

WISERD

NEWS

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Wales Institute of Social and Economic
Research, Data and Methods

Sefydliad Ymchwil Gymdeithasol ac
Economaidd, Data a Dulliau Cymru

Education

Changing Communities

Economy

Health & Wellbeing





Welcome from the WISERD Director

WISERD turns 10 this year – a significant moment to look back at the valuable research we've carried out and the impact we've made on the landscape of social science in Wales.

Much continues from the early days of WISERD – our collaborative work across our five core universities and our connections to many partners, both in the UK and globally. Our research also maintains a strong focus on exploring communities and the key social challenges that they face. And I am delighted that this year's Annual Conference at the University of South Wales has the theme 'Addressing Inequalities and Injustice', another thread which runs through WISERD's work over the last decade.

However, it is also important that we change and adapt with the times and recognise that our social, political and economic landscapes have changed since WISERD began. Brexit now looms large and WISERD researchers are developing a strong body of work on the social consequences of the referendum. In this issue, you can read about how our researchers have been looking at the effects of leaving the EU on black and minority ethnic women in Wales.

We have also been working on building new and stronger international links. We recently held a joint conference in

Lyon to share our Civil Society research with colleagues at TRIANGLE - a French multi-institutional research institute. I am pleased to say we also agreed a Memorandum of Understanding, which will support ongoing collaboration. Further afield we have received Global Challenges Research Funding for a new civil society research project in India and Bangladesh which will explore the effective practice of civil society organisations in promoting human rights, good governance and social justice.

Research of the highest quality also takes time and long-term investment and for the last six years WISERD Education has been asking over a thousand children in Wales about their lives every year. This is a unique research resource and in this issue we share some of the most interesting findings.

Finally, one of the strengths of WISERD is our collaborative approach. The article on 'Sharing research and extending learning' demonstrates the value of building a supportive research community where people can share ideas and learn from one another.

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

Professor Ian Rees Jones
WISERD Director

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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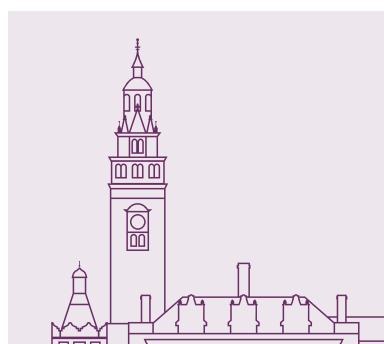
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NEWS

RECOGNISED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH

WISERD Co-Director elected to Academy of Social Sciences

WISERD Aberystwyth Co-Director Professor Michael Woods has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, the learned society for social science. Michael was one of fifty-eight new Fellows announced by the Academy in April. The fellowship has been conferred in recognition of Michael's contribution to human geography and the rural social sciences, particularly his pioneering work on the global countryside.

Michael Woods commented, "It is an honour to have been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, and pleasing to have further recognition of the importance of work in WISERD and its contribution to the British social science community". Michael joins WISERD Director Ian Rees Jones, Co-Director Sally Power and former Directors Huw Beynon and Gareth Rees as a Fellow of the Academy.



Professor Mike Woods

WISERD's Co-Director Chris Taylor appointed Fellow of LSW

The Learned Society of Wales (LSW) facilitates the authoritative exchange of knowledge and ideas and promotes public intellectual life in Wales. Election to the Fellowship is a public recognition of academic excellence and brings together 460 of the most prominent figures in Welsh academia.

Last year Professor Chris Taylor received the Learned Society of Wales' inaugural Hugh Owen Medal in recognition of his significant contributions to educational research in Wales.

Wales Social Research Awards

WISERD's Co-Director Chris Taylor won a prestigious Welsh Social Research Association award from an all-WISERD Shortlist.

WISERD's research impact was highlighted at the inaugural Wales Social Research Awards. The shortlisted nominees for the Research impact Award were all WISERD researchers. The prize was awarded to Professor Chris Taylor for his work leading a team on evaluating the Welsh Government's Foundation Phase, the school curriculum for 3-7 year olds.

Other nominees were Dr Peter Mackie, who chairs WISERD's Housing Research Network Dr Elin Royles, Dr Huw Lewis and Dr Catrin Wyn Edwards, who are part of WISERD's Centre for Welsh Politics and Society at Aberystwyth University.

