

W/SERD

NEWS

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Wales Institute of Social and Economic
Research, Data and Methods

Sefydliad Ymchwil Gymdeithasol ac
Economaidd, Data a Dulliau Cymru

Changing Communities Education Generations



Croeso gan Gyfarwyddwr WISERD Welcome from the WISERD Director



Dechreuodd y flwyddyn newydd gyda chyfnod o ansicrwydd mewn sawl ffordd; beth oedd yn mynd i ddigwydd o ran Brexit? Sut oedd addysg, cymdeithas siffl a'r economi yn newid, a sut y gallem ddeall yn well a mynd i'r afael a'r newidiadau hyn? Yn nes at adref, beth fydda ein hymchwil i deimladau pobl ifanc am adael yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn datgelu?

Yn sgil hyn i gyd roedd "Degawd o Amharu" yn thema briodol iawn i Gynhadledd Flynyddol WISERD eleni ym Mhrifysgol Bangor. Dros y ddau ddiwrnod, roedd ansawdd uchel yr ymchwil a'r drafodaeth yn drawiadol iawn. Sylweddolais fod gannom gyfraniad cadarnhaol i'w wneud, trwy waith beirniadol, i ddeall yr ansicrwydd ynghylch newidiadau cymdeithasol a'r cyfleoedd y maent yn eu cyflwyno. Mae hyn wedi diffinio rhan olaf y flwyddyn ac rwy'n teimlo bod yn hyn cael ei adlewyrchu yng nghynllun newydd *Newyddion WISERD*.

Un cyfle o'r fath yw'r gallu i hysbysu gwneuthurwyr polisi gyda thystiolaeth o'n hymchwil. Yn y rhifyn hwn, mae un o'n cymrodwyr ymchwil ym Mhrifysgol Bangor yn rhoi profiad uniongyrchol o fynd i mewn i

dreialu Cymrodoriaethau Academiaidd gyda Chynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, drwy archwilio'r heriau a'r cyfleoedd sy'n wynebu economi Gogledd Cymru.

Rydym hefyd yn falch o chwarae rhan allweddol yn lansiad diweddar canolfan gydweithredol DU-gyfan dros dystiolaeth tai, CaCHE, a fydd yn ein galluogi i helpu siapiau polisi tai.

Newid arall i'w groesawu yw tîf mewn ymchwil gofal a lles, gan gynnwys prosiectau sy'n canolbwyntio ar weithredu cymdeithasol, deialog polisi, natur ddynamig iechyd a lles, a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol.

Yn olaf, mae'r gyfrol hon hefyd yn cydnabod llwyddiant ein cydweithwyr o gael ei hethol yn Gymrodorion y Gymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru, ac ennill gwobr 'Dyn y Flwyddyn' gan elusen cydraddoldeb rhywiol mwyaf blaenllaw yng Cymru.

Rwy'n wir gobeithio y byddwch yn mwynhau'r rhifyn hwn o *Newyddion WISERD*.

Yr Athro Ian Rees Jones

Cyfarwyddwr WISERD

The beginning of the year marked a period of uncertainty in many ways; what was going to happen in relation to Brexit? How was education, civil society and the economy changing, and how could we better understand and tackle these changes? Closer to home, what would our research into young people's feelings about leaving the EU reveal?

This year's WISERD Annual Conference at Bangor University was therefore appropriately themed "The Decade of Disruption". Over the two days, the high quality of research and debate was very impressive. It brought home to me the positive contribution we can make, through critical thinking, to understanding the uncertainties surrounding change and the opportunities it presents. This has defined the latter part of the year and I feel the work we share in this newly designed *WISERD News* reflects this.

One such opportunity is being able to inform policymakers with evidence from our research. In this issue, one of our research fellows at Bangor University gives an

insider view into piloting Academic Fellowships with the National Assembly for Wales, by exploring the challenges and opportunities facing the North Wales economy.

We were also pleased to play a key role in the recent launch of a UK-wide Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE), which will allow us to help shape housing policy.

Another welcome change has been a growth in WISERD's social care and wellbeing research, including projects that focus on social action, policy dialogue, the dynamic nature of health and wellbeing, and social justice.

Finally, this issue also acknowledges the recognition our WISERD colleagues have achieved for their contributions to research – from being elected Fellows of The Learned Society of Wales, to an award for 'Man of the Year' from Wales's leading gender equality charity.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *WISERD News*.

Professor Ian Rees Jones

WISERD Director

Contents:



Recognised for contribution to research

Learned Society of Wales Fellows	4
Director of WISERD Education is Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences	4
WISERD Co-Director named 'Man of the Year'	5
Hugh Owen Medal for WISERD Co-Director	5

Informing policymakers

Piloting Academic Fellowships with the National Assembly for Wales	6
How did a national Welsh structure of third sector administration emerge?	7
Cardiff hub helps UK-wide effort to shape housing policy	8

Building capacity for research

WISERD training events	9
WISERD Annual Conference 2017	10
An update from ADRC Wales	12

Expanding social care and wellbeing research

Social care and wellbeing research	13
Should we have a Cultural Participation Research Network?	13
Alzheimer's Society Centre of Excellence	14

Making strong international links

Conferences and meetings	15
Local exhibition highlights town's global connections	15
Visiting professors present Civil Society seminars	15
Festival fieldwork	16
Trans-Atlantic Rural Research Network	16
New study funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme	16

Exploring society's views on education

University education makes you a better citizen	17
Promoting a "Welsh dimension" within education in Wales	18
Young people want more say when it comes to GCSEs	19
WISERD evaluates free scheme for primary schools	19
Are Welsh-medium schools middle-class?	20

Exploring young people, politics & family values

Do Eurosceptic parents produce Eurosceptic kids?	21
Young people and Brexit: one year on	22
Teenage parents and intergenerational values in family life	23
WISERD at the Hay Festival	24

Exploring our changing communities

The perils and pitfalls of feeding back on local field studies	26
Going the extra mile: women, migrants, and civil society in austere times	27
Transparency – a commitment to greater accountability or an overpriced pint?	28
Does social enterprise mean business?	29
Does community cohesion matter when it comes to library accessibility?	30
What do memorials mean to us?	31



NEWS

RECOGNISED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH

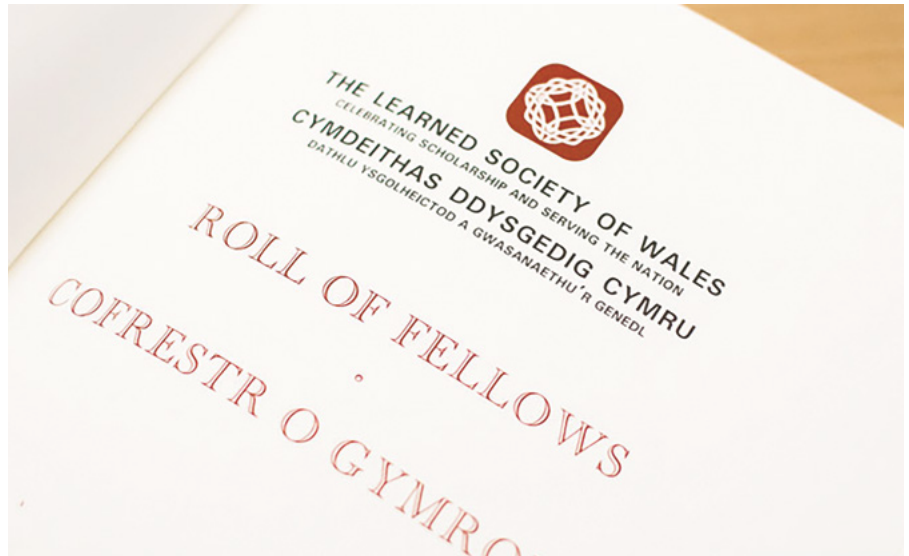
Learned Society of Wales Fellows

WISERD Co-Directors, Professor Sally Power and Professor Michael Woods are newly elected fellows of The Learned Society of Wales. Election to Fellowship is a public recognition of academic excellence and brings together 460 of the most prominent figures in Welsh academia.

Professor Sally Power is Director of WISERD Education – a programme of research recently awarded £215,000 of funding from Cardiff University for a continuation of the WISERD Education Multi-Cohort Study.

Professor Michael Woods is Professor of Transformative Social Sciences at Aberystwyth University, and part of the team leading the WISERD Centre for Welsh Politics and Society.

Professor Peter Halligan, Chief Executive of the Learned Society of Wales, said:



“As Wales’s first national Academy of science and letters, the Learned Society is pleased to work with and recognise the contribution that WISERD

continues to make in advancing excellence in the social science disciplines and building greater research capacity across Wales.”

Cardiff University Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow and Honorary Professor W. John Morgan was recently elected a member of Council and Trustee of the Learned Society of Wales.

Director of WISERD Education is Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

Professor Sally Power has recently been conferred as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Roger Goodman FAcSS, Chair of the Academy said: “Each new distinguished Fellow has been recognised for their outstanding and impactful contributions in their respective fields, and will prove invaluable additions to the range of expertise within the Academy.”



Professor Sally Power

WISERD Co-Director named 'Man of the Year'



Professor Paul Chaney

WISERD Co-Director, Professor Paul Chaney is named Chwarae Teg's 'Man of the Year' at the annual Womenspire Awards.

Wales's leading gender equality charity recognised Professor Chaney "as a true advocate for gender equality through his writing and policy influence, which has had an impact on the lives of women in Wales and beyond."

Hugh Owen Medal for WISERD Co-Director

The Learned Society of Wales has awarded the inaugural Hugh Owen Medal to WISERD's Co-Director, Professor Chris Taylor in recognition of outstanding contribution to educational research.

