

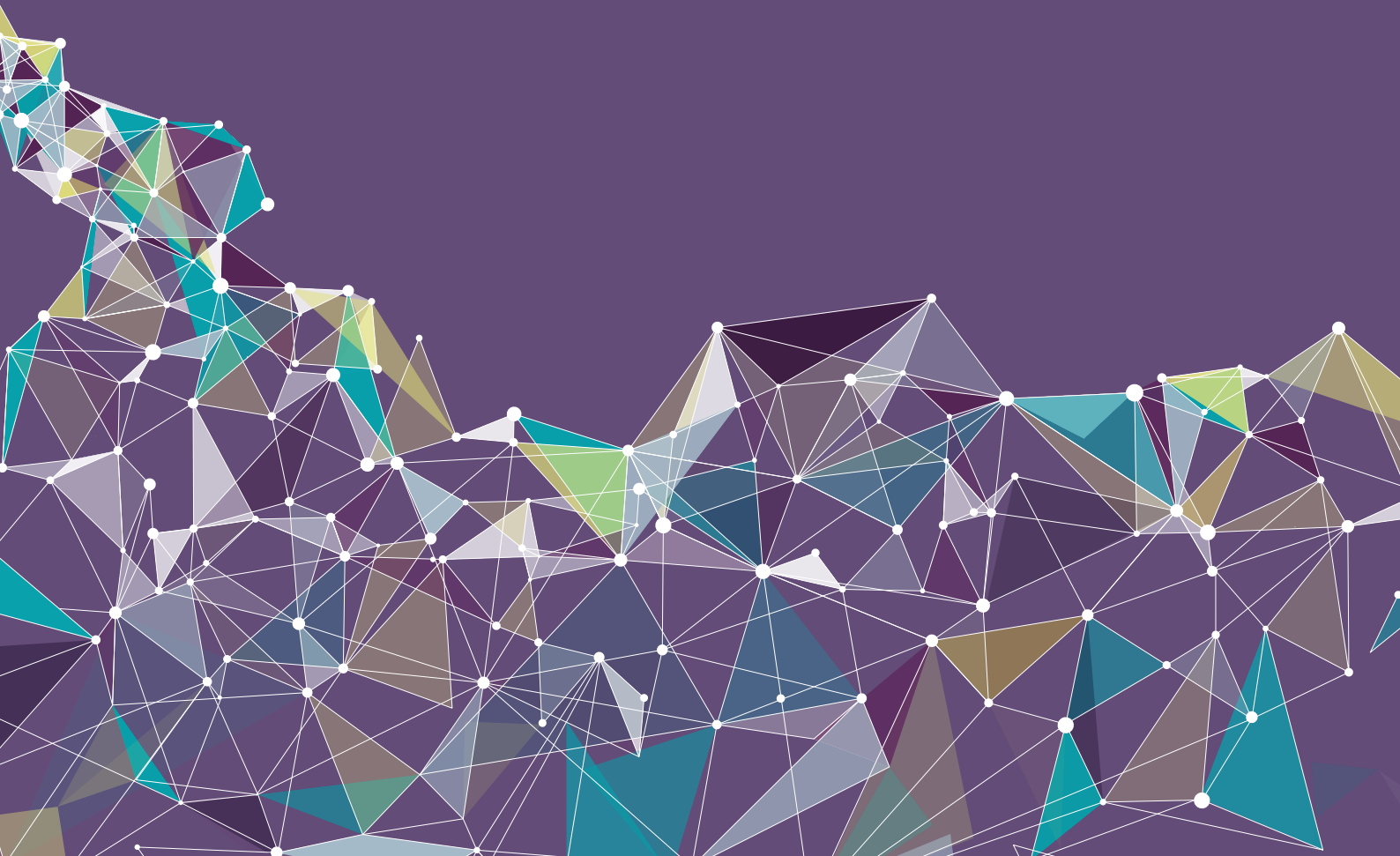


Sefydliad Ymchwil Cymdeithasol
ac Economaidd a Data Cymru

Wales Institute of Social and
Economic Research and Data

INSIGHT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Director's report

As we near the end of our ESRC-funded WISERD Civil Society Research Centre – Civic Stratification and Civil Repair – it's an ideal time to look back on 2023 and reflect upon our achievements and progress.