Responding to the award, Professor Taylor said: "I would like to acknowledge all the research champions outside of universities that really make a difference in giving our research impact. This includes government social researchers who work closely with their policy colleagues to ensure evidence informs policy decisions, and school practitioners who engage with the latest evidence in order to develop effective teaching and learning.

I would also like to give thanks to the organisations, including the media and think-tanks, who aid the public in engaging with and debating research."

GW4 Crucible

Dr Muddiman has been awarded a place on the 2018 GW4 Crucible – an intensive programme focussed on pathways to impact, interdisciplinary networking and collaboration between early career researchers across the GW4 institutions (Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter Universities).

The crucible connects 30 researchers from different backgrounds during four residential 'labs', in which *cruciblees* participate in a suite of workshops and seminars with a range of external partners and expert guest speakers from government, media, and the third sector.

This year's theme – Resilience, Environment and Sustainability – is one of the five key areas of the GW4 vision, and the programme explicitly aims to equip early career researchers with the tools to co-create and deliver innovative, cross-disciplinary solutions to global challenges. For example, in lab three, after a number of 'speed dating' sessions where researchers from different fields identify shared ground and possible research ideas, a wall of potential project ideas emerged and was then arranged into cross-cutting themes to be developed into proposals.



GW4 Crucible [Dr Muddiman, centre-front]

Alongside hands-on training and mentoring on devising research ideas and writing proposals, there are also opportunities to develop dissemination and engagement skills including giving media interviews, using social media effectively and connecting with journalists.

Drawing on her current research exploring the role of family in people's accounts of civic and environmental engagement, Dr Muddiman is now planning to work with colleagues in psychology, geography, law, environmental science and business on a community sustainability project.



Dr Sioned Pearce

Dr Sioned Pearce selected for the Welsh Crucible

Dr Pearce will join the award-winning Welsh Crucible programme in Cardiff, Bangor and Swansea during May, June and July this year. The programme provides personal, professional and leadership development for potential future research leaders in Wales. The aim is to bring early and mid-career researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds together to collaborate, think creatively and make a difference to their work, career and the public sphere.

NEWS

INFORMING POLICY MAKERS

Successful futures for all

WISERD has received funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), for a research project that seeks to add value to the Welsh Government's existing evaluation of the progress of the Pioneer Schools in developing the new curriculum for 3-15 year olds in Wales. Dr Nigel Newton is working on this research, led by Professor Chris Taylor and Professor Sally Power.

The new curriculum offers an exciting and radical departure for education in Wales and this study follows its development.

Youth unemployment and civil society devolution

Dr Sioned Pearce has been awarded a New Investigator Grant which will fund the WISERD-based research project 'Youth unemployment and civil society under devolution: a comparative analysis of sub-state welfare regimes'.

The grant from the Economic and Social Research Council will fund a two-year project examining divergences in civil society responses to youth unemployment in the four devolved nations of the UK, from December 2018. The project aims to identify, categorise and compare scales and types of civil society involvement in youth unemployment policy and provision at sub-state scales of governance.

Through critiquing the notion of 'one UK welfare state' it will also progress our understanding of the impact of decentralisation, devolution and territorial rescaling on welfare state formation across Western Europe. The research findings will provide recommendations based on the implications of devolved differences in each devolved nation for youth unemployment policy and practice.

Children's Worlds

WISERD has funded Children's Worlds, an International Survey of Children's Well-being which is being held for the first time in Wales.

This is the largest study of its kind, funded by the Jacobs Foundation and is supported by multiple partners, including the Welsh Government and the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

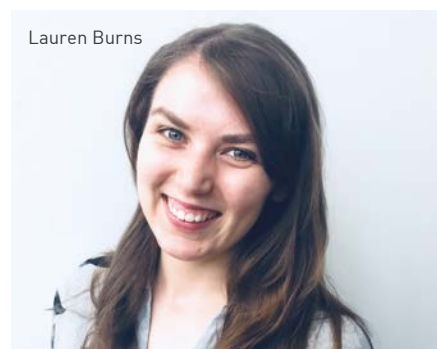
The purpose is to improve children's well-being by creating awareness among children, their parents and their communities, opinion leaders, decision makers, professionals and the general public. The study aims to collect solid and representative data on children's lives and daily activities, their time use and in particular on their own perceptions and evaluations of their well-being.



