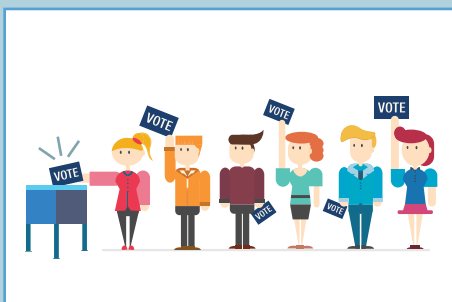


Tackling Inequalities



Politically Engaged but Unrepresented
Page 6



Exposing the Welfare Myth
of Them and Us
Page 16



WISERD Annual Conference 2015
Page 18

A Welcome from the WISERD Director



Professor Ian Rees Jones
WISERD Director

It's great to see the breadth and variety of research that is being taken forward by the WISERD work programmes, and the many ways in which WISERD researchers are working together across Universities, and with a range of different organisations. This March, the launch of the Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC-W), one of four centres forming the ESRC Administrative Data Research Network, was a great success and an important example of the potential we have for undertaking innovative multidisciplinary research to address important policy questions. It has also been a privilege to work with other organisations on events and seminars that address areas of

Spring sunshine in Wales means a warm welcome to another edition of WISERD news.

research that are of vital importance to Wales and the UK. The launch of Professor John Hills' book 'Good Times, Bad Times: The Welfare Myth of Them and Us', jointly organised with the Bevan Foundation, was a fine example of bringing important policy findings to the attention of a large audience in Wales for a stimulating and informed discussion. His work is a timely and meticulously researched challenge to those who attempt to demonise sections of society through the perpetuation of myths and half-truths.

I have just returned from the annual conference of the British Sociological Association in Glasgow. I was struck by the variety of research being presented by a new generation of sociologists and by the commitment they had to long term research programmes that make huge demands on their time and energy. It was clear that such commitment was paying off in terms of important findings across a range of areas. These included: the effect of incarceration policies on young men growing up in segregated neighbourhoods in America; to the long term deleterious effects of colonisation on indigenous peoples; to the deleterious impact of neo-liberal policies and an increasingly insecure labour market on individual lives and social relations. It was great to play a small part in that conference by

presenting on the relationship between an ageing society and changes in civil society. Coming away from the conference two things struck me as important to keep in mind. The first is that social scientists are continually making vital and important contributions to the public good every day; though we are sometimes shy about publicising that. The second is that continual pressure to demonstrate the impact of research may be self-defeating.

Many of the fine examples of research that I saw - work addressing the health impact of a sense of shame derived from inequality, for example, or the importance of timing and temporality in the diagnosis of dementia - took years of intensive and often stressful and exhausting fieldwork. The 'impact' of such work may not be immediately apparent, may be unpredictable, and may not follow simple linear processes. We need to ensure that our commitment to researching social life is underpinned by a commitment to critical and independent thought and it is on that basis that we can ensure our research is relevant and timely. I hope that the contents of WISERD news give some indication that we are doing just that.

Hwyl!



Reflections on the WISERD Civil Society Launch Event	Victoria Macfarlane	4
Introducing the Administrative Data Research Centre for Wales	Cathrine Richards	6
Politically Engaged but Unrepresented: Attitudes to Politics Among the Voters of Tomorrow	Dr Sioned Pearce	8
Introducing the New Cardiff ASCC Project	Dr Luke Cowie	10
Trade Union Membership and Civil Society in Wales	Rhys Davies, Dr Steve Davies, Dr Alex Bryson and Professor Huw Beynon	11
WISERD Civil Society Seminar Series 2015	Professor Paul Chaney	12
Storied Lands Page and Place: Ongoing Compositions of Plot	Dr Jon Anderson	13
New WISERD Publications	Natalie Richards	14
Exposing the Welfare Myth of Them and Us	Professor John Hills	16
WISERD Annual Conference 2015		18
Events & Activity		20



Reflections on the

WISERD Civil Society Launch Event

Victoria Macfarlane

The Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods (WISERD) celebrated the launch of its flagship WISERD Civil Society Research Centre on Thursday 5th February, 2015. WISERD Civil Society is a collaborative venture, involving researchers from across twelve UK Universities and a range of international partners.



Our speakers: **Professor Ian Rees Jones, Ruth Marks, Rhodri Morgan, Professor Saskia Sassen and Professor Gareth Rees**

In 2014 WISERD received funding in excess of £10 million to found a national research centre which will undertake a five year innovative and far-reaching research programme of policy relevant research addressing Civil Society in Wales, the UK and Internationally. This funding includes £7 million from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and a further £3m from Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales and Swansea Universities. The Centre's programme will explore a series of policy and practice relevant themes which impact upon civil society at local, regional and national levels. These will include: education, volunteering, well-being, ageing, governance and diversity.

The launch event took place at The Gate Arts Centre in Cardiff and was attended by some of the world's foremost academics, public and policy stakeholders, and civil society organisations. Speakers included: Ruth Marks (MBE), Chief Executive of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA); Rhodri Morgan, former First Minister for Wales; and Saskia Sassen, the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia

University and Co-Chair of The Committee on Global Thought.

The Centre is committed to undertaking research on civil society in order to benefit civil society and will have stakeholder engagement at its heart, working closely with a range of organisations including: the National Museum of Wales, Age Cymru, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, and the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services.

Dr Rosie Plummer, Director of the National Botanic Garden of Wales, said:

"This centre is a terrific development and we are enthusiastic about supporting its valuable research and collaborating with it. Understanding the potential and motivations of older volunteers, and overcoming any barriers to their involvement with us, will be enormously beneficial. At a time when the population is ageing, families are atomising, and a worryingly high proportion of young people (especially in rural areas) are not in education, employment or training, projects such as this have significant and widely important beneficial potential."

Echoing Dr Plummer's support, Bryan Collis, Senior Research Office at the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), said: *"The Civil Society Centre represents the biggest investment in research into volunteering, communities and voluntary activity in Wales I can remember. I hope it will result in a better understanding of the way Welsh communities work and are changing, so we, the people of Wales, can build stronger, more resilient communities. That will be essential as we face the challenges of the future. Sometimes the Welsh experience is lost in research that is UK based, so I'm looking forward to work that compares our experience and situation with other areas of the UK and beyond."*





WISERD Director Professor Ian Rees Jones reflected upon the event:

I spent a nervous few days prior to the WISERD Civil Society Research Centre launch. I wondered whether we would have an audience, hoped all the speakers would arrive safely, and fretted over whether everything would be ready in time. I should have stopped worrying and relaxed a bit more because everything was in place thanks to the efforts of WISERD hub staff. There was a great audience from a wide variety of organisations and we had a very interesting and enjoyable evening. The launch was held at The Gate in Cardiff which turned out to be the perfect venue; allowing us to set out poster displays of all the new projects we will be undertaking as part of the WISERD five year programme. I think people found this especially useful as a space to wander around and find out more about individual projects, as well as to

discuss ideas with the project researchers. The launch was opened by two excellent talks, the first from Ruth Marks from the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), and the second from Rhodri Morgan, former First Minister of Wales. Ruth gave a wonderful speech that emphasised the importance of close working between academic researchers and the voluntary sector in planning, undertaking and disseminating research. Drawing on examples from our joint working with the WCVA in preparing the WISERD Civil Society proposal, Ruth showed how working in partnership is a core part of the new WISERD centre.