Professor Taylor's research is methodologically ground-breaking and has informed the development of key education policies in Wales.

Professor Taylor said: "I am very honoured to have been awarded the first Hugh Owen Medal by the Learned Society of Wales. It is important we recognise the importance of research in the Welsh education system. Without this we cannot be confident that our education policies and practices address the right issues or will deliver effective results."

Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of the Society commented: "Education should offer everyone the opportunity to develop their talents, to learn and be exposed to ideas. We all need to do better, and excellent practical research can help shape more effective policies."

Professor Chris Taylor will be delivering the Hugh Owen Medal lecture on 'Implementing the new curriculum in Wales: lessons to learn?' on 5th December 2017.

The event is organised in partnership with the Learned Society of Wales and will be held at Cardiff University. Professor Taylor will discuss WISERD's role in evaluating and challenging many of the education

reforms introduced by the Welsh Government in the last ten years, and consider what lessons could be learnt to support the successful implementation of the new curriculum.



Left to right: Professor Chris Taylor, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of the Learned Society of Wales

Piloting Academic Fellowships with the National Assembly for Wales

Between March and June this year, Dr Alexandra Plows has been engaged on a Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellowship pilot scheme with the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW) – sharing expertise to enable Assembly Members to develop policy and practice for the benefit of the people of Wales. The scheme is funded by Bangor University and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Acceleration Account (IAA).

Part of this two-way knowledge exchange involved getting “behind-the-scenes” snapshots of NAfW research service work and particularly that of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills (EIS) Committee. The Committee was considering evidence on alternative perspectives on the economy of Wales and hearing from stakeholders working on the development of Growth Deal bids for the different regions of Wales.

It was insightful to see the extent of the work done by the NAfW research service for the Committee preparing background briefings, finding relevant witnesses, preparing suggested questions and key issues for committee members, etc.

I was surprised by committee members’ capacity to have or quickly develop breadth and depth of understanding across a wide variety of complex topics, and to identify key issues succinctly with relevant detail and context. The timeframes

necessitate a fast-moving pace of preparation and output delivery.

It was interesting to see committee members drawing on “local knowledge” of their own constituencies when questioning witnesses. I was also struck by the collegiate and collaborative tone of the committee, which is (as all NAfW committees are) cross-party and, broadly speaking, representative of all regions of Wales. There was a definite feel of “wanting what’s best for Wales.”

My contribution involved preparing a “scoping” report on the challenges and opportunities facing the North Wales economy, including issues such as Brexit and the proposed North Wales Growth Deal. This drew on my previous research on redundancies in north west Wales, and involved interviewing a range of stakeholders. The key findings and recommendations were part of the briefing pack provided for an EIS Committee meeting in June.

Some key findings

Regional stakeholders are seeking to ensure that a “golden thread” runs through the supply chain to enable small local firms to benefit from incoming economic opportunities. Welsh Government also have the opportunity, through the potential for devolved powers on procurement rules, to ensure quality jobs, and good terms and conditions for workers on inward investment projects.

Challenges include the uncertainty of Brexit, and the need to understand more about the self-employed and micro businesses (which together make up the majority of the region’s

labour market) in order to develop their capacity sustainably. It is essential that policies such as the Growth Deals are “periphery proof” with “the periphery” understood both in geographical terms and in terms of economically and socially marginalised communities and individuals.

I would like to thank Ben Stokes and Graham Winter from the NAfW research service, Jean Sherry from Bangor University’s IAA team, and those stakeholders, named in the report, who generously gave me their time and expertise.



Dr Alexandra Plows

Dr Alexandra Plows is a WISERD fellow at Bangor University. To find out more about Dr Alexandra Plows’ work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/alexandraplows

How did a national Welsh structure of third sector administration emerge?

Our research explores how, over the last 80 years, voluntary and community groups have adapted to the emergence of a national Welsh administrative structure for the voluntary sector.

In the past, the UK had a highly centralised system of government, with most key decisions emanating from London.

Our work shows how, for the voluntary sector, the emergence of a distinctive Welsh administrative framework began at a time long pre-dating “devolution”.

Following Westminster’s work with the sector in Wales as part of its wartime response (1939-45), the immediate aftermath of the Second World War saw the emergence of an all-Wales voluntary sector body – the Council for Social Services for Wales and Monmouthshire (CSSWM).

The emergence of this all-Wales body was the first of four key “historical moments” identified in our work. The second came with the creation in 1964 of the Welsh Office. We chart how the CSSWM adapted its work and shifted its focus away from Westminster to engage with this new Cardiff-headquartered Ministry. It shaped policy development and welfare delivery across a broad range of areas including health, housing, education and social services.

The next historical moments followed in quick succession. The third was the creation of formal partnerships (“Compacts”) between the state and the third sector introduced by New Labour in 1997. These marked official recognition of a distinct, separate national voluntary – or ‘third’ sector administration in Wales.

Finally, the process was consolidated by the creation of the National Assembly for Wales in 1999. The Devolution statute (Government of Wales Act, 1998) contained a unique statutory clause requiring government to work in partnership with the sector. Putting this into constitutional law was a new and exciting departure. Crucially, it identifies the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (today’s successor to the CSSWM) as the lead voluntary sector body.

So what factors come together in these key “historical moments”? In our work, we have identified three groups of factors.

Governance factors include the political organisation of the welfare state, the extent of government centralisation, and the effectiveness of public and private sector welfare delivery. *Organisational factors* refer to the extent and vibrancy of third sector organisations, their capacity to engage in policy-making and deliver services, and the presence of those who drive forward change. Lastly, *socioeconomic and political factors* include issues of national identity, levels of social inequality, political ideology and economic prosperity.

Our work has revealed quite a story; one that has been neglected for too long. It is one that is far from over – the voluntary sector in Wales continues to develop. Our work helps us to think about how the sector is changing today in response to the National Assembly’s and Welsh Government’s new powers, and ongoing challenges facing the welfare state.



Professor Paul Chaney

Professor Paul Chaney is a WISERD Co-Director, and Professor of Policy and Politics at Cardiff University School of Social Sciences. He is part of the research team exploring ‘Territoriality and third sector engagement in policymaking and welfare provision.’ He recently discussed this research at the Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay, as part of the National Assembly for Wales’ Exchanging Ideas seminar.

To find out more about Professor Paul Chaney’s work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/paulchaney



Cardiff hub helps UK-wide effort to shape housing policy

WISERD's Dr Peter Mackie and Dr Scott Orford, along with Dr Bob Smith, are part of the team of Welsh housing experts at Cardiff University set to take a leading role in a new UK-wide effort designed to shape UK policy and tackle chronic housing problems.

The Glasgow-based UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) is a joint collaboration between ten universities and three non-higher education organisations. Staff are located at hubs across the UK in Glasgow, Sheffield, London/Reading, Cardiff and Belfast.

The Centre has been operating since 1st August and was officially launched in October at a networking event at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in London.

Dr Peter Mackie (Chair of WISERD's Housing Research Network) and Dr Scott Orford and Dr Bob Smith from Cardiff University's School of Geography and Planning will spearhead the Wales hub contribution. They will work alongside housing charities, private sector organisations and other Welsh universities.

"Housing is one of the most fundamentally important issues in the UK, and remains one of the main policy challenges facing national and devolved governments" according to Dr Peter Mackie, who heads up the Cardiff-based Welsh hub.

"Housing provides jobs, it shapes communities, it meets basic human needs for shelter and it affects the environment."

"The CaCHE will allow policymakers to benefit from the best independent evidence to help them take the action needed to tackle housing problems."

"The Welsh hub in Cardiff brings together policymakers, third sector organisations, the private sector and academia, to identify and fill evidence gaps in order to inform Welsh housing policy and practice," he added.

Housing is a key part of the economy – it's estimated that more than a fifth

of household spending goes on rent, mortgage payments, home repairs, maintenance and improvements. The availability, cost and design of housing impacts on people's aspirations, their health and wellbeing, and their children's education. The failure of housing markets often leads to wider economic problems, as well as poverty and homelessness.

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Centre brings some of the UK's leading experts together to focus on seven key areas. These are: the impact of housing on the economy; understanding housing markets; housing choice; housing poverty; neighbourhood design; the impact of multi-level governance on housing; and homelessness.

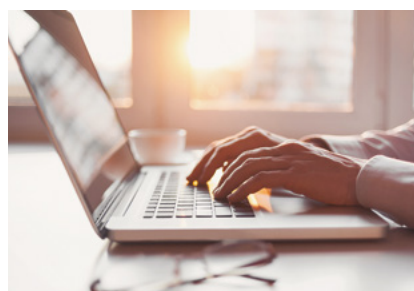
Dr Mackie added: "It is a privilege to be involved in the Welsh Hub and to be working with colleagues here in Cardiff and in hubs across the rest of the UK."



WISERD training events

Introduction to NVivo

This two-day event at Cardiff University was led by Dr Christina Silver, from Qualitative Data Analysis Services (QDAS). The training was for all researchers who use data involving spatial information, such as addresses, which needs to be shown on a map. Attendees were introduced to NVivo software, and trained in how to load and manage spatial data, and how to create maps using R and RStudio.



Co-production in community settings



Strong Communities Healthier People (SCHeP) is a Cardiff University-funded initiative, which is experimenting with the use of co-production and action research. This is for the purpose of developing sustainable approaches to community engagement, development and consultation in Communities First areas.

SCHeP provided two training sessions at Cardiff University in June and

July exploring co-production in community settings. In the first session, attendees were introduced to the concept of co-production and the steps required to establish an effective approach to the process. In the second session, examples and discussions from participants in co-productive initiatives were explored, to discover different approaches and perspectives, and find out how challenges can be overcome.