An update from ADRC Wales

ADRC-W welcomes new face through ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership Wales

The Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC-W) has welcomed Lauren Burns to its team of researchers.



Lauren Burns

Based at the Data Science Building in Swansea, Lauren has embarked on a three-year period of research funded by the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) Wales, working alongside Dr Ana Da Silva and Professor Ann John to investigate the impact of non-clinical patient factors in mental health clinical decision-making.

Lauren is the third member of the research team in Wales to have gained a place conducting research alongside ADRC-W as a result of funding calls.

First Year PhD Student Awarded Prestigious Housing Prize

ADRC-W PhD student Hannah Browne Gott has been awarded the prestigious Housing Studies Association Valerie Karn Early Career Researcher Prize.

Hannah picked up the award for her paper 'Housing rights, homelessness prevention and a paradox of bureaucracy?'. The prize is awarded to the best early career paper at the Housing Studies Association Annual Conference.

Speaking following receipt of the award, Hannah, who is conducting her PhD on housing rights and homelessness at the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University said:

"I am delighted to have won this award. This was my first time attending and presenting at an academic conference, so it is a huge honour to have received this. I hope that by winning this accolade I can contribute to improving our homelessness services here in the UK."



Hannah Browne Gott



Administrative Data
Research Centre
Wales

Homelessness study funding

The Welsh Government and the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) have agreed to fund a feasibility study led by ADRC-W and WISERD's Dr Ian Thomas, which could radically change the evidence base on homelessness in Wales.

Dr Ian Thomas will work with Welsh Government on a part-time basis for a year introducing new expertise and capacity, with the primary focus of exploring the feasibility of introducing an individual level data collection, reporting and analysis in relation to homelessness in Wales.

Welsh careers and education data analysis underway at ADRC-W

The Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC-W) has appointed Dr Suhaer Yunus to conduct analysis of Careers Wales administrative data.

The role, which is jointly funded by Careers Wales, will see Dr Yunus conduct research on the effectiveness of careers guidance interventions in Wales and how they support the participation in education, training and employment.

WISERD conference in Lyon marks next step in European collaboration

In May 2018, the 'Trust-Transparency Paradoxes' conference marked the beginning of a formal collaborative agreement between WISERD and TRIANGLE in Lyon, France.

The Memorandum of Understanding, signed on the eve of the conference, will support the development of exciting joint research projects, future academic exchanges and collaborative publications.

TRIANGLE and WISERD are both cross-institutional, multi-disciplinary centres of research excellence. While WISERD brings together researchers from the Universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales and Swansea, TRIANGLE spans the Universities of Lyon, Lyon 2, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Sciences-Po, Jean Monnet in St Etienne and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS). Both institutions include researchers in the fields of sociology, social policy, politics, economics and education. Future collaborations will be focused around three main areas of interest – education; public policy and governance; associations and civil society.

The collaboration between TRIANGLE and WISERD has the potential to provide new and important insights into enduring and emerging political, social and economic issues in France, Wales and the UK. It builds on long-standing relationships between researchers in Cardiff and Lyon. WISERD Education Director, Professor Sally Power, has regularly been invited to the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) over the past decade, one of the most prestigious institutions in French higher education.

Professor Alistair Cole has been Professor at Sciences Po Lyon since 2015, on secondment from Cardiff University's School of Law and Politics. He sits as an elected member of the TRIANGLE Scientific Committee and has a long-standing association with WISERD.

WISERD Director, Professor Ian Rees Jones, comments: "Our research has a deep concern for contemporary policy challenges and with Europe, and the UK in particular, facing a period of considerable uncertainty it is vital that we work with European partners to address the consequence of social, economic and political change. This agreement between TRIANGLE and WISERD offers a unique and exciting opportunity to build on our already close working relationships and to deepen and

extend our joint activities in key areas including education; policy innovation; comparative research on multi-level governance, trust and civil society and city regions."