It was also a delight to have Rhodri Morgan with us as he gave the inaugural speech at the first WISERD launch in 2009. Rhodri's commitment to social science research in Wales shone through then and the original support from the Welsh Government and Higher Education Funding Council for Wales provided the foundation for our more recent successes.

*Following Rhodri's talk we sojourned to the main lecture theatre to hear WISERD's own Professor Gareth Rees introduce Saskia Sassen; the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University. It was a great honour to have Saskia give the key note speech and she didn't let us down, giving a highly entertaining and stimulating talk based on her recent book; *Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy*. Using vivid examples, from a range of data sources, Saskia presented an incisive and cutting critique of the devastating consequences of an out-of-control global financial system can wreak upon local communities and vulnerable*

groups. This was followed by a lively question and answer session from the floor that clearly showed the relevance of Saskia's work for research with regards local forms of civil society.

There was much there to digest and to reflect upon in relation to the different research projects we are undertaking – from the role of local economic and political actors, to the importance of civic participation across generational groups. I was struck by the many people who came up to me in the following days who had been stimulated by the ideas and new perspectives offered by Saskia's talk. It was a great start to our flagship Civil Society Research Centre, and I hope it inspired everyone to engage with our diverse programme of research. Now the hard work begins.

For further information about WISERD Civil Society, please visit: <http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/civil-society/>



Rhodri Morgan



Saskia Sassen

Introducing the

Administrative Data Research Centre for Wales

Cathrine Richards

A new social research centre that will facilitate access to de-identified administrative data to support economic and social research has been launched in Wales.

The Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC Wales), led by Professor David Ford at Swansea University in partnership with the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data & Methods (WISERD) at Cardiff University, is one of four centres forming the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) – a UK wide data infrastructure that will facilitate access to de-identified administrative data to support economic and social research that has the potential to benefit society.

ADRC Wales will work with accredited researchers to facilitate access to, and linking of de-identified data on themes such as education, health and social mobility data as well as many other long standing records from different government departments.

The aim of the Centre is to facilitate research using de-identified linked administrative data in a safe, secure and lawful manner that at all times protects individual privacy, resulting in research that can provide a sound evidence base for policy makers to decide how best to tackle a range of complex social, economic, environmental and health issues.

Speaking at the ADRC Wales launch event held at Swansea University in March, Professor David Ford said: “No matter which part of the UK one lives in, we can be sure that Society is changing rapidly around us. Pretty much everyone wants to live in a fair and supportive world enjoying a good standard of living. But history has shown us that this is a hard ambition to realise.

“Society is a very complex thing and is never static. One advantage we have over previous generations is that we now have available a vast and growing array of data that can help explain how modern society works, and which can be used to assess the impacts of changes that are made.

“ADRC Wales, working with academics across Wales and the UK, is a marvellous new initiative, which will revolutionise the way in which we use data to improve society. Building on our acknowledged reputation for the safe and trustworthy use of complex social data, the Administrative Data Research Centre Wales will be the focal point for data-related research in Wales, and be a major player in UK-wide efforts to transform research and policy environments.”

ADRC Wales was officially launched by the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, Jane Hunt AM, who said: “The launch of this Centre in Wales is another success for our higher education institutions who are at the forefront of work in this area. By using data across different topic areas in a responsible, safe and secure manner it provides an innovative opportunity to further develop our evidence base on which to make decisions and understand what works. Welsh Government looks forward to working with the Centre in the years ahead to maximise the benefits it can bring.”





Professor David Ford, Dr Fiona Armstrong , Jane Hutt AM, Professor Keith Lloyd and Professor Richard B. Davies

The process by which data is linked is integral to the ADRN and four Centres. Using an independent secure linking facility, data collected* from different government bodies can be linked together enabling accredited researchers to analyse a more inclusive set of data in more depth.

- The user services team at ADRC Wales will work with researchers to prepare their research proposals for submission to an independent Approvals Panel. The Approvals Panel reviews each application and makes a decision on the basis of the project's feasibility, privacy impact, ethics, scientific merit and public benefit.
- All researchers go through an approvals process and must undertake ADRN specific accreditation before accessing data.
- The ADRN's strict security and ethical standards make sure that all directly identifying personal information is removed and remains separate from the research data.
- There are expert staff within ADRC Wales, who will help you with your project once successful, safeguard data security by applying mandatory statistical checks for statistical disclosure control.
- All researchers access the data in a safe, secure setting. Researchers cannot take any data out of this safe setting, and ADRC Wales staff will scrutinise results before publication to make sure that they are relevant and that privacy is always protected

To access the resources available through the ADRC Wales you need to be an experienced researcher, working within an academic institution, government department or third sector organisation eligible for Research Councils UK funding.

To find out more about ADRC Wales contact the team on 01792 606918 or email ADRCWales@Swansea.ac.uk

Further information on the ADRN and the four UK Centres can be found at www.adrn.ac.uk

*The Administrative Data Research Centre Wales does not hold datasets. It works closely with government departments to make them available to researchers, but this is negotiated on case-by-case basis.

The Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC Wales) is a collaborative venture between the Universities of Swansea and Cardiff. ADRC Wales provides support and facilities for researchers to carry out analysis using administrative data with secure access facilities based at both Swansea and Cardiff Universities. ADRC Wales aims to create a world-class administrative data research centre that is widely known for its ability to access, link and make safe use of data for high quality research underpinned by a robust governance framework. ADRC Wales is part of the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) - a UK partnership that brings together universities, government, national statistical authorities, funders and research centres. The ADRN has been created to make the vast amount of information collected by different government departments and agencies available for academic research. This research can be used to provide a sound base for policy makers to decide how to tackle a range of complex social, economic, environmental and health issues.



Attitudes to Politics Among the Voters of Tomorrow

Dr Sioned Pearce

The dust is settling on the aftermath of the 2015 election and a picture of the current UK political landscape starting to emerge. While there are many interesting and critical political questions to address from the results, we focus here on those just below the line of electoral eligibility for this election: 16 and 17 year olds.

Lowering the voting age to 16 and 17 for the 2014 Scottish referendum and the subsequent high percentage of participants (80%) from this age group has drawn our attention to the political participation of under-18s in the UK as a whole.