Just some of the important steps we've made with our research over the last year include: working with Foundational Alliance Wales on finding ways to put foundational thinking into practice, contributing towards Cardiff becoming the UK's first child-friendly city, securing European research funding to lead a major new project supporting development in rural Wales, and contributing to key reports on the future of work and devolution, and Wales's constitutional future.

I hope this report provides a useful overview of our research activities over the past year and that you'll continue to engage with our work over the coming months. If you're interested in finding out more or would like to collaborate with us, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Ian Rees Jones
WISERD Director



WISERD hosts the UK-wide WISERD Civil Society Research Centre, a major investment by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

The Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data (WISERD) is a national, interdisciplinary, social science research institute.

We have been designated by the Welsh Government as a national research centre. Using innovative approaches, our research spans the fields of economics, sociology, geography and political science.

We are a collaborative venture between the universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales and Swansea – working together to improve the quality and quantity of social science research in Wales and beyond.

Our research effects change by influencing the development of policy and practice across a range of sectors.

At Aberystwyth University, WISERD includes the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society.

WISERD also hosts ADR Wales (Administrative Data Research Wales) – a collaboration between Welsh Government, Swansea University Medical School and WISERD at Cardiff University. ADR Wales is part of the ESRC funded ADR UK (Administrative Data Research UK).



Publications

WISERD produces a range of publications for academic, policy and practitioner audiences, including newsletters, reports and blog posts.

In 2023, WISERD published over 75 academic publications, including:

● Journal articles	55
● Books and book chapters	6
● Reports and briefings	14

In 2023, WISERD published 31 blog posts.

You can read these on our website: [wiserd.ac.uk/blog](https://www.wiserd.ac.uk/blog).


WISERD colleagues presented 50 conference papers during 2023.


Since 2008, WISERD has published over 875 academic publications, including:


● Journal articles	640+
● Books and book chapters	166
● Reports and briefings	168


Journal articles published in 2023

WISERD published 55 journal articles in 2023. The following selection provides a deeper dive into some of this work:

 **Disability and trade union membership in the UK**
By Melanie Jones
BJIR An International Journal of Employment Relations
doi.org/10.1111/bjir.12767

 **Recent Trends in Formal School Exclusions in Wales**
By Foteini Tseliou, Chris Taylor and Sally Power
British Journal of Educational Studies
doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2023.2276404

 **Beyond bad behaviour? Towards a broader understanding of school student activism**
By Rhian Barrance and Esther Muddiman
British Journal of Sociology of Education
doi.org/10.1080/01425692.2023.2238906

 **Rural recovery or rural spatial justice? Responding to multiple crises for the British countryside**
By Michael Woods
The Geographical Journal
doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12541

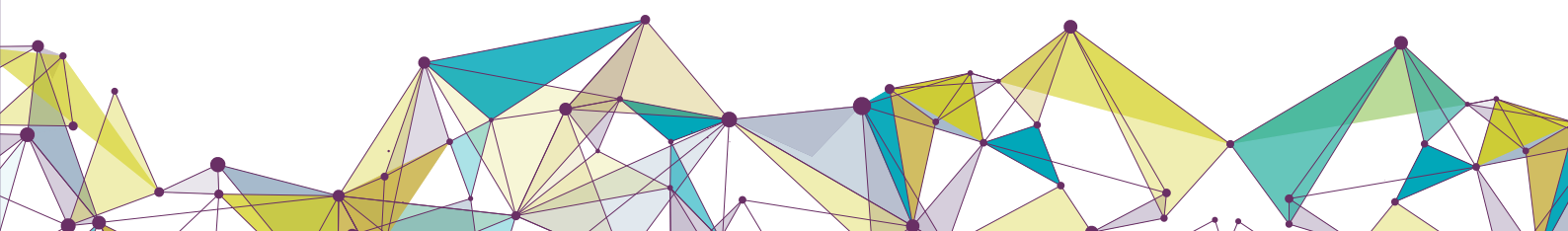
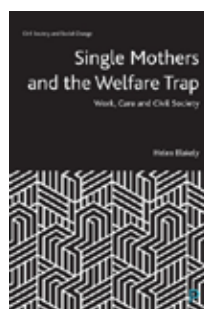
 **Quantifying disparities in access to recreational opportunities by alternative modes of transport**
By Andrew Price, Mitchel Langford and Gary Higgs
Case Studies on Transport Policy
doi.org/10.1016/j.cstp.2023.100949

See more journal articles and other publications on our website: [wiserd.ac.uk/publications](https://www.wiserd.ac.uk/publications).