Professor Gautier commented: "I look forward to fruitful future collaboration, especially in the context of TRIANGLE's cross-cutting priority in the field of education and learning, as well as in the respective converging interests in cities, regions, governance and public policy."

Professor Alistair Cole, who organised the conference, comments. "The conference represents an important opportunity to discuss interim findings from the WISERD Civil Society research projects represented and is a concrete realisation of a shared internationalisation strategy that will benefit both TRIANGLE and WISERD."



WISERD Director Ian Rees Jones (right) & Director of TRIANGLE, Professor Claude Gautier signing The Memorandum of Understanding

Exploring the Global Countryside

WISERD researchers in the GLOBAL-RURAL team at Aberystwyth University have launched a new online resource that will allow students, teachers, policy-makers, campaigners and interested members of the public to explore the complexities and impacts of globalization in rural communities.

The website, www.global-rural.org, is a result of the 5-year European Research Council GLOBAL-RURAL project led by Professor Michael Woods and is designed to make the project findings openly available in an accessible and engaging way.

The centrepiece of the website are multimedia Storymaps that combine text, images, GIS maps and visualisations, film and audio to tell narratives about globalization in rural contexts around the world. Many of the Storymaps present case studies from GLOBAL-RURAL field research in countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria and Tanzania, as well as Wales, whilst others provide overviews of topics such as migration, land-grabbing and the global dairy industry.

Among the first Storymaps to be featured on the website are narratives about Welsh wool and the global economy, the export activities of businesses in Newtown, and immigration and diversity in an Irish small town. Further content will be added over the coming year.

As well as the Storymaps the website provides access to papers and presentations from the GLOBAL-RURAL project and special resources for schools and for community leaders. The website aims to promote public understanding of globalization, especially in a rural context, but also aims to help rural communities respond to the challenges and opportunities that globalization brings.

New WISERD civil society research in India and Bangladesh



A new WISERD International Partnership project examining civil society in India and Bangladesh has been announced.

The 'Exploring Effective Practice in Civil Society Organisations' Promotion of Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice in India and Bangladesh' project is led by Professor Paul Chaney (Cardiff University) and Sarbeswar Sahoo (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi).

This project will combine mixed research methods drawing on sociology, political science and anthropology and is funded by the Medical Research Council Global Challenges Research Fund.

Professor Paul Chaney said, 'With religious freedom and gender equality being key to realising the UN Sustainable Development Goals, our project focuses on the key challenges facing civil society with ongoing deep-set patterns and processes of gender oppression and religious conflict in both countries. Attention will centre on civil society organisations' views of the key issues, areas of progress and ongoing challenges in relation to human rights advocacy and service delivery for women, girls and different religious communities'.

The project will inform understanding of civil society's role in meeting both countries' international human rights obligations, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other treaties.

NEWS

EDUCATION

The Welsh Government have announced plans to extend their pilot network for high achieving school pupils.

WISERD and ADRC-Wales researchers Rhys Davies and Dr Suhaer Yunus contributed to the recent evaluation of the Seren Network commissioned by the Welsh Government.

SEREN helps Wales' brightest sixth formers gain access to top universities across the world.



Credit: Wellington College CYBYNC

The evaluation's findings and recommendations were so significant they have resulted in Kirsty Williams

AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education, announcing a £3 million, two-year investment to further develop the Welsh Government's policy for more able and talented younger learners. Further to the investment Kirsty Williams AM, also set out three key principals to drive improvements:

- *Better identification and support at school, regional and national levels*
- *Opportunities that will inspire the highest levels of achievement*
- *The development of evidence to support further investment and work*

Rhys and Suhaer examined how administrative data sources could be used to assess the effectiveness of

the Seren Network and what practical and methodological issues that would need to be considered ahead of conducting a full impact evaluation of the Seren Network based upon linked administrative data.

A link to the full report is here.
bit.ly/2JkvEnr

The evaluation was led by colleagues at Old Bell 9 Ltd
www.ob3research.co.uk



Hugh Owen Medal lecture 2017

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

In honour of receiving his medal Professor Chris Taylor delivered a lecture titled 'Implementing the new curriculum in Wales: lessons to learn?' to a large audience of policy makers, teachers and academics.