According to Labour lowering the UK voting age to 16 would boost the electorate by 1.5 million, half the population of Wales. In addition the Welsh Electoral Reform Society is currently lobbying for votes at 16, improved education in schools and the establishment of a Youth Assembly to give more power and a voice to young people in Wales; driven in part by the Welsh Government's decision to end funding to the Welsh Youth Assembly, Funky Dragon.

In short, the political engagement, participation and rights of 16 and 17 years olds is firmly on the Welsh political agenda. However, despite often being politically active in many areas of society (Electoral Reform Society, 2015) the voting patterns and views of under-18s are not included in election data, because they are not eligible to vote and the attitudes to politics among this group yet to be fully understood.

Research by the Scottish Parliament's Devolution Committee into attitudes to politics among 16 and 17 year olds found: 56% 'very likely' to vote in a UK Parliamentary election given the chance. Is the same true of 16 and 17 year olds in Wales? The data presented below goes some way towards answering this question and show some interesting results on general attitudes to politics among this age group.

WISERD Education is currently running a longitudinal Cohort Study in 29 primary and secondary schools across Wales. Led

by Professor Sally Power and Professor Chris Taylor, the study asks pupils about their school, home and social life. The aims are to give a voice to young people in Wales, particularly on region-specific issues such as the Welsh language and Welsh cultural heritage. The findings presented here fit into the wider findings of this study and the political landscape of Wales post-May 2015.

Background

While data on the UK electorate are well publicised, less data is available on the attitudes and political tendencies of those not yet eligible to vote. With this in mind, coupled with decentralisation and constitutional reform as a crucial element in the general election campaign, this research aims to better understand the attitudes to politics among 'the voters of tomorrow' in Wales. This is interesting given the pre-electorate age group but also given the changing constitutional shape of the United Kingdom (UK).

Devolution increasingly influences the attitudes to politics we see in the UK today, the most recent and clear example being the SNP sweep on the 7th May. However, according to territorial rescaling theory, the contrast between lived experience and political, social and personal identification with space, means an individual or group living in a territory with delineated boundaries may not necessarily identify with the assigned political characteristics of that space. When applied to this study we can see young peoples' subjective view, experience and attitude to politics in Wales seem to contrast with the issues UK politicians are talking about at a crucial time in British constitutional history. This raises interesting questions about geo-political representation, such as: at what spatial scale are the issues young people care about, and who is representing these

issues in geographical areas?

In the run-up to the 2015 general election a team at WISERD Education asked over 500 young people aged from 12 to 17 in 12 Welsh secondary schools for their opinions on politics. 120 responses came from 16 and 17 year olds, a group of particular interest given recent government discussion around lowering the voting age to 16. In addition, because of the high voter turnout among Scottish 16 and 17 year olds last September (around 80%) and the approximate number of Scottish 16 and 17 year olds who would vote in a general election given the chance (56%); gauging the 'Welsh angle' against the 'referendum effect' has become essential.

Headlines

Initial findings show our 16 and 17 year old respondent views on politics and political issues are mixed and often contradictory.

- 89% of pupils think it matters who is in charge of the country;
- 70% think politics affects their life to some degree.

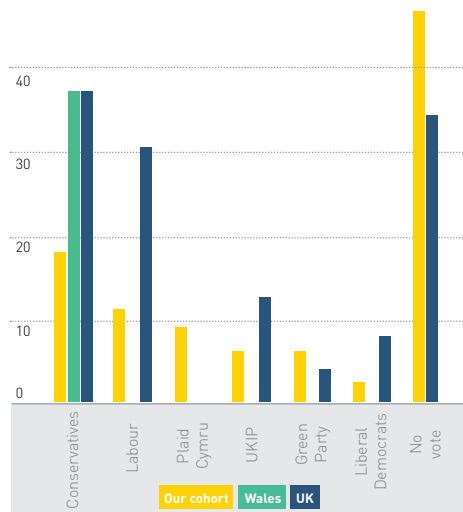
And yet

- 49% do not want the voting age to be lowered to 16;
- 31% do not know who they would vote for in an election;
- 18% would not vote in an election given the chance.

So what does this tell us?

In terms of 'who' runs the country, the 89% who think it is important could be referring to political 'leaders' or a 'political party'. Research shows, despite popular belief, leader 'personality' is less important than political party ideology when influencing voters (Aarts, Blais & Schmitt, 2011). With this in mind we looked at attitudes to





Percentage of actual votes in the UK election by party, compared with voting preference of 16 - 17 years old cohort.

political parties among our respondents. The data reveals a common lack of strong identification with any of the main parties. Our results show the Conservatives with 18% of the vote followed by Labour with 11%, Plaid Cymru with 9%, the Green Party and UKIP with 6%, the Liberal Democrats with 2%. However, most significantly is the 49% who 'would not vote' (18%) or 'do not know' who to vote for (31%). This shows both an active choice not to engage in the democratic process or perhaps a lack of either knowledge, motivation or the will to engage. This could also explain the percentage in favour of lowering the voting age to 16 (43%), small compared to other studies of this type. For example, the Youth Citizenship Commission (2009) found 64% of 16 and 17 year olds supported the proposal to lower the voting age to 16.

The table above shows the percentage of actual votes in the UK election by party compared with the voting preference of our 16 and 17 year olds. Our cohort is less likely to vote for the Conservatives than those in the UK or Wales as a whole. They are also less likely to vote for Labour, Plaid Cymru and UKIP but more likely to vote for the Green party than the UK and Wales as a whole. The most striking statistic is the percentage of those who would not vote, 15% higher than the UK as a whole.

However, despite the high numbers not wanting to vote, 70% think politics affects their lives to some degree. Results are divided between 23% who said politics affects their life 'a lot' and 47% who said 'a bit'. 30% said 'not at all'. This means a significant number feel politics affects them but want no further control over who is elected. Speculatively pupils could be shying away from taking part in selecting 'who runs the country' because they see it as a responsibility. Equally the lack of strong favour for any of the political parties could mean the group would like to engage in the democratic process but do not feel they have a representative in the political sphere that would allow them to do so. Do young people feel particularly unrepresented by political parties? This question is especially relevant to the Liberal Democrats; with only 2% of the sample's vote, could their U-turn on tuition fees have lost them this age group? Findings will be explored further to unpack these ideas.

Despite the mixed messages on engagement with democratic processes, 47% felt strongly about a particular issue. 42 issues were given and then coded into 22 categories ranging from 'agricultural' (including badger culling and dairy prices) to 'terrorism' (including Middle Eastern politics and ISIS) and 'pressure to attain' (including school being stressful and support for Russell Brand). The most frequently occurring issue (19%) was equality, generally, but also specifically between genders, races, religions and groups. This was followed by a concern about racism (linked with UKIP in one case).