Civil Society and Social Change

The WISERD Civil Society and Social Change book series launched in 2020 provides interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives on the rapidly changing nature of civil society. The latest title to be added to the series in 2023 is **Single Mothers and the Welfare Trap**, by Helen Blakely.

Find out more: policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/civil-society-and-social-change.



Research funding data

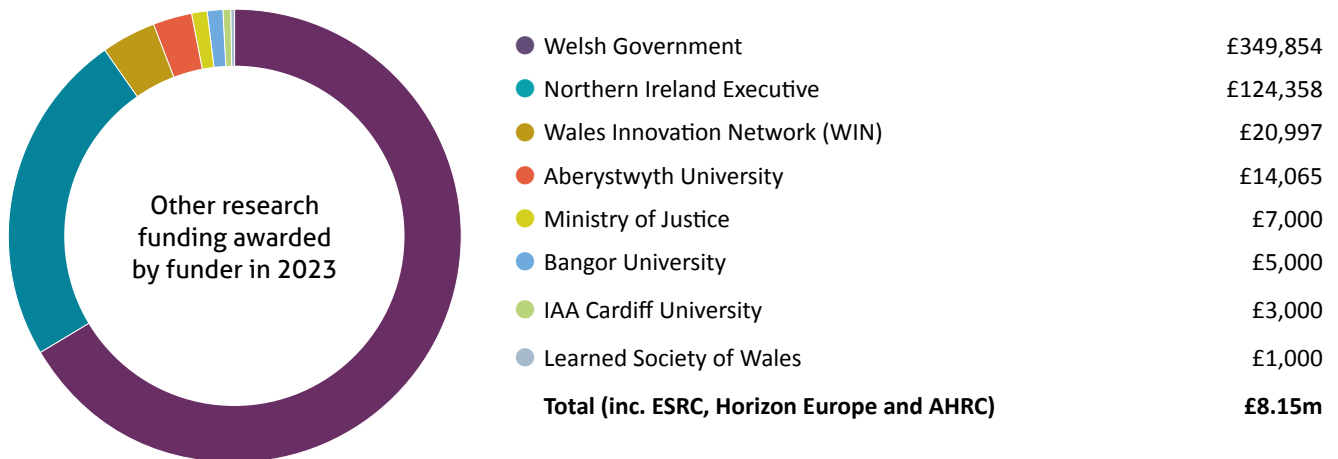
WISERD has an outstanding track record of winning competitive research funding. During 2023, WISERD applied for **36 research grants** across all five partner universities and was involved in research bids including those led by other organisations to the value of **£24.8m**.

WISERD's total research grant capture amount for 2023 was **£8.26m**.

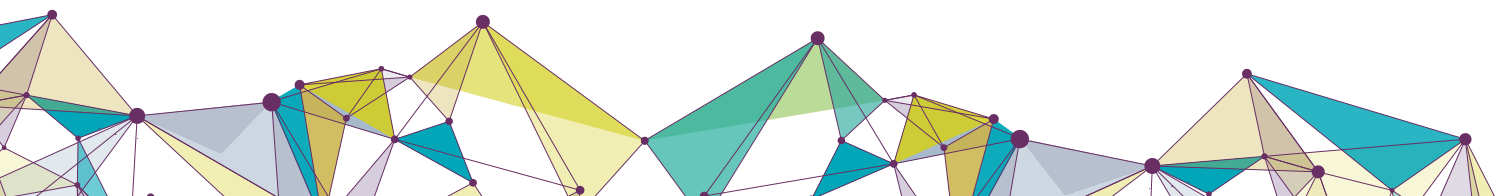
New funding in 2023

Over **£4.7m** of this funding is from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for the Rural Wales Local Policy and Innovation Partnership, another **£2.07m** of funding is from Horizon Europe for the Rural Discontent, Spatial Justice and Disruptive Politics in the 21st Century project, and a further **£716k** of funding is from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for the Community Open Map Platform for Future Generations: Charting the green transition on the Isle of Anglesey/Ynys project.