He argued that since devolution Wales has seen a number of radical changes to its education system but that the most significant is still to

come. In 2015 the Welsh Government set out to introduce a new school curriculum for all 3-16 year olds, the largest curriculum reform ever seen in Wales.

The ambition to have a new curriculum in place by September 2021 has already been delayed. Kirsty Williams AM, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, announced that there would be a one year delay in the introduction of the new curriculum, and that its final implementation would now be 'phased' in. Professor Taylor argued that this deceleration recognises the scale of the task, but it also provides a good opportunity to reflect on its implementation.



The Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods (WISERD) has been heavily involved in evaluating and challenging many of the education reforms introduced by the Welsh Government in the last ten years. In this lecture he reflected on WISERD's evaluation of these reforms and considered what other lessons could be learnt to support the successful implementation of the new curriculum.

Charities are playing a growing role in schools — but is that a good thing?

While there have been growing concerns about the permeation of business in education, relatively little attention has been paid to how schools are increasingly engaged in the “business” of fundraising for charities.



Professor Sally Power

Prior to joining the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University in 2004 as a Professorial Fellow, Sally Power was based at the Institute of Education, University of London, where she was Head of the School of Educational Foundations and Policy Studies and Director of the Education Policy Research Unit. She is currently leading the ‘Generations’ strand of the ESRC/WISERD Civil Society Research Centre and is involved in a number of projects exploring the education reform programme in Wales.

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/sally-power

At WISERD Education, we have been examining this, especially looking at the increasingly close relationship between young people, schools and charities.

Our research, based on surveys of over 1,000 school students in Wales, shows that young people have a high degree of engagement with charities. The research showed us that a huge majority of students aged 14 – 18 had been involved in donating money to charities as well as participating in fundraising activities.

Students were asked to name the charities their school last fundraised for. Thirty-seven charities were identified; within the top ten were Children in Need, Cancer Research UK, Sports Relief and Wales Air Ambulance. It would be fair to say that schools play a big part in raising awareness of charities to children and encouraging them to take part in charitable activities.

It can be argued that these ‘charitable activities’ provide a sense of citizenship, in terms of individual engagement and participation in collective school activities. However, concerns have been raised about the promotional activities of charities. In addition to worries that some bigger charities are essentially little different from business, almost all of the charities that our schools supported have visible links with businesses. Children in Need is

heavily sponsored by Lloyds Bank and the supermarket chain ASDA. Sports Relief, the third most frequently mentioned charity, also has business partners, including Sainsbury’s, BT, British Airways and Amazon. The logos and links to all these companies feature on nearly all the promotional resources for schools.

It has also been argued that children are being taught that charities present the solution for a range of social ‘ills’ and that this ignores other approaches. Many of the causes tackled by these charities, such as child abuse, child poverty, homelessness and animal cruelty, might be tackled more appropriately through political solutions. It might be argued that charities are providing a form of sticking plaster, a way of masking or ‘fixing’ chronic social needs.

Though there are undoubtedly many benefits of charitable engagement in schools, there are still concerning issues too. Is the mainstreaming of charities evidence of increasing commercialisation within schools? Set within a political climate where civil society is increasingly being heralded as the answer to a wide range of enduring social and economic problems, it is open to question whether schools should be endorsing the virtues of charities when state interventions may be more appropriate.

WISERD Education's most interesting findings

For the last six years, WISERD Education have been giving surveys about their lives to over a thousand children (8-18) across Wales every year. Here are some of our most interesting findings about children in Wales:

1. Girls are better than boys at school, but are less happy

While girls tend to do better academically, they are also more anxious. In 2014, 25% of girls, compared to 16% of boys said that they felt worried at school.

2. They are more likely to hear sexism and racism at school than in their local areas

In 2017 we found that children were much more likely to hear racist language (55%) and sexist language (61%) at school than in their local area (43%).

3. Private tutoring is less prevalent in Wales than in England

However, it is still high for subjects such as Mathematics, where one in ten students reported having a private tutor.

4. They think that the scenery and landscape are the best things about living in Wales

These were followed closely by people and community. The worst things were the weather and perceived lack of opportunities.