Results depict a well-informed group of young people who care about a number of meaningful, politically-related, issues. This contrasts with attitudes to voting and elections and points to a larger problem of democratic rather than political disengagement. To consolidate this problem the issues raised do not resonate strongly with the most talked-about political issues among politicians according to a recent study. The Keller Fay Group (2015) found the most discussed

issues in the run up to May 2015 are: 'democratic and constitutional reform', 'immigration' and 'the NHS', followed by 'leader values', 'party values', and 'the EU'.

To focus on the issue of devolution and in-line with territorial rescaling studies, the issues have been sub-categorised according to the geographical scale at which they are located, ranging from local to global. The majority of issues (48%) were located at 'national' (UK) scale.

With devolution in mind, this is particularly interesting. None of the self-reported issues related directly to living in Wales. So while the Scottish referendum served to engage the 16 and 17 year old population on the issue of devolution, the same 'effect' is not visible among our sample group in Wales. Indeed the rise in popularity among the SNP has not been mirrored in support for Plaid Cymru, exemplified in the result shown here. However, the cohort study asks a number of direct questions on attitudes relating to living in Wales, such as language, culture and politics, which will be analysed alongside the results presented here and may give a better understanding.

Notes

Funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales the study is now in its third year.

For further information contact Dr Sioned Pearce - PearceS11@cardiff.ac.uk

Introducing the

New Cardiff ASCC Project

Dr Luke Cowie

The All Wales Academic Social Care Research Collaboration (ASCC) is a three year programme funded by the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR). ASCC was developed in response to the Huxley (2009) report which identified a clear need for increased social care research capacity, and greater levels of collaboration between academics, social care policy makers and social care practitioners in Wales. ASCC is made up of three separate but linked projects, based in the Universities of Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea.

The Cardiff ASCC project is led by Professor Ian Rees Jones, WISERD. The original ASCC Cardiff project: **Social Care and Social Work Research Skills Capacity Building, the WISERD E-learning Initiative**, ran between September 2012 and June 2014. The aim of this project was to explore the use of e-learning resources as a method for developing research skills within the Social Care sector, with a particular focus on social workers. In order to ascertain the role of research within the sector and the potential demand for research skills training, the ASCC team carried out a series of interviews with social work practitioners and managers and organised a number of focus group meetings and events. The findings of this research indicated that whilst consumption of research was a necessary component of a social workers role, social workers had differing views of what actually constituted research; and the need for research within the sector was often related to immediate problem solving rather than long term evidence gathering. Moreover undertaking research was not seen as a key priority and given other time commitments, did not fit into the average social workers role. A report on the first phase of the project is currently being prepared and will be published via the ASCC website (www.asccymru.org).

The ASCC Cardiff team are now undertaking an additional project: **Adult Social Care and the Foundational Economy**. This project is examining existing provision and the scope for innovative delivery of adult social care by means of social licencing, social enterprises, co-operatives and not for profit organisations. The project is rooted in the arguments for a 'Foundational Economy' (Bentham et al 2013; Law and Williams 2014) and involves collaboration with colleagues in Manchester, Durham and Queen Mary, University of London.

Research is being undertaken to explore the current extent of not-for profit sector provision in Wales and compare this with other regions of the UK and Europe. The team will also be undertaking analysis of standard UK adult social care agency business models and investigating their consequences for the extent and quality of care and for employment conditions (including pay and hours). The team will also seek to collate evidence on the potential benefits of a foundational economy approach and the scope for innovative changes to work and the broader organisational aspects of care. Lastly, case study work will be undertaken in Wales; in tandem with a comparative case study in London funded by Enfield

Borough Council; to assess and identify mechanisms and policy interventions that enable Local Authorities to shift towards not-for-profit provision. In addition to the research element, the project will also include a significant capacity building element, with a number of workshops, seminars and focus groups planned, the first of which will take place at the WISERD Annual Conference on 30 June - 2 July 2015 in Cardiff.

The project will make an important contribution to research on the social care sector in Wales and the UK. In delivering the project, the team will utilise a range of methods, including: reviews of relevant UK and international literature, interviews with key stakeholders, analysis of routine data and geo-spatial data, economic and organisational modelling and comparative policy research. The project will build on the skills and knowledge available from a multi-disciplinary steering group and in addition, through collaboration, it will aim to establish a lasting and unique network of researchers, policy actors and practitioners working in the field.

For further information on the project visit: <http://bit.ly/1Gu0kgl> or contact ASCC Cardiff Researcher Luke Cowie on cowiel1@cardiff.ac.uk



Trade Union Membership, Associated Life and Wellbeing

Rhys Davies, Dr Steve Davies, Dr Alex Bryson and Professor Huw Beynon

The downward trend in trade union membership in the UK and the USA is well recognised and has been the subject of continued debate amongst trade unionists and labour researchers for some time. Recent data for the UK clearly demonstrates both this downward trend and the persistent differentials that exist between the four countries of the UK. Understanding the determinants of trade union membership and the reasons that underpin such downward trends is of real importance. Previous research has demonstrated the positive effect that trade union membership has on workers in terms of their earnings, skill acquisition at the workplace and health and safety.

Over the last couple of decades, considerable attention has also been placed on the importance of High Performance Work-practices as a route to competitive advantage, highlighting the importance of employee involvement in decision making and job enrichment as ways of increasing organisational commitment. Unions may therefore also contribute to increased levels of well-being and economic performance by providing a collective voice for workers.

Interest in the effects of the union movement upon well-being however extends beyond the boundaries of the workplace. The presence of trade unions may also impact upon social capital at an individual level through the fostering of frequent interaction between members both inside and outside of work as a strategy to maintain membership and to support mobilisation. Previous research has also examined how trade unions may also interact with civil society organisations and other forms of social movements to enhance the welfare of their members. Geographical differences in trade union membership may therefore also relate to variations in other measures of social capital and associational life. Research has focussed upon the importance of incumbency effects as one of the main reasons as to why workers develop favourable attitudes towards trades unions. Unionism is what economists refer to as an ‘experience good’—that is, potential union members can only fully understand the benefits of unionization by experiencing it firsthand.

Regional variations in union membership therefore become path dependent, as do rising rates of non-unionisation that create a self-perpetuating decline in union density. However within all this, some rather fundamental questions about why people join trade unions have been overlooked, most notably the impact of history and location and the patterning of kinship ties that affect collective understandings. Inter-generational transmission of union membership behaviour may be expected to provide an important insight in to this path dependence.

However, can such transmission mechanisms account for all the observed differentials in union density or can other factors also be identified?

This project attempts to cast light on these issues by a mixed methods study of trade union membership and how the trade union movement contributes to other aspects of civil society. The analysis will focus upon pronounced geographical variations in the density of trade union membership in the UK using Wales as an exemplar. The research programme will attempt to address the following key research questions:

- Where are levels of trade union membership higher or lower than we would expect to observe?
- Can differences in membership levels be attributed to differences in the nature and activities of trade unions, the attitudes of employers/workers?