Other new funding is from the following funders:

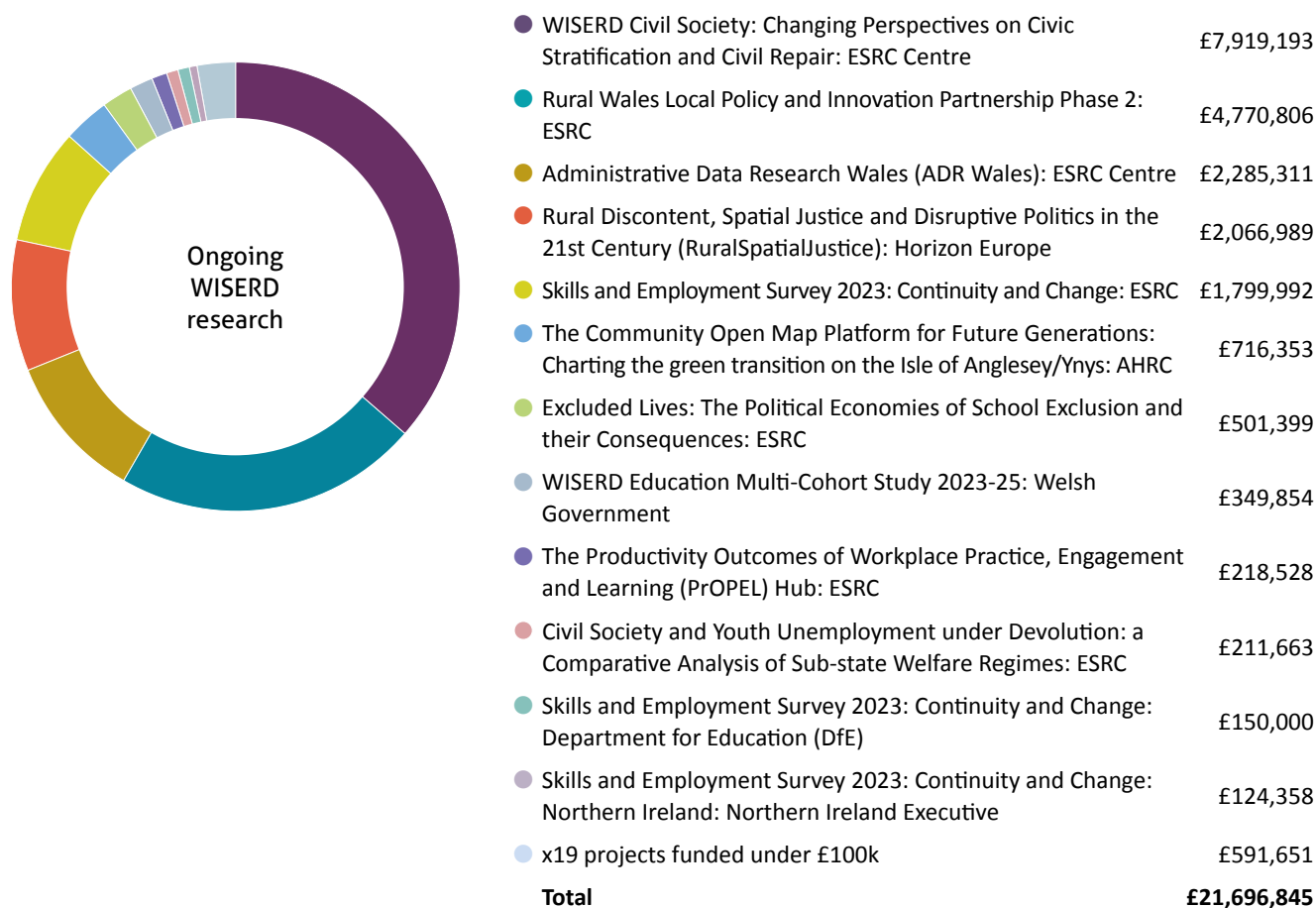


Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, was one of the keynote speakers at our WISERD Annual Conference in 2023 – read more on page 8.