5. Their sleep is disrupted by social media

Just under a quarter of 12-15 year olds wake up to check social media most nights. Unsurprisingly, those who did this were far more likely to report being tired the next day.

6. Over a quarter think they will have to leave Wales to get a job

There was also a lot of ambivalence around whether they wanted to stay in Wales, with around half of students not indicating any preference either way.

7. Support for votes at 16 has grown following Brexit

Until 2017, pupils over 16 tended to be opposed to votes at 16. However, after the referendum they started supporting the lower voting age, telling us that the referendum result was 'unfair' as they hadn't had a say.

8. Give them a million pounds each and a quarter of them would give it away

A further 25% said that they would give at least some of it away, and 14% told us that they that they would save it all. Only 36% would spend most of it.

9. Climate change and poverty are as much of a threat as terrorism for many

Younger children tended to report terrorism as their number one fear, whereas older children were more likely to select climate change and poverty as major concerns.

10. They value the Welsh language, but are less keen on learning it themselves

In 2013, nearly three-quarters of children told us that it was important for Welsh to remain a living language, although fewer pupils (65%) stated that it was important for them to learn it.



Dr Rhian Barrance

Dr Rhian Barrance is a Research Associate on the WISERD Education research programme. Prior to joining WISERD, Rhian completed her PhD in Education at Queen's University Belfast. Rhian is a qualified English Teacher. She is currently working on the WISERD Education Multi Cohort Study, a large-scale longitudinal cohort study which has been surveying pupils across Wales on aspects of their lives and education over the last six years.

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/rhian-barrance

Welsh schools urgently need political participation

After 20 years of devolved politics, one would assume that Wales's government and parliament would have solidified its place in the country, and the people of Wales would be well aware of what they do. Yet surveys and research have shown time and time again that awareness of what authority these bodies have is still shockingly low.

Fig. 1: % interest in different scales of politics by age

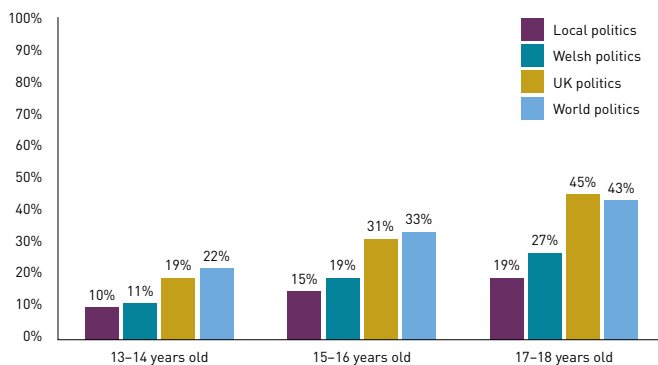
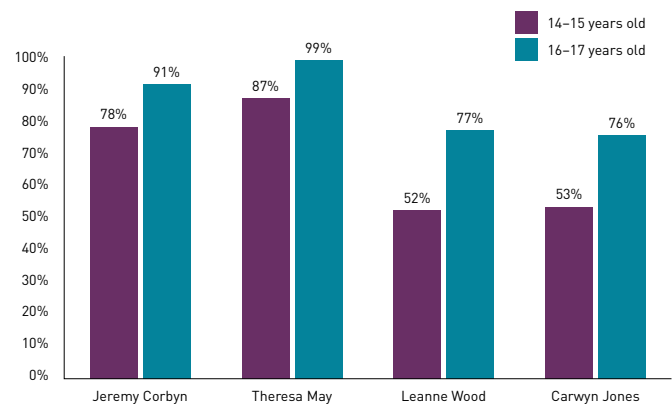


Fig. 2: % Political leaders correctly matched to job



What students think

Over the last five years, WISERD Education has been researching the role education can play in Welsh politics. We've gone straight to the source, asking Welsh pupils about their interest in politics, as well as the role that school plays in their understanding of current affairs.

In 2016, we asked over 700 students from across Wales how interested they were in different scales of politics. As you can see in Figure 1, not many reported much interest, although, importantly, students were far less interested in local or Welsh politics than they were in UK and world politics.

It should be noted the students are not apolitical. They care about Brexit, racism and their communities. Disengagement from 'formal' politics does not equal apathy, however the lack of interest in Welsh politics is concerning.