- What is the contribution of inter-generational transmission to explaining regional variations in membership?
- What affect does geographical mobility have on trade union membership?
- How do trade unions (and their form) contribute to other aspects of social capital/associational life and are there geographical variations in these?

In addressing these questions, secondary analysis of existing survey data (including the Annual Population Survey, the Workplace Employment Relations Survey and Understanding Society) will be complemented through a series of interviews, local studies that will document changes in trade union practice and the nature of the links with other social movements and local organisations. Qualitative research will include life history interviews with union activists to explore their motivations in becoming active within the union movement; interviews with a sample of non-unionised young workers, employed on “non- traditional” labour contracts in sectors with historically low levels of trade union membership to examine whether pro-union or collective sentiments exist among the workforce and analyses of how unions are adapting their structures and strategies to engage with these types of workers.

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WISERD Civil Society

Seminar Series 2015

The 2015 WISERD Seminar Series reflects the rich diversity of projects comprising WISERD's Civil Society programme.

Drawing on a range of qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques and engaging with a varied aspects of social theory they encompass: perceptions and attitudes to Street Pastors in relation to formal policing and community safety; the social processes underpinning the relationships between mass higher education and the structuring of the local social relations of civil society; civil society and differences in human rights discourses across the constituent parts of the UK; third sector organisations and public policy-making in a devolved Wales; civil society, generativity and the third age; analysis of how changes around devolution have provided opportunities for trade unions to influence governmental decision making. The seminars are aimed at all with an interest in the key issues and policy challenges facing civil society in the twenty-first century.

Upcoming Seminars

Third Sector Organisations and Public Policy-making in a Devolved Wales

*9th July 2015, 5.30pm – 6.30 pm,
Main Building, Council Chamber, Cardiff*

Presenter: Professor Paul Chaney (Cardiff University)

At the outset of devolution in Wales engagement with the third sector was described by the First Minister as one of 'three golden threads of partnership at the heart of the National Assembly's activities'. Allied to this, the Voluntary Sector Scheme required by the devolution statute asserted 'the Assembly recognises the role [... voluntary organizations] play in formulating and delivering public policy'.

A decade-and-a-half later, this seminar draws upon an extensive set of qualitative accounts from third sector policy actors in order to explore the issues, progress and challenges associated with third sector organisations' policy engagement with 'devolved' government in Wales. It considers the extent to which third sector interests have been reflected in parties' policy programmes in devolved elections, and the way that party politics and the rapidly developing constitutional basis of devolution in Wales have impacted on the third sectors' policy role.

This seminar relates to Work Package 2.2 of WISERD's Civil Society research centre grant.

Civil Society, Generativity and the Third Age *7th October 2015 University of Manchester*

Presenter: Dr Martin Hyde (Manchester University), Dr Martijn Hogerbrugge & Professor Ian Rees Jones (Cardiff University)

This seminar will explore the themes of generativity and the third age within the context of civil society.

This seminar relates to Work Package 4.1 of WISERD's Civil Society research centre grant.

Campaigning Unions, Devolved Government: Reflections on State, Unions and Civil Society

November 12th 2015 Cardiff University

Presenter: Dr Steve Davies and Professor Huw Beynon (Cardiff University)

Based on a series of interviews with trade union leaders in Wales, this presentation examines how the changes around devolution have provided opportunities for trade unions in Wales to influence governmental decision making that do not exist in England. However there are limits to this, and the presentation will also review how trade unions in Wales are using other (and sometimes new) ways of advancing members' interests.

This seminar relates to Work Package 3.3 of WISERD's Civil Society research centre grant.

Previous Seminars

Cardiff Street Pastors: A Case Study *29th April 2015, Cardiff University*

Presenters: Dr Nick Johns (Cardiff University) and Dr Alison Green (Glyndŵr University)

Universities and the Structuring of Civil Society: The Transition from Elite to Mass Higher Education *14th May 2015, Cardiff University*

Presenters: Professor Gareth Rees and Professor Chris Taylor (Cardiff University)

Civil Society and Human Rights across the United Kingdom *3rd June 2015, Bangor University*

Presenters: Dr Martina Feilzer (Bangor University)

Further Information

For further information about this series please visit the WISERD website: www.wiserd.ac.uk/events, or contact WISERD's Events Officer Sarah Creed by emailing WISERD.Events@cardiff.ac.uk or calling 029 2087 0983



Storied Lands

Page and Place: Ongoing Compositions of Plot

Dr Jon Anderson

Our lives, and the landscapes in which we live in, are storied in nature. These stories come in many different forms: from policy materials, census data, media reports, official documents and scholarly insight, to authorial fantasy. According to Piatti and Hurni, these stories form a 'rich geographical layer' that 'hovers... above the physically comprehensible world'; and, like early maritime seafarers, we 'navigate by [these] stories'. Stories therefore function as a form of mapping, they not only offer us 'thin', functional descriptions of the location of key landmarks, but also 'deeper' points of reference by which we can orient ourselves and understand the world in which we live. Due to their relative importance, stories permeate into our geographical reality, in Deleuze and Guattari's phrase, stories gradually, but inevitably, 'displace... from text to territory'.

The WISERD funded book 'Page and Place: Ongoing Compositions of Plot' (published by Rodopi) explores this process. It focuses explicitly on fictional stories – novels written in English but based in Welsh locations – in order to critically examine the ways in which stories can tell us something about our spatial and social identity. Drawing on twelve authors, including Iain Sinclair, Gillian Clarke, Niall Griffiths, Owen Sheers, and Peter Finch, it argues that stories – in whatever form – can entangle with 'reality' to form our comprehensible world, and help us navigate our lives. More specifically, it explores how these novels cartographically chart a sense of local place, and how these maps outline a new sense of national identity for devolved Wales in the twenty-first century.

Below is an extract from the first chapter: "Literature, with its integrated triad of person, [narrative] and place, is an essential field for geography no less than for any other discipline attempting an explication of the human condition." (Pocock, 1988:87)

The fields of literature and geography have many elements in common. As Pocock tells us, both disciplines are connected by the 'integrated triad' of person, narrative and place, whilst both also seek to use these constitutive relations to offer new insights into the human condition. This book develops these premises through exploring how the imaginary worlds of stories intersect, conflict, and supplement geographical ideas to further our understanding of the people and places around us. It explores how books reshape our perception of the world and how geographical theories proffer new insights into fictional literature. In line with Pocock,

the book argues that through examining the complex connections between the geography of places and the geography of pages we can gain new understandings of the human condition.