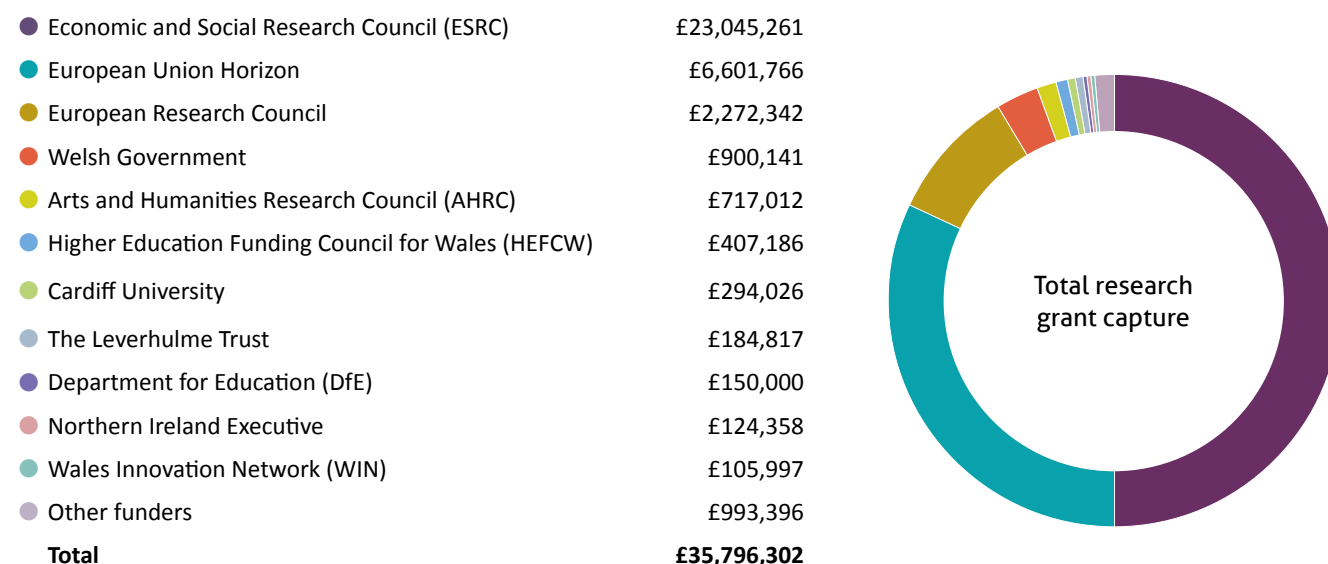
Current WISERD research (under management in 2023)

The value of ongoing WISERD research in 2023 was £16.2m across 19 research grants.



Research grant capture 2014-2023

Since 2014, WISERD has submitted 245 research funding bids across the WISERD partner universities, with a success rate of 53%. WISERD's total research grant capture since 2014 is £35.9m.