Training on the National Survey for Wales

This one-day event at Cardiff University in September was previously run in February at Bangor University's Management Centre.

Once again, WISERD was joined by experts from the National Survey for Wales to provide social science researchers and policy practitioners with knowledge and understanding of the National Survey for Wales, and the confidence to use it. The emphasis was on the practical value of the survey data for investigating social issues in Wales and trainers provided technical advice on methods of analysis.

The National Survey for Wales is an important resource for the social

sciences, social policy and public services, involving over 10,000 people a year across the whole of Wales. It covers a range of topics from local authority services, education, health and social care, as well as demographic questions and the Welsh language.



Doing questionnaires in the third sector

WISERD researchers were joined by colleagues working in the third sector for this one-day workshop in June, which took place at the Open University in Cardiff. The event provided hands-on training and support in questionnaire design, including how to develop research questions and choose samples.

NEWS

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH

WISERD Annual Conference 2017

On 5th-6th of July, WISERD colleagues were joined by academics across a diverse range of disciplines and others with an interest in the social sciences at Wales' largest social science conference, which took place at Bangor University.

This year's conference theme was "The Decade of Disruption", and parallel sessions covered topics ranging from localities and participation, education and the civil sphere, to political disruption and migration, religion and welfare. We were delighted that this year's programme also included a British Educational Research Association (BERA) Symposium.

We were pleased to welcome Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, to deliver the keynote address, "The Well-being of Future Generations Act – Disruption enabler?"

We were also joined by Hilary Wainwright, founding editor and now co-editor of *Red Pepper* magazine. Hilary Wainwright delivered our

public talk, "A decade of disruption: the incubation, emergence and future of a new politics from the left" at Bangor University's new Pontio Arts Centre.

The ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Centre held their "3MEI" engagement and impact session and prize, modelled on the well-known 'Three-minute thesis' format. PhD students were invited to present an account of challenges and achievements in their research with respect to engagement and impact, in just three minutes. Congratulations to Siôn Owen from Bangor University, winner of this year's competition.

PhD students also presented their posters, as part of an exhibition in the Main Hall, which was open for all delegates to view throughout the conference. The Learned Society for Wales sponsored a cash prize of £200 for the best poster which was awarded to Samuel Brown from Swansea University. Samuel is in the 3rd year of his PhD which looks at the impact of major life events on an adult's life satisfaction.

Judging the prize were WISERD Co-Directors and Learned Society Fellows, Professor David Blackaby (Swansea University), Professor Michael Woods (Aberystwyth University) and Professor Chris Taylor (Cardiff University).

This highly anticipated annual event showcased the wide variety of multidisciplinary research being carried out across Wales and beyond, supported our early career researchers, and provided an opportunity to discuss new ideas and plans for the future.



Live updates were available on Twitter @WISERDNews throughout the event. You can see all of these by searching for #WISERD2017

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH

NEWS

The **WISERD Annual Conference 2018** will take place on 18th-19th July at the University of South Wales' Treforest, Pontypridd Campus. The theme will be "Addressing inequalities and injustice". For more information, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/events

Professor Ian Rees Jones, WISERD Director, welcomes delegates to the WISERD Annual Conference 2017



NEWS

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH

An update from ADRC Wales

Fuel poverty health data linking project

Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC Wales) research has shown Welsh Government home energy efficiency improvements aimed at low income households are having a positive impact on health.

The study used NHS data to compare the health service use of people who received Welsh Government Warm Homes Nest Scheme home energy improvements and a control group who were eligible for improvements but waiting for them to be completed.

The research found GP events for respiratory illness fell by almost 4% for those who received improvements, while these rose by almost 10% in the control group over the same period.

A similar pattern was found in relation to asthma events, with a 6.5% decrease in the recipient group and a 12.5% increase in the control group for the same period.

Former Minister for Public Health and Social Services, Rebecca Evans said:

“The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to work together to improve well-being, and to create a healthier Wales. This research is encouraging as we work to collaborate with communities to improve health and well-being, and think differently about the way we deliver services. Preventing ill-health is much better for the individual than treating it.”

Emerging findings were used in the development of the new Nest scheme where eligibility for home energy efficiency measures was extended to low income homes with members suffering from respiratory and circulatory conditions.

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Chief Executive, Professor Jane Elliott said: “The project findings demonstrate the power of linked administrative data for research and policy evaluation and provide robust evidence to inform more cost-effective programme delivery and services to improve people’s health and quality of life in Wales.”



Research podcast

ADRC Wales Associate Director, Kerina Jones, features in new Data Points Podcast: ‘The flip side of the coin’. Kerina discusses why non-use of data could be more dangerous than its misuse and calls for the socially responsible reuse of data to become the norm to save lives and resources.

Data briefs

ADRC Wales produces data briefs to provide researchers with an introduction to the latest data sets that exist in the UK. The latest updates include: ‘Fuel Poverty Intervention Data in Wales’ and the ‘Welsh Council for Voluntary Action All Wales Database’.

Events

Research team event series

The summer workshop in Cardiff, ‘Public Engagement and Social Science Research: Challenges and Emerging Solutions’, gave researchers, communication professionals and public engagement staff insight into the extensive, innovative and successful public engagement activity across social science research.

Public engagement

ADRC Wales co-hosted an interactive exhibition at Swansea Science Festival at the Waterfront Museum Swansea in September, using virtual reality and animation to explain the journey of a person’s data.



#ADRN2017 Conference

Researchers, policymakers and practitioners from across the UK and internationally attended the ADRN two-day conference in Edinburgh this summer, where delegates explored how to make the best use of administrative data as a resource for social science research.

To find out more about ADRC Wales project updates, podcasts, resources for researchers, and events, visit: www.adrn.ac.uk

Social care and wellbeing research

WISERD is pleased to be expanding its research on social care and wellbeing, including projects that focus on social action, policy dialogue, the dynamic nature of health and wellbeing, and social justice.

One of these projects is Cardiff University's 'Strong Communities,

Healthier People' flagship engagement project led by Dr Eva Elliott. This project has enabled the formation of WISERD's new Cultural Participation Research Network, which launched this summer.

The network comprises academics, creative professionals, and representatives from cultural

organisations ranging from small arts groups and community groups to national heritage and arts portfolio organisations and local authorities.

To find out more about joining the network, or taking part in forthcoming events and opportunities, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk

Should we have a Cultural Participation Research Network?

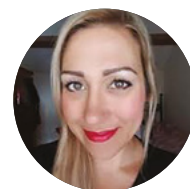
What do we mean by 'cultural participation'? We think it must be more than people attending the cultural events and places that are sanctioned as 'the arts'.

For us, culture is everywhere – people 'do' it. There are places all over Wales that have rich cultural histories and continue to sing, dance, play music and share reflections on experiences that are not recognised. Perhaps there could be a better connection between the different forms of 'everyday' culture and 'formal' cultures, and perhaps this could be part of a research endeavour.

We are all living in a world that is changing socially, economically and environmentally, in often frightening ways, and the impact on people is unequal. Surely people working in heritage and the arts have a role in all of this, in working alongside not just audiences but participants, in making sense of, documenting and imagining different ways of living well and perhaps of doing democracy?

Some of us also want to critique the practices of our established organisations and venues – the perception that the arts and museums only reflect the interests of an (albeit) sizable elite is palpable. Is this exclusivity partly because working class people and people from other excluded groups are not the artists, not the curators? How can we involve people from working classes and other backgrounds more?

To explore these ideas and the practicalities of developing a research network, we gathered on 22nd June for an afternoon of discussion. Since then, we have commissioned five seed corn projects, exploring aspects of cultural participation in collaborative projects between academics, community organisations, and cultural or arts organisations. We will be meeting in December to update on the progress of these exploratory projects and to discuss the development of the network.



Dr Ellie Byrne

Dr Ellie Byrne is a Research Associate based at Cardiff University and facilitates the Cultural Participation Research Network. In this blog, she reflects on Dr Eva Elliott's introduction at the network's initial meeting in Cardiff on 22nd June.

To find out more about Dr Ellie Byrne's work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/elliebyrne

Alzheimer's Society Centre of Excellence

WISERD is part of the new Alzheimer's Society Centre of Excellence. Alzheimer's Society will commit almost £2million of investment to dementia care research over the next five years.

The funding will be used for the national collaboration led by the University of Exeter to improve quality of life for people with dementia and care in advanced dementia. This includes funding a second phase of the large-scale national study, 'Improving the Experience of Dementia and Enhancing an Active Life (IDEAL)', to which WISERD contributes qualitative research to.

As part of the IDEAL study, over 1,500 people with mild-to-moderate dementia from England, Wales and Scotland have been interviewed every year for three years, along with 1,300 carers.

WISERD hopes to understand the reasons why particular social and psychological factors shape people's experience of living with dementia, and to identify changes that could improve well-being and quality of life for individuals with dementia, and those who care for them.

WISERD Director, Professor Ian Rees Jones said: "We are delighted to be part of the new Alzheimer's Society Centre of Excellence led by Professor Linda Clare at Exeter University. This important funding provides a unique opportunity to build on our previous work with people with dementia and their carers to focus on the experiences of those people who are living with undiagnosed dementia.



"The Alzheimer's Society funding will provide WISERD with the resources and support to expand our interdisciplinary research programme in conjunction with colleagues in the new centre so we can include people living with all types of dementia and those from 'seldom heard' groups, and their carers."

Alzheimer's Society's unique investment will allow more researchers to address some of the most pressing issues in dementia care research and put the UK on track to be a world leader in providing the best care possible for people with dementia.