This book explores the relations between humans, stories, and places through questioning the traditional assumption of literary geography, namely, that there is a clear distinction between 'real' geographies on one hand, and 'imagined' fiction on the other. It argues that fictions are not inevitably detached and apart from real life, rather fiction becomes insinuated into the material locations of the everyday. The 'real' and the 'imagined', or 'place' and 'page', are therefore not discrete and oppositional in their relations, but rather they are thoroughly entangled. This insight is important as human beings live our lives in places. In other words, we are spatial beings. Geographical locations come to define our identity and our culture and, in turn, our lives and actions influence the meanings and significance of these key geographical sites. It is in these reciprocal relations between people and place that literature plays a key role. It is possible for literature to mediate and illuminate human life. Not only do the relations between people and place form the basis for fictional narratives, stories themselves can hold up a mirror to the real world and draw our attention to issues, problems, and ideas that escape our attention. In these ways, fiction pervades and penetrates our lives.

About the Author: Dr Jon Anderson is a Reader in Human Geography at the School of Planning and Geography, Cardiff University. His academic interests are oriented around the 'extraordinary sets of relations between people and

places' (Holloway & Hubbard, 2000:6). These 'extraordinary relations' circulate around a number of spaces of interest (Environmental Action and Identity; Geography, Place & Culture; Rural Political Action; Water Worlds and Surfing Places; Emerging Ontologies; Literary Geographies; Innovative methodologies and communication) and have led to a range of international quality research publications and funding projects.



Publications

New research explores issue salience and the policy framing associated with the substantive representation of ethnic minorities.

Published in April 2015, a new study by WISERD Co-Director, Paul Chaney, Cardiff University, explores issue salience and the policy framing associated with the substantive representation of ethnic minorities.

Its focus is party programmes in Westminster (1964–2010) and Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish elections (1998–2011). The analysis reveals a significant increase in issue salience driven by parties of the Left. This applies to both state-wide and meso-elections, thereby providing evidence of political reprioritisation in the wake of ethnic minority activism in the 1970s and 1980s. At the meso-level new political opportunity structures are shown to be leading to the territorialisation of policy. However, the analysis also reveals significant shortcomings, including parties' failure to adopt a systematic approach consistent with the post-1997 discourse on mainstreaming.

Full article details:

Chaney, P. (2015) *Manifesto Discourse and the Substantive Representation of Ethnic Minorities: Analysis of UK State-Wide and Meso Elections, 1964–2011*, *Parliamentary Affairs: A Journal of Representative Politics* (Oxford University Press/ Hansard Society) <http://pa.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/07/03/pa.gst010.abstract>

New research explores substantive representation of women.

Published in April 2015, a new study by WISERD Co-Director, Paul Chaney, Cardiff University, heeds recent calls for a refocusing and reconceptualising of the substantive representation of women (SRW). It examines the parliamentary scrutiny of Westminster governments' legislative programmes. The findings show that whilst the proportion of SRW legislative proposals remains small ($\leftarrow 1\%$), there has been a substantial increase in the amount of attention/visibility given to the SRW. Interventions are made by male and female parliamentarians (numerically more men; proportionately more women). Whilst the number of actors making such interventions has increased over time, the more striking finding is the increase in the substance and detail of interventions. This suggests: (a). the extent, quality and focus of SRW interventions is shaped by the interplay of 'critical actors' and overall presence of women parliamentarians; and (b). 'critical actors' need to be seen more in terms of the key role of particular individuals rather than all who act to bring about women-friendly policy change.

Full article details:

Chaney, P. (2015) 'Organized out of Politics'? *Parliamentary Scrutiny of the Substantive Representation of Women in UK Governments' Legislative Programmes 1945–2012*, *Women's Studies International Forum*, Elsevier ISSN: 0277-5395 <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/womens-studies-international-forum/>

New research into the role of electoral politics in shaping public policy on rail transport.

Published in April 2015, a new study by WISERD Co-Director, Paul Chaney, Cardiff University, addresses a key lacuna by exploring the role of electoral politics in shaping public policy on rail transport in (quasi-)federal systems of governance. Attention centres on issue-salience and policy framing in party manifestos in state-wide and regional elections. The findings reveal a significant rise in issue-salience in parties' Westminster election programmes; with Right – and Left-of-centre parties increasingly advocating mixed economy approaches to rail transport as part of the wider rise of 'valence politics'. The analysis also reveals how devolution may lead to the territorialisation of rail transport policy. In contrast to parties' Westminster programmes, regional manifesto discourse evidences a general rejection of neo-liberalism and stronger support for state control and/or not-for-profit rail operators. Overall, the findings underline the formative nexus between political representation and public policy – and show how, in the wake of state decentralisation, policy framing is contingent on 'regional' socio-economic factors and party politics, including state-building by civic nationalist parties.

Full article details:

Chaney, P. (2015) *Exploring political parties' manifesto discourse on tourism: Analysis of Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish elections 1998–2011*, *Annals of Tourism Research* <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/annals-of-tourism-research/> 50, pp. 113–127. (10.1016/j.annals.2014.11.012) Ranking: 1/74 Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Management, Impact factor: 3.216



Other publications from WISERD staff

Blackaby, D, Felstead, A, Jones, M, Makepeace, G, Murphy, P and Wass, V (2015) **'Is the public sector pay advantage explained by differences in job quality?'** *Unequal Britain at Work*, Oxford University Press.

Bryan, M. and Bryson, A. (2015) **'Has Performance Pay Increased Wage Inequality in Britain?'**, *NIESR Discussion Paper No. 446*

Bryson, A. and Chevalier, A. (forthcoming) **'Is there a Taste for Racial Discrimination Among Employers?'**, *Labour Economics* [previously IZA Discussion Paper No. 817, CEP Discussion Paper No. 1283 and NIESR Discussion Paper No. 427]

Bryson, A. and Green, F. (2015) **'Unions and Job Quality'**, Chapter 7, *Unequal Britain at Work*, pp. 130-146, Oxford University Press

Bryson, A. and MacKerron, G. (forthcoming) **'Are You Happy While You Work?'**, *The Economic Journal*, [previously CEP Discussion Paper No. 1187 and NIESR Discussion Paper No. 403]

Davies, R. McNabb, R. and Whitfield, K. (2015) **'Do high-performance work practices exacerbate or mitigate the gender pay gap?'**, *Equal Pay as a Moving Target: International perspectives on forty-years of addressing the gender pay gap*, Cambridge Journal of Economics

Day G. 2015 **'Sociology in and of Wales: an overview'**, *Irish Journal of Sociology* Vol. 23.1, pp. 1-21

Deering and Feilzer (2015) **'Privatising Probation: Is Transforming Rehabilitation the end of the probation ideal?'**, Policy Press.

Feilzer, M.Y. (2015). **'Public Knowledge of Crime and Criminal Justice: The neglected role of public narratives'**. Oxford Handbooks Online. Oxford University Press.

Power, S. and Whitty, G. (2015) **'Selective, Comprehensive and Diversified Secondary Schooling in English: A Brief History'**, *The Ins and Outs of Selective Secondary Schools: A Debate*, pp. 9 – 29, Civitas

Smith, R. and Hall, T. (2015) **'Care and Repair and the Politics of Urban Kindness'**, *Sociology* vol. 49.