International links

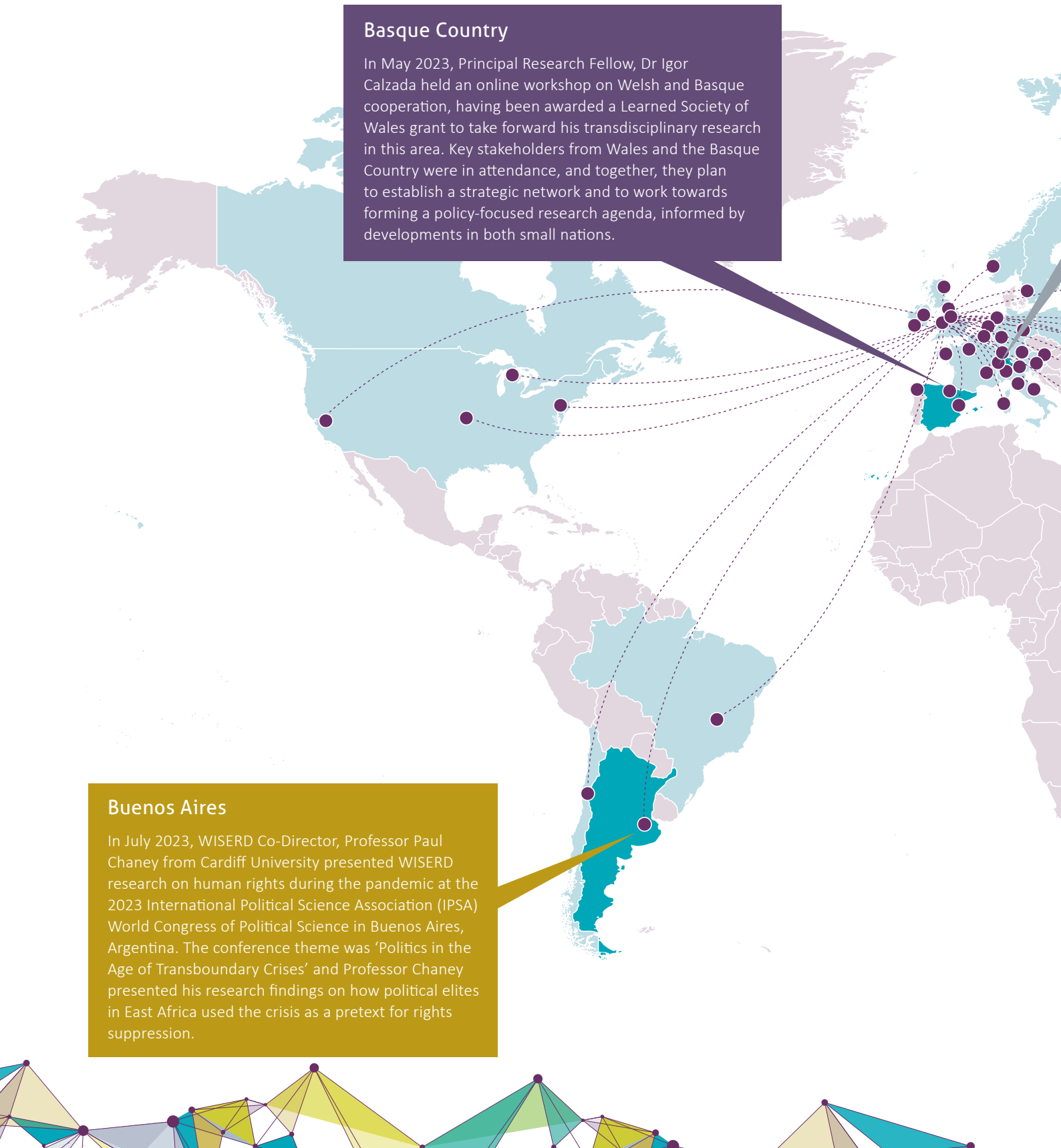
WISERD is proud to have continued to establish many international links. Collaborative research projects and events have taken place and some examples of these are highlighted below.

Basque Country

In May 2023, Principal Research Fellow, Dr Igor Calzada held an online workshop on Welsh and Basque cooperation, having been awarded a Learned Society of Wales grant to take forward his transdisciplinary research in this area. Key stakeholders from Wales and the Basque Country were in attendance, and together, they plan to establish a strategic network and to work towards forming a policy-focused research agenda, informed by developments in both small nations.

Buenos Aires

In July 2023, WISERD Co-Director, Professor Paul Chaney from Cardiff University presented WISERD research on human rights during the pandemic at the 2023 International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress of Political Science in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The conference theme was 'Politics in the Age of Transboundary Crises' and Professor Chaney presented his research findings on how political elites in East Africa used the crisis as a pretext for rights suppression.