Living well with Dementia: What does the evidence say?

WISERD Director, Professor Ian Rees Jones gave an assembly briefing on the IDEAL study in May at the Pierhead building in Cardiff Bay. The session was organised by Cardiff University as part of a series designed to bring together academic research with topical conversations around policy.

Attendees included representatives from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Alzheimer's Society, the Mental Health Foundation, Age Cymru

and Gofal. Dr Dai Lloyd AM, Chair of the Assembly's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee was also in attendance, along with Cardiff Central AM, Jenny Rathbone.

Professor Jones addressed the concept of 'living well with dementia', including its relevance to UK and Welsh Government policies, and shared some preliminary findings from the first wave of qualitative research.

Conferences & meetings

Researchers have been involved in a number of leading international conferences, meetings and seminars over the summer, sharing our research and strengthening our international links.

- Royal Geographical Society with IBG Annual Conference in London
- International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in San Francisco
- Conference on foundational economy at Università Degli Studi Di Torino in Italy
- Visit to Chinese Academy of Social Science and a number of research institutes in China
- Urban Diversity and Economic Growth Conference at the University of Toronto
- Social Media and Society Conference in Toronto
- UNI Global Union meeting in Geneva
- American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in Boston

Local exhibition highlights town's global connections

An exhibition took place at Glanhafren Market Hall, Newtown in September focusing on the connections between this mid-Wales town and the rest of the world. The event provided an opportunity to share research conducted by the WISERD Centre for Welsh Politics and Society (WCWPS) at Aberystwyth University over the last three years.

As part of the Global-Rural project, the study has examined 'everyday globalization' in Newtown, including migration to and from the town, the trading relationships of the town's businesses, and international influences on food, shopping and culture.

Funded by the European Research Council, the Global-Rural project involves fieldwork in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, New Zealand and Sweden.



Visiting professors present Civil Society seminars

Professor Grigori Kliucharev from the Institute of Sociology at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow presented in Cardiff on 'Social and political participation in building democracy in Russia: The role of literacy programmes and educational reforms'.

Professor Abby Peterson of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden presented at Bangor University and Cardiff University. Her seminar explored the role of ordinary people in border practices, in relation to what the Swedish media have dubbed today's "refugee crisis".



Professor Grigori Kliucharev presenting Civil Society seminar

NEWS

MAKING STRONG INTERNATIONAL LINKS



Festival fieldwork

The Global-Rural team were at festivals in rural Wales this summer, conducting ethnographic observations and interviews with festival organisers to investigate the processes of globalisation. They are exploring the extent to which festivals act as a hub of cultural globalisation, by bringing influences from all over the globe in and projecting images of rural Wales back out.

Trans-Atlantic Rural Research Network

The WISERD Centre for Welsh Politics and Society (WCWPS) at Aberystwyth University hosted the annual meeting of the Trans-Atlantic Rural Research Network (TARRN) recently, bringing together over 40 leading rural social scientists from the UK, the Netherlands and the United States.

New study funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme

Professor Michael Woods and Dr Jesse Heley of Aberystwyth University are involved in a new European study to investigate interactions between rural and urban areas, and how they can be more effectively managed.

The 'Rural-Urban Outlooks: Unlocking Synergies (ROBUST)' project, led by Wageningen University, was launched with a meeting in the Netherlands this summer and will run for five years.

Researchers from the WISERD Centre for Welsh Politics and Society

(WCWPS) will be working with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) on case studies in Wales, looking at interactions between rural and urban areas relating to sustainable food systems, cultural connections and public services.

University education makes you a better citizen

THE CONVERSATION The full version of this article was published originally on www.theconversation.com

We often think about what young people can expect to gain from university but it's not often that we talk about how higher education can change society beyond the shaping of individuals. We've been examining national surveys and speaking to graduates to find out.

We started by looking at the British Household Panel Survey and the National Child Development Study. We found that graduates, on the whole, are more likely to be members of associations, organisations and societies such as trade unions. They are also more likely than non-graduates to join environmental groups, residents' associations, religious organisations and sports clubs.

These findings are irrespective of whether they studied in an "elite" higher education system – before the end of the 1980s when under 15% of the population went to university – or a "mass" system, as now when more than 15% attend. However, the difference in likelihood of graduates and non-graduates joining a trade union was greater for the mass cohort compared to the elite cohort.

For environmental groups, religious organisations, and tenants and residents associations, the reverse is true. For the elite cohort, going to university is more important to their likelihood of joining one of these organisations compared to mass graduates.

We also wanted to know how important particular university experiences were for equipping graduates with the skills, knowledge

or attributes needed for civic participation. We interviewed graduates in their early 30s who had studied different subjects at a range of universities. This included a Russell Group institution, Oxford and Cambridge, and a Post-92 university, ie, a university which was regarded as a "polytechnic" before 1992.

One of the most interesting things we learned from these interviews was the role of degree subjects in amplifying civic participation. The effect was most striking for social science, and arts and humanities graduates. They were most likely to reflect on how their subject had given them a deeper and broader understanding about politics and social issues.

"Graduates, on the whole, are more likely to be members of associations, organisations and societies such as trade unions."

Distinct teaching practices also seem to play a role in fostering civic participation. The tutorial system at Oxford and Cambridge – where students meet once or twice a week with a tutor to discuss their subject – seems to provide some graduates with critiquing, debate and discussion skills.

If higher education provides individuals with the skills and knowledge needed for civic participation, there is strong justification for getting more students involved, far beyond an economic rationale.

Yet HE's effect on civil society does not appear to be equal for all graduates. For students graduating from particular universities, and with particular degrees, their gained skills, credentials and knowledge may give them an advantage in terms of their capacity to participate in civic society.



Dr Ceryn Evans

Dr Ceryn Evans is a Lecturer at Cardiff University and was previously a Research Associate at WISERD exploring 'Higher education and civil society'.

To find out more about Dr Ceryn Evans' work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/cerynevans

Promoting a “Welsh dimension” within education in Wales

The Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales (2015), more commonly known as the Donaldson Report, emphasises the need for a new curriculum for Wales to incorporate a “Welsh dimension”, or in the Report’s words, to be “authentic: rooted in Welsh values and culture.”

This reference to the connection that should exist between the new curriculum and “Welsh values and culture” illustrates some of the key issues that our research explores.

Firstly, what are these Welsh values and cultures? We know that nations are ‘imagined communities’, so we need to ask how Welsh values and cultures will be imagined as part of this new curriculum.

Some clues are given in the Donaldson Report, with reference made to the cultural significance of the Welsh language. More broadly, the Report also seeks to make connections between the new curriculum and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The vision promoted in the Act is of a Wales that is “prosperous, resilient, healthier, and more equal, with cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and a thriving Welsh language.”

Not many people would argue with the vision provided by the Well-being Act – with the obvious exception of the reference to the Welsh language.

However, to what extent does it provide a sense of the values and cultures that might underpin an “authentic” curriculum for Wales? Also, what are the characteristics of this “vibrant culture”, which might help to define a distinctively Welsh approach to education?

Secondly, who should be responsible for implementing this new curriculum? A significant role will be played by teachers. However, we need to be wary of the possible unintended consequences of providing too much latitude to individual schools and teachers within the new curriculum.

Some of our research undertaken in schools across Wales has shown that implementation of some aspects of the current Cwricwlwm Cymreig has been inconsistent, with some schools viewing it as something relevant only to the Welsh language, as opposed to something that needed to be mainstreamed throughout the whole curriculum. Care needs to be taken, consequently, to ensure that the “authentic” curriculum envisioned as part of the Donaldson Report is rolled out consistently.

Therefore, the Donaldson Report contains a series of laudable statements about the need to embed Welsh values and cultures in the new curriculum for Wales, but as we point out here, and as the Report notes, “there is a degree of complexity to be resolved”. We would argue that our role, as social science researchers based in Wales, is to seek to understand this complexity and, where possible, to resolve it.



Professor Rhys Jones

Professor Rhys Jones is a political geographer who studies the state, nationalism and the Welsh language. He is based at Aberystwyth University and is part of the WISERD research team exploring ‘Education, language and identity’.

To find out more about Professor Rhys Jones’ work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/rhysjones



Young people want more say when it comes to GCSEs

A new study by WISERD researcher, Dr Rhian Barrance, and Queen's University Belfast, has found that students in Wales and Northern Ireland want more choice and fairness when it comes to their GCSE experience. This includes the subject selection process and the pressure to take on particular academic subjects.

The study draws on data from 38 schools – 18 in Wales and 20 in Northern Ireland – in which 1,600 students took part by completing a questionnaire and taking part in focus group sessions. The findings have been published as one of several working papers on the theme of inequalities and the curriculum by the Centre for

Longitudinal Studies at the UCL Institute of Education.

GCSEs are the main school-leaving examinations taken by 16-year-olds in Wales, England and Northern Ireland.

The study found that while GCSEs are labelled as the same examination and students are obtaining the same qualification in the UK, they actually reflect very different curriculum and assessment systems across Wales, England and Northern Ireland.

Co-author of the paper, Dr Rhian Barrance, said: "These issues are increasingly relevant in the context of recent reforms to GCSEs that have

resulted in the difference between the ways that GCSEs are assessed across the UK."

Professor Jannette Elwood, from the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen's and co-author of the paper, said: "Overall, we found that students felt their options at GCSE were restricted and they raised concerns that subject option choices and GCSE specifications were things that they were never consulted about. The students felt they could and should be consulted more about the higher level policy matters such as the curriculum they follow, the subjects they are able to choose at GCSE and how they are assessed."