Good Times, Bad Times

Exposing the Welfare of Them and Us

Professor John Hills

A new book by John Hills explores key issues in the current debate about 'welfare' and the welfare state. The debate contrasts a stagnant group of people benefiting from it all with the rest who pay in and get nothing back – 'skivers' against 'strivers'. John explains how, because people's lives and circumstances change, most of us get back something at least close to what we pay in over our lives towards the welfare state.

Twenty-five years ago Granada television and my colleague in LSE's social policy department, Julian Le Grand, came up with a novel way of presenting the effects of social policy. Instead of graphs, tables and talk, they used a TV game show between two families – the Ackroyds, from Salford in Greater Manchester, and the Osbornes, from Alderley Edge in Cheshire – to illustrate who got what out of the welfare state of the time. Which of these stereo-typical working-class and middle-class families were the true 'Spongers' of the show's title, most 'dependent on government' in current formulations, if one could look over their whole lives? As it happens, the longer-living, university-educated, opera-loving middle-class Osbornes turned out to be the winners, getting more than the working-class Ackroyds. A follow-up programme which I helped with, *Beat the Taxman*, two years later looked at which family had done best as a share of income out of the tax reforms of the Thatcher years. Perhaps less surprisingly, the Osbornes won that one too. What was special about these families was that, in the words of the game show host Nicholas Parsons, "we've invented them". A quarter of a century later I've gone back to those families and their (newly invented) children and grandchildren to explore key issues in the current debate about 'welfare' and the welfare state. In my new book, *Good Times, Bad Times: The Welfare Myth of Them and Us*, I present the results of research over the last decade or more in LSE's Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and elsewhere using large datasets, the results of our own surveys, government statistics, and the results of computer simulations.



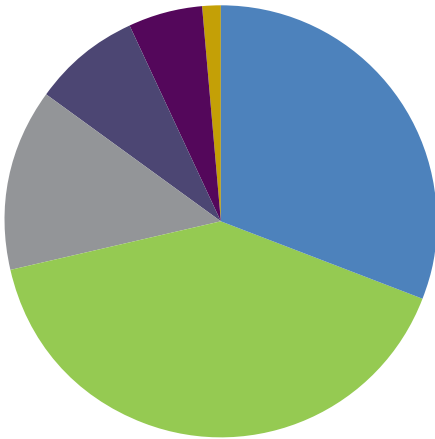
But the continuing lives of the Osbornes and the Ackroyds may bring home some of its key points. There are Gary and Denise Ackroyd, whose incomes vary widely from month to month as his hours as a van driver change and her work in a school only brings in pay only in term-time – contrasting with the stable and predictable incomes of people like young civil servant Charlotte Osborne (and of many academics).

Over the 2000s, the circumstances of the Osborne parents, Stephen and Henrietta changed a lot, particularly after Stephen's heart attacks and decision to down-shift his accountancy work, but they still remained in the top 2 per cent of the income distribution. By contrast, the changes in the size of their family and

the effects of Jim Ackroyd losing his job in 2006 meant that he and his wife Tracy bounced around the income distribution – close to being in the poorest tenth in two years, but just above the middle by the time they were empty nesters in 2010. The book also looks at the life chances of the newest grandchildren, George Ackroyd and Edward Osborne, born at the same time in July last year. If we knew nothing about them apart from where they were born, we would already expect Edward to live nearly four years longer. And although some of the educational gaps have closed in the last decade, the chances are that Edward will be doing better at school from the very start, leave with better qualifications, go to a better university, earn much more and build up a far higher level of wealth. There's nothing predetermined about that, and George Ackroyd might buck the trend – it's just that he starts with the odds against him. And looking at the recent past, the



Where your money goes: Another view 3



Key

- **Unemployment (1%)**
- **Other out of work**
- **Not welfare state**
- **In work cash**
- **Pensioners**
- **Other welfare state**

poorest of the families, lone mother Michelle Ackroyd, working 16 hours a week on a low wage, turns out to have lost 6 per cent of her income from tax credit and benefit cuts and austerity tax rises since May 2010. By contrast the most affluent of the families – Stephen Osborne with £97,000 per year earnings and his wife with £9,000 from her part-time teaching, plus significant investment income – have lost slightly less in weekly cash than Michelle, and only 0.7 per cent of their income.

Twenty-five years on, more than ever, the debate around 'welfare' contrasts a stagnant group of people benefiting from it all, while the rest pay in and get nothing back – skivers against strivers; dishonest scroungers against honest taxpayers; families where three generations have never worked against hard-working families; people with their curtains still drawn mid-morning against alarm-clock Britain; 'Benefits Street' against the rest of the country; undeserving and deserving;



them against us. We are always in work, pay our taxes and get nothing from the state. They are a welfare-dependent underclass, pay nothing to the taxman, and get everything from the state. But we don't need made-up examples to know that arid picture of unchanging lives is wrong. We know from our own experiences, those of our families – and from TV soap operas and nearly every novel – that people's lives and circumstances change, and what we get out and put in changes over our lives. It remains true that people starting advantaged remain much more likely than others to end up advantaged, and those who start poorer are more likely to end up

poorer. But there is considerable variation and uncertainty around such average differences in life trajectories. This does not just include the long-term changes over the life cycle that we all go through, but also other variations and changes, from at one end the rapid variations many people experience in circumstances and need for support from week to week to, at the other end, the factors that affect the life chances of our children and our grandchildren. As a result of all this variation in circumstances over our lives, most of us get back something at least close to what we pay in over our lives towards the welfare state. When we pay in more than we get out, we are helping our parents, our children, ourselves at another time – and ourselves as we might have been, if life had not turned out quite so well for us. In that sense, we are all – or nearly all – in it together.

Good Times, Bad Times: The Welfare Myth of Them and Us is published by Policy Press. The official launch for the book was hosted by The Bevan Foundation and WISERD on Monday 9th February, 2015, at The Pierhead, Cardiff Bay. Professor Hills was joined by a panel of experts, which included Professor Ian Rees Jones, Director of WISERD and Liz Withers, Head of Policy at Citizen's Advice Cymru.



Introducing the

WISERD Annual Conference 2015

30th June - 2nd July 2015, Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

The WISERD Annual Conference has become established as one of the most important events in the social science calendar, providing the opportunity for engagement, discussion, networking and debate with colleagues from across the academic, policy, public, private and third sectors.