Geneva

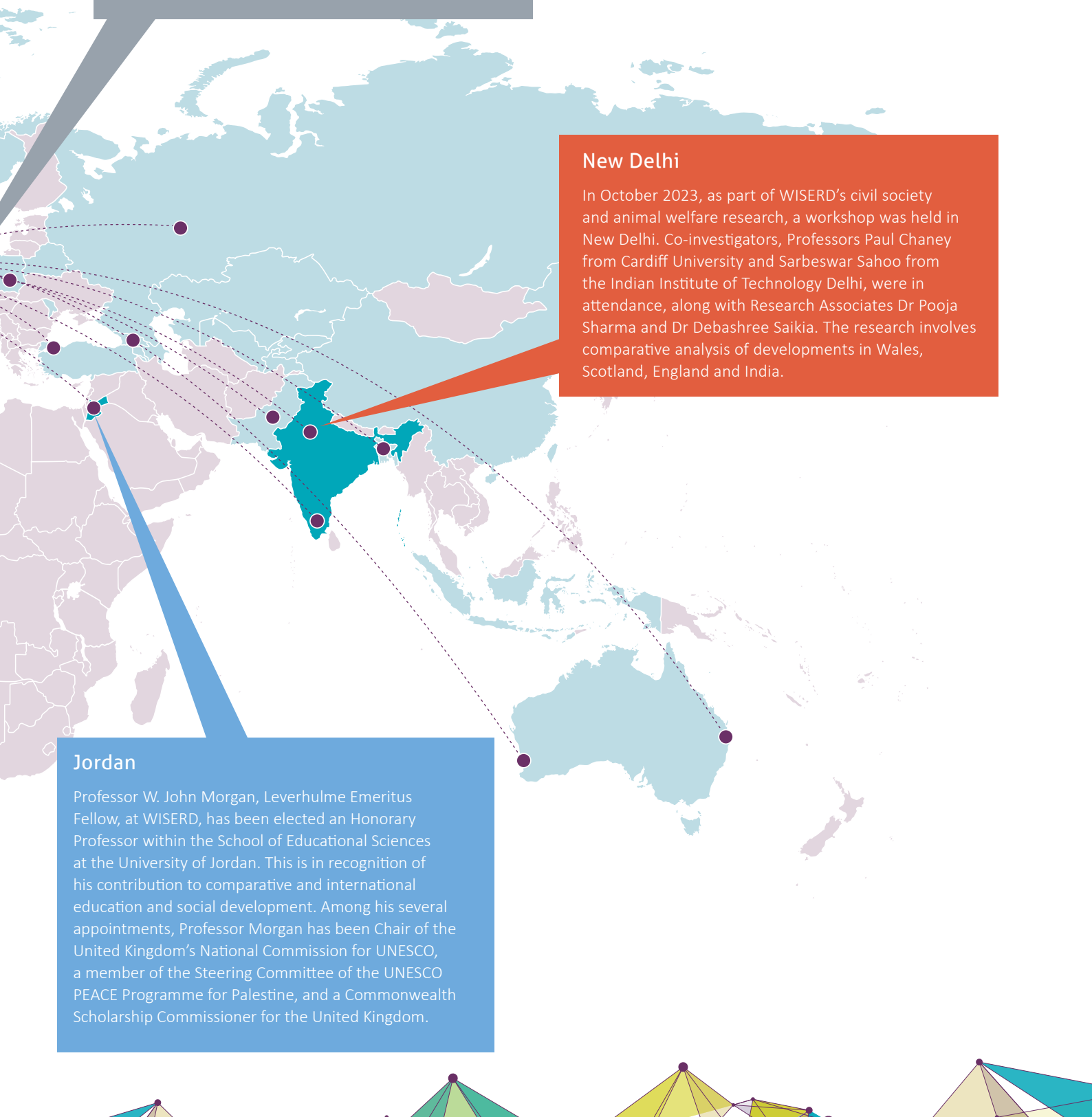
In November 2023, WISERD Co-Director, Dr Anwen Elias from Aberystwyth University attended the United Nations Geneva Minority Rights Forum and presented her latest paper, written on behalf of the Coppieters Foundation, which considers the implications of a new legal framework to protect minority rights on the exercise of the right to self-determination.

New Delhi

In October 2023, as part of WISERD's civil society and animal welfare research, a workshop was held in New Delhi. Co-investigators, Professors Paul Chaney from Cardiff University and Sarbeswar Sahoo from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, were in attendance, along with Research Associates Dr Pooja Sharma and Dr Debashree Saikia. The research involves comparative analysis of developments in Wales, Scotland, England and India.