The study recommends that students could be consulted when it comes to whose views are sought on any upcoming assessment reform, not only for GCSE programmes, but other significant examinations.

During GCSE results week this year, we published a three-part blog series exploring young people's views on choice and fairness. To read the blogs, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk

WISERD evaluates free scheme for primary schools

Dr Rhian Barrance has been selected to carry out the Evaluation of the Children's Commissioner for Wales Super Ambassador scheme, which 260 primary schools signed up to in the 2016-17 academic year.

The Super Ambassador scheme is free for schools to take part in. It aims to raise awareness of children's rights and the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) among children and professionals in primary school settings.

It also aims to raise awareness of the role of the Children's Commissioner for Wales among children and professionals, and to provide a mechanism to enable the Commissioner to gather the opinions and experiences of children in Wales.

The aim of the evaluation is to assess the impact of the scheme, to identify its strengths and weaknesses, and to develop recommendations to increase uptake and impact.

The evaluation is wide-ranging, and has involved interviews, questionnaires and observations of training sessions.

NEWS

EXPLORING SOCIETY'S VIEWS ON EDUCATION



Are Welsh-medium schools middle-class?

Siôn Llewelyn Jones, from Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences, examined this question in a presentation at Cardiff University's tent at the National Eisteddfod on Anglesey this summer.

Siôn said: "There is an assumption that as a result of school choice, the majority of students who go to Welsh-medium schools in south-east Wales are largely from privileged, middle-class backgrounds.

"I have been examining whether this assumption reflects evidence on the social composition of Welsh-medium and English-medium schools.

"I have also been looking at how school choice contributes to the differences in the social composition of Welsh-medium and English-medium schools in south-east Wales."

Siôn said parents were influenced by many factors when deciding whether to choose Welsh or English-medium schools including cultural, educational

and economic considerations, and how they relate to the Welsh language.

While it is a complex matter to establish whether Welsh-medium schools are "middle class", Siôn said the data did enable some conclusions to be drawn.

"Welsh-medium schools in south-east Wales on average have lower proportions of students from the poorest households because they have on average lower percentages of students on free school meals compared to English-medium schools in south-east Wales," he said.

He said Welsh Government and local authorities needed to develop policies to ensure that children from all social backgrounds were able to access Welsh-medium education.

"Examining the types of students who attend Welsh-medium schools in south-east Wales is important as Welsh-medium schools are considered to be essential in revitalising the Welsh language in this area of Wales."

Siôn Llewelyn Jones presented his research on how parents make their choices regarding medium of education as part of the WISERD Cardiff lunchtime seminar series and also at this year's WISERD Annual Conference.

Read Siôn's blog on our website to find out more:
www.wiserd.ac.uk/sionllewelynjones

Do Eurosceptic parents produce Eurosceptic kids?

A long-established finding in social research is that many of the civic and political traits we express as adults reflect our experiences and the values we developed during our youth. Our parents are important influences upon the development of these traits.

For example, children whose parents were passionate supporters of the Labour Party during their formative years are more likely to support the Labour Party themselves.

A growing body of research has shown that Euroscepticism – or support for membership of the EU and involvement with it – is also one such trait. We know very little, however, about how important our parents' attitudes towards the EU during our childhood were in shaping our support for EU membership.

Our research has examined this question using newly released data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study, which is not yet widely available to the academic community. This is a long-running survey that allows us to match those who were

surveyed in 2016 about their support for EU membership with the views of their parents about the EU during their formative years in 2006.

The data shows that there is indeed a relationship between having Eurosceptic parents and being Eurosceptic in later life.

Those in our survey who had particularly Eurosceptic mothers (we didn't, unfortunately, have enough data to perform a similar analysis on fathers) during their formative years were more likely to be Eurosceptic and to support Brexit in 2016. This was only true for very Eurosceptic mothers, however; lukewarm sentiments were not as readily transmitted.

We also found that this transmission was more profound for those whose mothers were particularly interested in politics. These mothers were far more likely to pass their Euroscepticism on to their children than those for whom politics was less important.

A more surprising finding, however, was that mothers who were almost completely disengaged from politics (regardless of whether they were

Eurosceptic or not) were also more likely to produce Eurosceptic children who supported Brexit in 2016.

This is because these mothers were likely to pass their lack of interest in politics on to their children as well, and we know that:

Political disengagement and disaffection was one of the reasons many 'leave' voters supported Brexit in the referendum.

Our study shows, therefore, that if we want to explain how and why an individual decided to vote for Brexit in 2016, or how Eurosceptic they might be at any point in time, we need to pay attention to the ways in which their childhood experiences, and the political values and beliefs of their parents, helped to shape their propensity to support EU membership.

It also shows that it is isn't just the transmission of a hostility to EU membership that matters, but the transmission of other political traits as well, such as being interested in and engaged with politics more generally.



Dr Stuart Fox

Dr Stuart Fox is a Quantitative Research Associate at Cardiff University and part of the team working on WISERD's Young people and Brexit project, which involves fellow academics at Cardiff University and Aberystwyth University.

To find out more about Dr Stuart Fox's work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/stuartfox



Young people and Brexit: one year on

Left to right: Leanne Wood AM, Caitlin Prowle, Welsh Co-operative Party, Professor Paul Chaney, WISERD Co-Director, Dr Andy Mycock, University of Huddersfield

NEWS EXPLORING YOUNG PEOPLE, POLITICS & FAMILY VALUES

In June, young people, academics, politicians and representatives from third sector organisations came together at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) building in London.

One year on from the EU Referendum, this conference provided an opportunity to share and discuss the latest research on young people and the UK's exit from the European Union, and to debate the ways in which young people could be better represented throughout the Brexit process.

The event was a culmination of WISERD's 'Young People and Brexit' project – an ESRC-funded interdisciplinary research study looking into how young people are responding to Brexit and how it is affecting their political engagement overall. It follows on from last year's project which explored young people's engagement with the EU Referendum.

The event was an opportunity to consider the 2017 general election, which saw a greater turnout of young people than in recent decades. Drawing on data from a bespoke survey of youth attitudes towards the EU conducted two months before the referendum, Chris Curtis from

YouGov shared the latest data. He said: "Social class is no longer the big dividing line in British politics. Age is now the biggest differentiator, with the young backing Labour."

Six panels presented a variety of topics, ranging from the intergenerational transmission of Euroscepticism, the role of social media, religion, social class, and the media in young people's vote choice, the impact of Brexit on young people's language and identity, and more. Many of these topics were also covered in a series of research films featuring 23 young people that were produced as part of the project and screened for the first time during the event.

The final item of the day was a roundtable debate, and question and answer session with Leanne Wood AM, leader of Plaid Cymru, Dr Andy Mycock from the University of Huddersfield and Caitlin Prowle, a young activist and member of the Welsh Co-operative Party.

Dr Sioned Pearce, one of the lead WISERD researchers on the Young People and Brexit project said: "There were so many strong, positive themes coming out of the day – how well the mixed audience worked; the varied debates; the genuine interaction from young people with academic findings; the fact that so many experts came to present; the way all the issues discussed throughout the day came together in an engaging final session – showing us that youth political engagement matters."

Despite the significant decrease in youth engagement in electoral politics, Millennials have become more interested in politics since Brexit. However, they are still the most politically apathetic generation in the history of British survey research. So the question remains, how long will the 'Brexit effect' last?

‘It’s bringing new life in’

Teenage parents and intergenerational values in family life

From a policy point of view, teenage parents, particularly mothers, are regarded as a problem.

Some have shown how quantitative research on teenage pregnancy and parenting highlights the problematic aspects, whereby teenage parenting is a route to social exclusion. However, it has been argued that qualitative research shows the opposite - that it can be a route to social inclusion - and I'd agree.

My research is based on qualitative interviews with teenage mothers and mothers-to-be from different generations, from one who had her baby in 1955 to some who had their babies in 2013. We discussed reactions to a pregnancy, and feelings about becoming a parent or a grandparent.

In almost every case, the pregnancies had been unplanned, the young women had been very nervous or scared about telling their parents, and the parental reactions ranged from disappointment to anger. However, as one of the soon-to-be-grandmothers said, "it's nice now I've got used to it."

Despite the parents talking about having "wanted more" for their daughters, they also talked about the joy of new life being brought into their family, and how they were looking forward to, or enjoying being, grandparents.

Becoming a grandparent was a natural and desirable stage of life, something to be anticipated with pleasure and enjoyed. The context of these young women becoming mothers, then, is one where they are part of a loving family where a baby, although unexpected, is welcomed.

Teenage parenthood was acknowledged to be challenging, and this was where the initial disappointment stemmed from - the older generation who had experienced hardships and challenges of teenage parenting themselves didn't want their daughters to suffer similar hardships. The teenagers themselves looked to their mothers as evidence that it was possible to navigate a successful life as a young parent.

In addition, for many of the young people, becoming a parent was not an end point, but a turning point; many of them were highly motivated to return to education, which they saw as a route to getting a good job in order to support themselves as a family.

So it seems that my work fits with other qualitative research suggesting that teenage parenting often results in a greater desire to participate in civil society, ie, social inclusion rather than exclusion.

What's interesting at the moment is the increasing presence on social media



Dr Sally Brown

Dr Sally Brown is a Lecturer in Sociology at Edinburgh Napier University. She was recently joined by WISERD colleagues at Cardiff University for her presentation in the Civil Society seminar series. Dr Brown shared findings from her qualitative interviews with teenage mothers and mothers-to-be from different generations, as part of her research on teenage pregnancy and intergenerational relations.