This year's conference includes a range of work-shops, presentations and exhibition sessions focused on the following key themes:

- Education
- Social Care, Health & Wellbeing
- Civil Society
- Inequalities
- Data & Methods
- Devolution
- Language

Keynote Speakers:

Day 1 - **Ann Keane:** Former HM Chief Inspector, Estyn

Day 2 - **Karl Wilding:** Director of Public Policy, National Council for Voluntary Action (NCVO)

Day 3 - **Will Hutton:** Writer and Political Economist

Competitions

ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Centre & Learned Society for Wales – Student Poster Competition

As in previous years, currently-registered PhD students attending the conference are invited to submit a poster. Posters will be displayed throughout the event so that all conference delegates can view them; and will be made available via the WISERD and Wales DTC websites following the conference*. The Learned Society for Wales is sponsoring a cash prize of £200 for best poster, and this will be awarded during the conference.

*with the permission of the author

ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Centre– “3MEI” - Three-minute engagement/ impact session and prize

This session adapts the well-known ‘Three minute thesis’ format. Currently-registered PhD students are invited to attend a specific session in the programme in which they can present (using one projected slide and in strictly no more than



Will Hutton
Writer and Political Economist

three minutes) an account of challenges and/or achievements in their research with respect to engagement and/or impact. The ESRC Wales DTC is sponsoring a prize for best ‘3MEI’ in the form of a selection of recent books from two leading social science publishers, up to the value of £150. This will be awarded during the conference.

WISERD/WCVA Collaborative Paper Competition

We are also delighted to announce that WISERD and the WCVA will be presenting the award for the best paper developed in collaboration between a member of university staff or student, and a civil society organisation. The winner will be announced at the WISERD 2015 Conference, and will receive a prize of £300. N.B. Entrance for this competition has closed.

Feature Workshops

WISERD's 2015 Annual Conference will feature workshops based on two WISERD projects, the Administrative Data Research Network Wales (ADRC-W) and the All Wales Academic Social Care Collaboration (ASCC). These events will be open to both conference and non-conference delegates.

Accessing the Administrative Data Research Network: What, Why and Where do I start?

This session will introduce the work of the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) and within it, the Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC Wales). Delegates will hear about the work of the ADRN and an overview of some of the projects undertaken within ADRC Wales that are using de-identified, linked administrative data. Delegates will also hear about the process of applying to the ADRN to access data for research, with helpful advice and a Q&A session on how to prepare and submit successful applications to the Network.

A review of the evidence on models of social enterprise in the provision of social care in the UK, Europe and USA

Like all public services, social care is currently under great pressure to do more with less in the context of significant cuts in public spending and a demographic reality in which demands for services will inexorably continue to rise. It has been argued, however, that this challenging economic environment might actually provide a unique opportunity to make services better and more sustainable.



Ann Keane:
Former HM Chief Inspector, Estyn



Karl Wilding

Director of Public Policy, National Council for Voluntary Action (NCVO)

This All Wales Academic Social Care Collaboration (ASCC) workshop will aim to provide an overview of the existing literature on social enterprise models of social care provision in the UK, Europe and USA. Specific examples will be provided to underline some of the key issues and lessons that can be learned from the collective experiences of various countries. Topics covered will include: the claimed differences between third sector and state/private models of social services provision; the criteria by which these models can or should be judged as being successful; and the impact of these models on the quality of care being offered/delivered by third sector organisations.

Sponsors and Exhibitors

Cymorth Cymru
Public Policy Institute for Wales (PPIW)
Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN)
Health Promotion Library
The Bevan Foundation
The Learned Society of Wales (LSW)
Welsh Local Government Association

WISERD would like to thank all sponsors, exhibitors and presenters for contributing

to our Annual Conference. Their generous support ensures our flagship event is an enriched, diverse and vibrant success.

Social Programme

A number of activities are planned as part of the social programme which will run alongside the conference.

Millennium Stadium Tour

Tuesday 30th June

Come and explore the magnificent facets and features that make the Millennium Stadium one of the most impressive icons of modern Wales.

Join one of our experienced tour guides and visit the Press Conference Suite where the worlds of rugby and journalism meet. Experience the build-up before the match in the Dragon's Lair, Wales' team dressing room. Hear the roar of 74,500 fans as you walk down the players' tunnel towards the hallowed turf. Learn about the only palletised pitch system and fully retractable roof in the UK, which allows the entire playing surface to be removed to create one of the world's largest indoor arenas.

Take in the view of the pitch from a VIP hospitality suite, and finally lift the trophy to the skies like a sporting superstar in the President's Box, an area normally reserved for royalty.

Dinner Groups

Tuesday 30th June

We are offering delegates the chance to have a taste of Cardiff. We have 10 places at each of the following restaurants offering you a chance to experience Cardiff with new colleagues and old friends. All restaurants are within walking distance or a short taxi ride from the conference venue.

Please note: Restaurant reservations are from 8.00pm.

Jamie's Italian: Celebrity chef's relaxed Italian chain, with rustic menu and antipasti bar.

Chapel 1877 Bar and Restaurant: Swish Welsh restaurant and bar/bistro in restored, exuberantly-decorated and ornate former chapel.

Fish85: Locally-landed fish cooked without fuss in a bright modern space with an on-site fish counter.

The Potted Pig: Modern British cuisine with French and New York influences served in underground former bank vaults.

Madeira: Portuguese restaurant and fish specialist, in a cosy, colourful setting with occasional live music.

Purple Poppadom: Imaginative reinvention of classic Indian curries in a colourful contemporary restaurant.

The Smoke Haus: American Diner serving quality food in a great atmosphere, huge portions, masses of meat and a challenge not for the faint of heart!

For further information about this year's annual conference please visit our conference website: wiserd.ac.uk/training-events/annual-conference-2015





The WISERD blog provides regular updates on the latest research activity, project development, key findings, funding, and events taking place at WISERD.

Our most recent blogs include:

Party Promises and Voluntarism by Dr Paul Chaney

Economic Austerity and Older Volunteers by Professor Irene Hardill, Nick Ockenden and Professor Sally Power

Assembling Newtown and Everyday Globalization by Dr Marc Welsh

Living Well with Dementia by Natalie Richards

Is Education Wasted on the Young? by Professor Chris Taylor

Read all our blogs at:

<http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/news/wiserd-blogs/>

Making Devolution Work: towards a better economic, democratic and social future

7 July 2015, Manchester Business School

With the General Election result likely to prompt further powers and responsibilities to devolved nations, cities and to local government, this is a 'devolution moment'. This event aim is to explore this 'moment' and consider whether and how devolution can herald a better economic, social and democratic future.

Third Sector Organisations & Public Policy-making in a Devolved Wales

9 July 2015, Cardiff University

This seminar will explore the issues, progress & challenges associated with third sector organisations' policy engagement with 'devolved' government.

Civil Society, Generativity and the Third Age

7 October 2015, University of Manchester

This seminar will explore the themes of generativity and the third age within the context of civil society.

Campaigning Unions, Devolved Government: Reflections on State, Unions and Civil Society

12 November 2015, Cardiff University

This seminar will examine how devolution has provided opportunities for trade unions in Wales to influence governmental decision making.



www.wiserd.ac.uk
www.facebook.com/wiserdnews
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