre for Census and Survey
Research on behalf of Administrative Data
Liaison Service (ADLS), University of St
Andrews

Venue:

Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University

Thursday 4th November 2010

Walking Workshop: Methods Going Mobile

Trainers:

Dr Kate Moles and Dr Robin Smith,
WISERD Cardiff

Venue:

WISERD, 46 Park Place

Wednesday 12th and
Thursday 13th January 2011

Research with Children

Trainers:

Staff from WISERD and DECIPHER
and invited speakers

Venue:

WISERD, 46 Park Place

Full details of all courses and events are available
on the WISERD website www.wiserd.ac.uk.
To book a place on a course please contact the
WISERD Office on 02920 875345
or send an email to wiserd.events@cardiff.ac.uk.

WISERD Annual Conference 2010



On 28-29th July 2010 WISERD held its first annual conference entitled, 'Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy'. The conference was focussed around different ways of knowing and interpreting Wales and included presentations from WISERD research teams on core programmes of work such as data integration, policy and knowing localities, as well as papers from WISERD associate members and linked academic staff.

Keynote speeches were provided by Dr Jonathan Bradbury (Swansea University) & Dr Rhys Andrews (Cardiff University) on "State Devolution and National Identity: Continuity and Change in the Politics of Welshness and Britishness in Wales", and John McGrath, Artistic Director of the National Theatre of Wales on "A Theatre Map of Wales: Performance, Place and Nation".

A successful pre-conference postgraduate session was also held and included sessions by students from Swansea, Cardiff and Abersytwyth Universities on wages in Wales; knowing Wales and sustainability, globalization and community in Wales.

Feedback on the conference has been extremely positive and planning for the next conference, taking place in Swansea University in late June 2011, is currently underway.

Further information and photographs from the event can be found at:

www.wiserd.ac.uk/news/the-first-wiserd-summer-conference/

Publications

WISERD is committed to producing high quality publications for a range of academic, policy and practitioner audiences.

In addition to regularly submitting articles to international, peer-reviewed journals, and contributing to externally published edited collections WISERD publishes papers and reports in the following formats:

- Research Reports
- Policy Briefings
- Methods Briefings
- Data Resources
- WISERD Working Papers
- WISERD News
- Qualitative Researcher

All WISERD in-house publications are managed by the WISERD hub team at Cardiff. There are individual editorial teams responsible for each kind of publication, and a supportive system of critical reading and peer review prior to publication

For further information on the WISERD publications series please visit: www.wiserd.ac.uk/publications/ or contact the WISERD Hub team by email: wiserd@cf.ac.uk or tel: 029 208 79338





A selection of papers published by WISERD colleagues during 2009 are listed below. For a comprehensive list visit the WISERD website; www.wiserd.ac.uk

Journal Papers

- Jones M, (2009)
"Phase Space: Geography, Relational Thinking and Beyond",
Progress in Human Geography; 33
- Jones M, (2009)
"The Local in the Global" in R Lee, A Leyshon, L McDowell & P Sunley (eds) Compendium of economic geography, Sage, London
- Blackaby D & Murphy P, (2009)
"The Economic Downturn in the Welsh Economy",
The Bevan Foundation Review, 12 June 2009
- Davies R, Jones P & Nunez I, (2009)
"The Impact of the Business Cycle on Occupational Injuries in the UK",
Social Science & Medicine, 69(2)
- Coffey A, Hall T, Lashua B (2009),
"Steps and Stages: Rethinking Transitions in Youth and Place",
Journal of Youth Studies, 12(5)
- Orton, M, Davies, R, (2009)
'Exploring Neglected Dimensions of Social Policy: the Social Division of Welfare, Fiscal Welfare and the Exemplar of Local Taxation in England',
Social Policy and Administration 43 (1) 33-53
- Higgs, G. and Langford, M. (2009)
'GIScience, Environmental Justice, & Estimating Populations at Risk: The Case of Landfills in Wales',
Applied Geography, 29(1), 63-76.

- Higgs, G. (2009)
'The Role of GIS for Health Utilization Studies: Literature Review',
Health Services and Outcome Research Methodology, 9(2), 84-99.
- Brunsdon, C., Corcoran, J., Higgs, G. and Ware, A. (2009)
'The Influence of Weather on Local Geographical Patterns of Crime, Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design, 36(5), 906-926.
- Corcoran, J., Higgs, G., Rohde, D. and Chhetri, P. (2010)
'Investigating the Association between Weather Conditions, Calendar Events and Socio-economic Patterns with Trends in Fire Incidence: an Australian Case Study',
Journal of Geographical Systems, forthcoming.
- Berry, R, Fry, R, Higgs, G and Orford, S. (2010)
A Geo-portal for Enhancing Collaborative Socio-Economic Research in Wales Using Open Source Technology, The Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education, Forthcoming.
- Mann, R. and Fenton, S. (2009).
'The Personal Contexts of National Sentiments', /Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies/, 34(4), 417-434 (April 2009 Issue).

Working Papers

- Davies R, Jones S, Orford S, (2009)
Heads of the Valleys (HOV) Brief Statistical Summary
- Berry R, Fry R, Higgs G & Orford S, (2009)
The WISERD Geoportal: Building a Web-GIS for Enhancing Collaborative Socio-Economic Research in Wales Using Open Source Technology

- Orford S, (2009),
WISERD Data Protocols & Policies
- Davies R and Jones S, (2009)
Quantative Research Resources within the Social Sciences

Book Chapters

- Watkin S, (2009)
"Welfare to Work in the Welsh Countryside", in Paul Milbourne (eds) International Perspectives on Rural Welfare
- Davies R. and Elias P. (2009)
The Application of ESEC to Three Sources of Harmonised European Data in Harrison E and Rose D (Eds).: Social Class in Europe: An Introduction to the European Socio-Economic Classification, Routledge
- Fenton, S. and Mann, R. (2009)
'Introducing the Majority to Ethnicity: and do they like what they see?'
In G. Calder, S. Seglow & P. Cole (eds.), /Citizenship Acquisition and National Belonging: Migration, Membership and the Liberal Democratic State/. Houndmills: Palgrave.
Publication Date: November 2009.

Reports

- Mann, R. (2009)
Evolving Family Structures, Roles, and Relationships in light of Ethnic and Social Change.
Report commissioned for Future Lab on behalf of the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Bristol: Future Lab.
Publication Date: February 2009.



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