To read Dr Sally Brown's blog in full, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/sallybrown

of young women who are voicing these sentiments for themselves, feeling ignored and dismissed by politicians and media who stick with the line that teenage parenting is always problematic. Undoubtedly there are some young parents who struggle, as do some older parents. As a society, we should be ensuring that all parents can access the support they need in order to become more socially included.



WISERD at the Hay Festival

WISERD researchers presented our work on young people, education and politics, as part of this year's exciting line-up at the 30th anniversary Hay Festival.

'Mind the gap' formed part of the Cardiff Series, and was chaired by Dr Stuart Fox, with presentations from Dr Sioned Pearce, Dr Dan Evans and Dr Esther Muddiman. It considered the striking divisions revealed between generations in the result of the 2016 EU Referendum.

A majority of 18 to 24-year-olds voted to remain in the EU while a majority of over-65s voted to leave. Our researchers addressed how and why this divide has come about, and the importance of the digital revolution in this context.

Dr Sioned Pearce explored the different sources of media (see Figure 1), including social media, that young people used to

gather information during the EU Referendum last year, and discussed the implications of young people's trust in the Leave and Remain campaigns for the results.

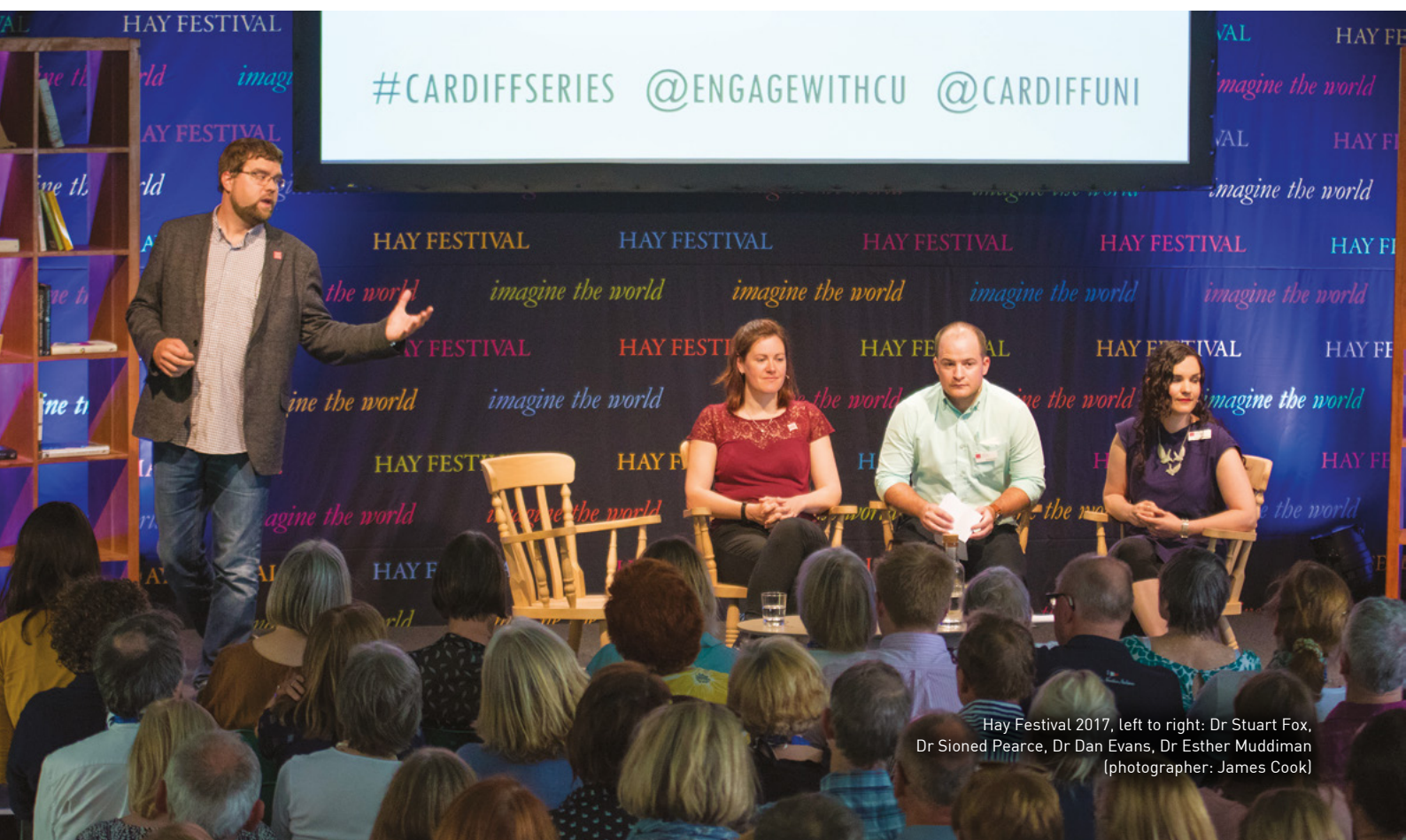
Dr Dan Evans introduced audience members to our WISERD Education Multi-Cohort Study, which has involved more than 1,200 pupils in over 30 schools around Wales and is gauging pupils' political knowledge.

The data Dr Evans presented gave an indication of how 14 to 15-year-olds and 16 to 17-year-olds might have voted in the EU Referendum, if they had been able to (see Figure 2), and whether they thought the decision to leave the EU will be good or bad for young people in Wales.

Dr Esther Muddiman explored the role of family relationships in the shaping of social attitudes. This included an analysis of how often teenagers spend time with grandparents, what they talk about (see Figure 3) and do together, and how this shapes their values, beliefs, and behaviours.

Dr Stuart Fox chaired a busy question and answer session at the end of the presentation leading to discussions around compulsory voting and the role of schools in political education.

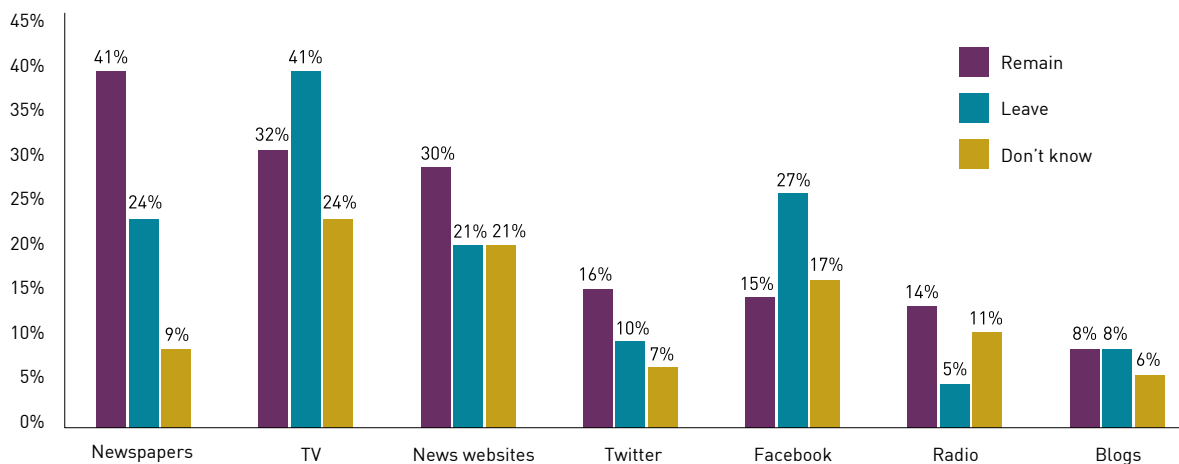
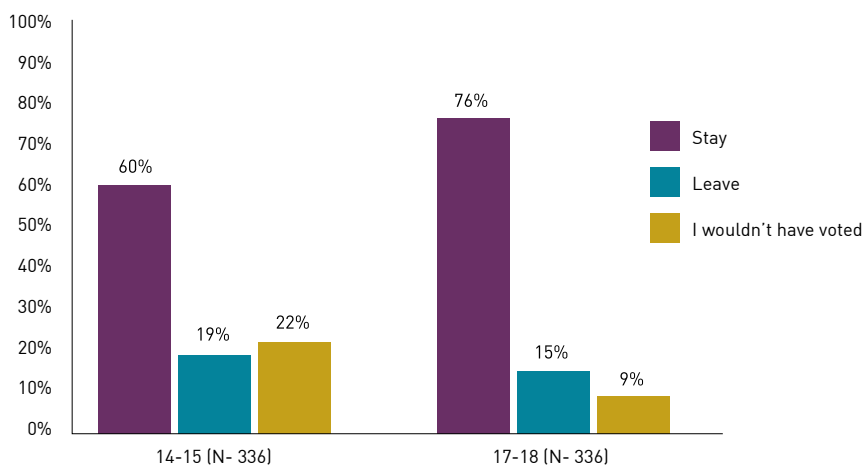
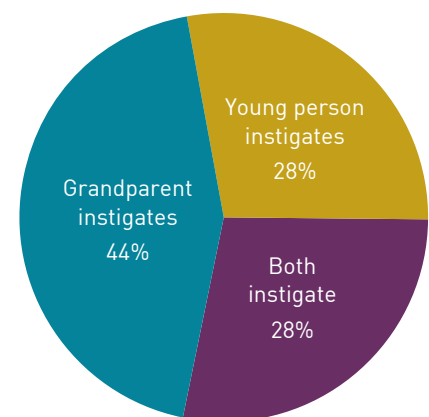
The presentation attracted over 250 audience members, and comments included: "Very interesting" and "I have three children, this was really relevant."