Jordan

Professor W. John Morgan, Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow, at WISERD, has been elected an Honorary Professor within the School of Educational Sciences at the University of Jordan. This is in recognition of his contribution to comparative and international education and social development. Among his several appointments, Professor Morgan has been Chair of the United Kingdom's National Commission for UNESCO, a member of the Steering Committee of the UNESCO PEACE Programme for Palestine, and a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner for the United Kingdom.



Events and engagement

We delivered a total of **27 events** in 2023, ranging from workshops and training sessions to online seminars and international conferences.

WISERD Annual Conference, June 2023

Over **120 delegates**, nearly **20 exhibitors** and presenters from across a variety of disciplines gathered at Bangor University for the WISERD Annual Conference 2023. The theme was 'Civil society and governance in an age of crisis'.

Colleagues from across WISERD's five partner universities and those from further afield came together, and over the course of two busy days, nearly **50 research papers** were presented. Delegates were also invited to view an exhibition,

which comprised entries to this year's PhD student poster competition – sponsored by the Learned Society of Wales and the Welsh Graduate School for the Social Sciences.

We were joined by two keynote speakers: Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and Paul Spicker, Emeritus Professor at Robert Gordon University. We also welcomed Auriol Miller, former Director of the Institute of Welsh Affairs, for a special opening session: 'Exploring Wales' future constitutional options'.

Tackling Polarisation in Communities: Workshop with Alison Goldsworthy, July 2023

Facilitated by leading writer and consultant on polarisation, Alison Goldsworthy, this interactive workshop was concerned with community cohesion in Wales. It explored what polarisation is and what civil society groups, businesses and public bodies can do to counter it. This WISERD event was organised with the Aberystwyth University Dialogue Centre, supported by funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Research Wales Innovation Fund.

The event looked at the history of school student protest over the last 20 years, considering how pupil motivations and protest tactics have changed over time.

Online seminar series

We delivered **18 online seminars** in 2023, covering a wide variety of subjects presented by WISERD researchers and guest speakers.

Foundational Alliance Wales – Housing Action Conference, July 2023

Foundational Alliance Wales' summer conference showcased good practice in the Welsh housing sector. It also provided a forum for discussion on how we can do more inside and outside the housing sector with regard to putting foundational economics into practice.

Training and capacity-building (TCB) sessions

We delivered **five TCB sessions** in 2023:

- Beginning R: The Statistical Programming Language
- Introduction to QGIS and Census Data
- Basic Hypothesis Testing
- Data Visualisation and Infographic Design (two dates)

ESRC Festival of Social Science, November 2023

We took part in this year's ESRC Festival of Social Science with an interactive event focusing on school student protest in the UK.

National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM)

We continue to work collaboratively with the NCRM to provide face-to-face and online training courses that address a range of learning needs for researchers. We delivered **two NCRM courses** in 2023:

- Analysing and Presenting Methods Research
- Quantitative Methods for Qualitative Researchers

Media coverage

Innovative photography exhibition explores independence movements

The photography exhibition organised by Dr Anwen Elias and Dr Elin Royles at Aberystwyth University in April which explored how people's life experiences impact on their attitudes to independence in Catalonia, Wales, and Scotland, was covered extensively in English and Welsh-language media.

Climate change expertise

Dr Aaron Thierry, a WISERD postgraduate researcher at Cardiff University was interviewed on BBC News and BBC Radio Wales Breakfast in July about government plans to grant new oil and gas licences for the North Sea and the impacts of climate change, which is resulting in extreme weather across the world.

New research on Ofsted inspections

Professor Alan Felstead and Dr Katy Huxley from Cardiff University and Professor Francis Green from University College London released a new report in July showing that job quality is worse for teachers who are expecting an Ofsted inspection, which was covered extensively in the media.

Cardiff named the UK's first child-friendly city

WISERD expertise played a key role in shaping Cardiff's Child Friendly Strategy, which contributed towards Cardiff being named the UK's first UNICEF child-friendly city in October. This announcement was covered by the BBC, ITV, Sky News and more.