Hay Festival 2017, left to right: Dr Stuart Fox, Dr Sioned Pearce, Dr Dan Evans, Dr Esther Muddiman (photographer: James Cook)

EXPLORING YOUNG PEOPLE, POLITICS & FAMILY VALUES

NEWS

Figure 1: Voting preference and source of information**Figure 2: Would you have voted to stay in or leave the EU?****Figure 3: Do participants talk about politics with their grandparent(s)?**

1 in 5 of our participants said that they do talk about politics with their grandparent.



Inheritance mapping, by Louise Taylor, Cardiff University student

Inheritance mapping

Two undergraduate research placement students worked with Dr Esther Muddiman over the summer as part of an inheritance mapping project. A series of visual 'family trees' were created to help the team explore the connections that exist between family members and to discover the kinds of values and practices that get passed between the generations. Our research on 'generations' was also shared at a recent Civil Society seminar at Cardiff University, which explored the role of the family in civil society.

BLOG

EXPLORING OUR CHANGING COMMUNITIES

The perils and pitfalls of feeding back on local field studies



Dr David Dallimore

Dr David Dallimore is a Research Officer at Bangor University and part of the WISERD team 'Researching civil participation in Wales, in place and over time.'

To find out more about Dr David Dallimore's work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/daviddallimore

In 2014 we embarked on a comparative study of two villages in North East Wales. Our research focused on how people come together in local areas – in clubs, societies and groups – and observed how such association is changing.

We spent two years interviewing local people, listening to their life histories and experiences, observing their habits and trying to understand the complexity of local life. Having given us so much time and access to their lives, we felt it was important to feed back our initial research findings.

Our research design incorporated methods to improve cooperation and provide those who took part in our research with a stake in the process.



Dr David Dallimore presenting his research

We communicated the purpose and importance of the research to participants and the wider community, and took an open and flexible approach to recruiting participants.

After collecting our data, we provided information about findings to those who made the research possible. However, while there is a moral and ethical imperative to feeding back research findings to participants, doing so may cause embarrassment or distress to those studied, or in the case of community studies, cause strife or discord where none existed before.

We organised an open meeting in each village and invited local residents, including research participants. By sharing information we tested our developing knowledge and ideas, and took the opportunity to add to, augment or critique our analysis through conversation and open discussion.

However, we knew some findings were contentious within the communities and by comparing the villages our findings inevitably involved some value judgements. Our presentations therefore had to present evidence and conceptual findings in a way that the communities would find helpful, without being patronising or causing offence. The eventual experience was very different between the villages.

In the first, residents were interested and engaged during the meeting. However, we were subsequently invited back to meet an action group campaigning against a new housing development – they wanted to know how our findings could help their campaign. This caused some difficulties, as one of our conclusions was that new people moving in was important in maintaining a vibrant village life. Therefore, the interface between research and participants needed careful management.

In the second, our research made us aware of possible factions within the community, which underpinned much of the local associational life. This finding was confirmed when those attending the meeting visibly split into 'insiders' and 'outsiders', with the 'insiders' oblivious or unwilling to accept that such divisions existed. We steered discussions sensitively, focusing on positives and helping them to look at each other, and forwards.

With both villages, in trying to engage our subjects we reached a point where we risked crossing the line from researcher, to advocate or campaigner. This leaves us with the question of whether we should – is the role of the researcher just to inform the action of others?

Going the extra mile: women, migrants, and civil society in austere times

Hardly a day goes by without discussion of immigration in the media. Recently, a leaked Home Office document outlined plans to limit immigration from the EU after Brexit, and once again, the report and surrounding discussion focused on the perceived shortcomings of immigration.

We have interviewed 40 key stakeholders representing 25 organisations run by EU migrants, mainly from central and eastern Europe. Our research has found that rather than requiring support, migrants often provide it through these groups and associations, which play a key function in the context of austerity policies.

Our research has found that rather than requiring support, migrants often provide it.

Austerity politics have hampered integration strategies at a time when there have been increasing expectations on immigrants to integrate. Cuts to local authority budgets place pressure on these organisations, requiring them to do more with less. As one respondent noted, this means specialisms are lost:

"Also I think there's a real issue with people taking on responsibility for things that they're not really qualified

in...you've got somebody who might have worked in environmental services being given equalities as a post and knows nothing about equalities."

Consequently, there is a reliance on voluntary organisations to fulfil some of the roles previously associated with the public sector, acting as a "shadow state". This relies on volunteers contributing time, energy, emotions, and often money, to support others. Motivation is often focused on wishing to help others who are facing the difficulties they too encountered when they arrived:

"I faced the same challenges as Polish people who arrived in Swansea who could not speak English well. My motivation was to help them."

Others wanted to counter the negative images of immigrants in the media and provide a positive role model:

"I am fed up with the negative image of Polish people not contributing. It affects Polish people themselves, feeling ashamed to speak Polish in public. I wanted to change this image."

Other studies have identified how women, in particular, are associated with care-giving roles in the shadow state, often based on gender constructions of femininity. These activities are often 'invisible' when accounting for the work undertaken

by organisations, as they take place outside work hours and work premises. Altruism and a feeling of not being able to let people down can have implications on people's wellbeing. Respondents spoke about not being able to go about their day-to-day lives without being approached by people who needed their advice and in some instances this had led to diagnoses of depression.

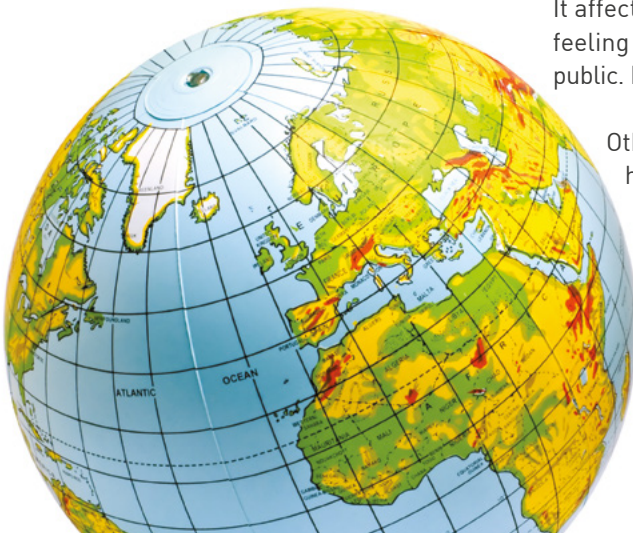
The shadow state depends a great deal on people's benevolence and altruism to function, and much of this labour is "invisible". Increasing competition for smaller pots of money means a reliance on such practices; however, this is not sustainable. Organisations are at risk of winding-up due to lack of funding, placing further pressure on those that continue.



Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones

Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones is a Lecturer in Human Geography at Aberystwyth University and part of the WISERD research team exploring 'Migrants, minorities and engagement in local civil society.'

To find out more about Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones' work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/rhysdafyddjones



Transparency – a commitment to greater accountability or an overpriced pint?

The seemingly unending decline of trust in politicians and the political process has been a recurring story within the media in recent years.

In January, the annual Edelman Trust Barometer reported a “global implosion of trust”, with levels of trust in government falling across half of the countries surveyed, from South Africa to Spain. Politicians across the world are facing a challenge – how to re-engage with a public which appears to be increasingly detached from and distrustful of politics and the political process.

One answer put forward for revitalising public trust is the potential role of enhanced transparency. In her BBC Reith Lectures in 2002, philosopher Onora O’Neill compared this commitment to greater accountability as being like “great draughts of Heineken”, refreshing those parts that existing forms of accountability just can’t reach.

But what do we mean by transparency and how can we be sure that it is actually restoring trust in any meaningful way?

To put it another way, is it just a slightly watered down, lukewarm, overpriced pint?

There are some key questions we need to ask when exploring questions of trust and transparency. Firstly, transparency of what? Are we talking about the way decisions or policies are made, what they are, how they are supposed to solve a problem, what implications they will have for citizens and ultimately whether they have worked or not?

Secondly, the quality of the transparency matters – can we

understand the information that is provided or are we simply buried in an avalanche of meaningless, often irrelevant data?

Thirdly, timing matters – what is the point of information being provided if we get it four or five years after it’s useful?

Finally, is the information being provided voluntarily or has government been forced to release it, for example, through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request? How we answer these questions matters in how we understand the relationship between trust and transparency.

For example, in the wake of the Grenfell fire, a story published in *Inside Housing* magazine received national media attention. The original story, based on a FOI request, noted that a 2016 London Fire Brigade report on a previous fire highlighted the potential role of external cladding in spreading fires and questioned the existing policy of advising residents to “stay put” in their homes. While this story went relatively unnoticed until the Grenfell fire, the information provided by this form of transparency likely did more to reinforce concerns or distrust regarding central and local government’s approach to fire safety than it did to restore it.

Transparency may have a role in restoring public trust in politics and politicians, but it may not be the silver bullet that some had hoped.



Dr Ian Stafford

Dr Ian Stafford is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Relations in the School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University and Principal Investigator on the WISERD Civil Society project, ‘Building Trust? Institutions and interactions of multi-level governance in the UK, Germany and France.’

To find out more about Dr Ian Stafford’s work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/ianstafford

Does social enterprise mean business?

The financial crisis has been identified as the catalyst for the tremendous growth seen in social enterprise – organisations that have social purpose but rely on the functioning of the market to maintain long term viability.

Social enterprises are thought to have grown from an estimated 5,000 in the late 1990s to an estimated 70,000 in 2016, although estimates vary widely. The growth has been driven by a number of factors, ranging from a perceived ideological need to roll back the state in an effort to reduce national debt, to a disillusionment in the neoliberal approach. The latter is perhaps proving more pervasive than could be anticipated, resulting in a change of mindsets amongst aspiring entrepreneurs.

The latest SEUK report (Social Enterprise UK, 2017) has a more sophisticated, professional feel to it than earlier versions.

Time series data are emerging and meaningful comparisons are made to key administrative data (such as the Small Business Survey). Social enterprises are emerging as a dominant form, challenging the conventions of the third sector and maturing, although 25% are still less than four years old, compared to

8% of the SME population for 2016 (Social Enterprise UK, 2017).

My WISERD Civil Society research explores the potential for administrative data linking to examine the longer run performance and evolution of social enterprises. Emerging findings suggest that traditional methods for measuring economic performance fall short of capturing social value, but provide a useful yardstick for establishing longevity of social enterprises. Further exploitation of these data will inevitably yield a better understanding in terms of the survival and purpose of such enterprise.

However, are social enterprises a panacea? Some would argue they are weaker in terms of accountability than previously publicly delivered services, although this is a relatively narrow view of the diversity of social enterprises and their role in the economy.

Anecdotally, Adam Smith, the Entrepreneur in Residence at the University of Kent comments that

“students engaged with business start-up ideas are increasingly likely to think of social enterprise as a vehicle for delivering (often social) innovation to market”, indicating that the next wave of entrepreneurs are more socially minded. This suggests that social enterprise as an organisational form is here to stay, and not simply as a stop-gap until the market gets its act together.

WISERD will be holding the annual Welsh Retail and Leisure Summit with the Local Data Company (LDC) at Cardiff University in January 2018. Come along to hear more about the latest findings on Wales' changing retail landscape.



Dr Catherine Robinson

Dr Catherine Robinson is Director of Graduate Studies at Kent Business School, University of Kent. She is part of the WISERD Civil Society research team exploring 'Social Enterprise in Wales, the UK and Europe'.

To find out more about Dr Catherine Robinson's work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/catherinerobinson



Does community cohesion matter when it comes to library accessibility?

From realms of fantasy to political intrigue, libraries are places where people of all ages can immerse themselves in fiction and non-fiction alike. Sadly, ever-tightening local government budgets have necessitated changing levels of provision for many of our beloved local public services.

For some libraries this means reduced opening hours or even forced closures when the cost of provision cannot be eased by voluntary support. A recent BBC investigation revealed that 45 libraries in Wales have closed since 2010, while one in 10 is now run by local volunteers.

So how do we differentiate between communities which are more likely, or better able, to engage in active citizenship and those which are not? What indicators, if any, could help

inform policymakers of the potential resilience of communities to the loss of publicly provided services?

Our research seeks to address such questions through the use of advanced Geographical Information System (GIS) techniques, which enable the analysis and mapping of geographical data, to provide policymakers with insights regarding potential spatial implications of changes to current (and projected) levels of public service provision in Wales.

We are currently examining whether more socially cohesive communities are better able to encourage active citizenship, such as local voluntary work or attending public meetings, in order to prevent service loss or reduction.

To find out, we are creating local measures of social capital (a recognised measure of social connectedness) for Wales using administrative and social survey data, which will be examined in relation to spatial variations in library provision (and other services reliant on voluntary support).

Two potential measures currently being explored relate to numbers of registered blood and organ donors (under the previous 'opt-in' system of consent) at Welsh community level, as potential indicators of altruistic and civic behaviours.

To our knowledge, no studies to date have attempted to generate small-area measures of social capital for Wales using both administrative and social survey data, or have attempted to examine such measures in relation to levels of service accessibility using advanced spatial methods.

Given recent policy initiatives in Wales, our work is increasingly timely. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act calls for 'a Wales of cohesive communities' and an examination of spatial patterns in local levels of social capital could prove a useful starting point to estimating current levels of community cohesion.

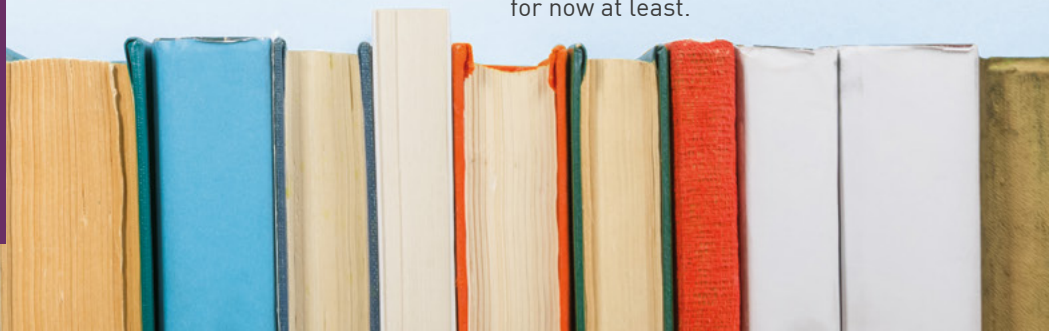
As for now, I had better get back to work, as I have a mountain of papers to read. Luckily for me I know the perfect place to catch up on my reading in peace and quiet, for now at least.



**Dr
Nicholas
Page**

Dr Nicholas Page is a Senior Research Assistant at WISERD, based at the University of South Wales, and former Research Associate at Cardiff University's Violence Research Group. He is part of the research team seeking to explore 'Implications of spatial and temporal variation in service provision for inequalities in social outcomes.' His two most recent articles can be found in the *Oxford Journal of Public Health and Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*.

To find out more about Dr Nicholas Page's work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/nicholaspage



What do memorials mean to us?

We are working on an ethnography of Six Bells, which was once a pit village on the eastern borders of the South Wales coalfield. Our primary interest lies in the significance of Guardian, a memorial erected in 2010 to commemorate a mining disaster in the village that resulted in the death of 45 miners in 1960.

When describing our work in Six Bells, the people we speak to have invariably been making connections with recent events in the American South. In August, in Charlottesville, Virginia, white supremacists marched in protest to the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue. During the demonstration a counter-protester, Heather Heyer, was killed amid violent clashes between the opposing sides.

This was not an isolated event; debate over the place of monuments and memorials of the confederacy has already led to the removal, or planned removal, of many across America to date. Thus more than 150 years after the end of the American Civil War, the related memorials and monuments, typically statues of civil war 'heroes', have become sites of intensely contested collective memory and cultural meaning.

In this context, Jane Dailey, a Professor of History at the University of Chicago, has reflected on who the memorialisation of the civil war has strived to forget. General William Mahone is one such figure. Having served in the confederate army throughout the civil war, Mahone was known as a distinguished and able commander, and yet his is a notable omission in the memorialisation of leading figures of the time.

One explanation posited by Dailey lies in his post-war career as the key orchestrator of the most successful interracial political alliance in the post-emancipation South. His Readjuster Party, an independent coalition of black and white Republicans and Democrats, governed the state of Virginia between 1879 and 1883. Not surprising then that those of the white elite who built memorials to confederate generals chose to forget Mahone.

These recent events lead us to some interesting reflections pertinent to our study of Six Bells. Most obviously,

remembering and forgetting through memorialisation are shared practices rooted in particular places, marking particular times. Who and what we choose to remember, and how we remember it are political, social and cultural acts, which have symbolic power. The 'when' of remembering is also important: often memorials and monuments are created and contested at times of instability or rapid social change when moral meaning is disputed.

This leads us to question what is considered worthy of memorialising and why these representations of the past are so important to us. Our work with Guardian in Six Bells considers these questions, and specifically the ways in which remembering the past is tied to the values, practices and beliefs that we hold dear in the present and ascribe to the material artefacts that mark our landscape in the contemporary era.

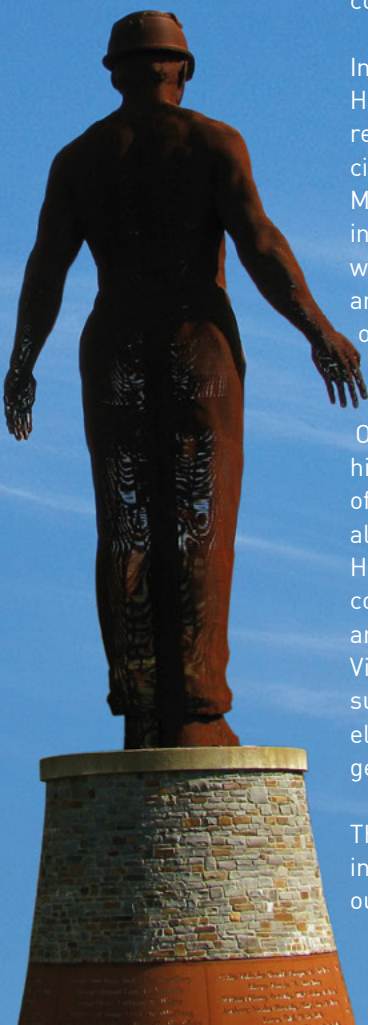


**Dr
Helen
Blakely**

Dr Helen Blakely is a Research Associate at Cardiff University and part of the WISERD Civil Society research team exploring 'Trade Union Membership, Associational Life and Wellbeing.'

Dr Blakely is currently working with Dr Kate Moles, Lecturer at Cardiff University, to learn more about the role of memorials in relation to collective memory and everyday cultural practices. This work stems from an interest in how collective understandings of the labour movement and working class life circulate between generations, and the ways in which these understandings are connected to place and specifically sites of memory.

To find out more about Dr Helen Blakely's work, visit www.wiserd.ac.uk/helenblakely





The Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (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.

WISERD hosts the UK-wide WISERD Civil Society Research Centre, a major investment by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and a number of other major research grants. At Aberystwyth University, WISERD includes the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society, and hosts the EU-funded GLOBAL-RURAL, IMAJINE and ROBUST projects. WISERD also hosts the Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC-W) at Cardiff University, part of a project led by Swansea University.

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