We then asked the students to match the political leader to their job (Figure 2). Unsurprisingly the older group displayed a higher level of awareness, but both groups were more aware of the UK leaders than Welsh ones. There was some confusion when it came to the Welsh leaders too, with a significant amount getting Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood and First Minister Carwyn Jones roles mixed up. This disparity illustrates the importance afforded to the different scales of politics: British politics is clearly more visible than Welsh Politics in Wales.

By carrying out these tests we got a level of understanding of what students thought about the role of school in teaching political awareness and knowledge. It seemed that the majority felt that school did not increase their interest in Welsh politics.

We asked the students to choose the main sources they turn to for information on current affairs, it wasn't surprising most relied

on Facebook, family and friends, and newspapers and websites. The interesting thing to come out of this was that students found school lessons to be the least important source of information. Given the low levels of awareness in Wales, basic political literacy should be a core pillar of Welsh Citizenship education.



Dr Daniel Evans

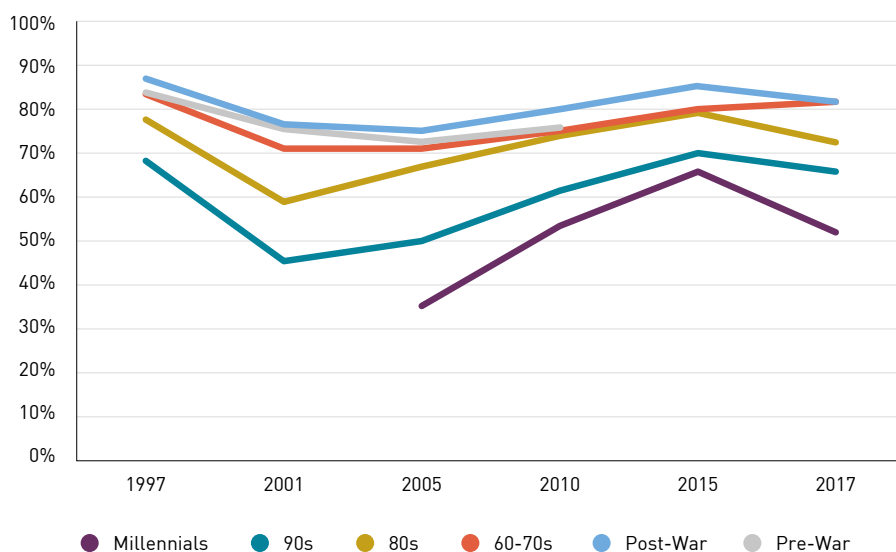
Dr Daniel Evans was a Research Assistant with WISERD Education. He contributed to WISERD's work on the Foundation Phase, the evaluation of the Pupil Deprivation Grant and the WISERD Education Multi Cohort Study. His research interests include Welsh devolution and the political economy of Wales.

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/daniel-evans

The 'youthquake' myth and Britain's Millennials

During the 2017 UK General election, it seemed that youth engagement was at an all-time high – many academics, politicians and journalists quickly concluded that we were witnessing a 'youthquake' that had deprived the Conservatives of their majority in the House of Commons and propelled Jeremy Corbyn's Labour to a spectacular result.

Validated Turnout by Generation: 1997-2017



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

Claims about the turnout of particular sub-groups of the electorate are, however, hard to verify, because official statistics do not provide information on the age or background of who voted – though this did not stop some concluding that the 'youthquake' had occurred on the basis of photographs of polling stations or at rallies, student interviews and unverifiable surveys.

The best estimate of turnout of the UK comes from the British Election Study (BES); a face to face survey of adults about their engagement with politics and general elections in particular. The BES includes a measure of 'validated turnout' for its respondents i.e., regardless of whether they *said* they voted or not, it can tell us whether they *actually* voted according to the electoral register – it is the 'gold standard' of voter behaviour in Britain.

The BES for 2017 casts considerable doubt on the claim that there was a

'youthquake' while the overwhelming majority of those young people who voted supported Labour, there was no significant difference between their turnout in 2017 and that of the previous election. While turnout has gradually increased for all age groups since the record low of 2005, the Millennials' propensity to go to the polls continues to lag well behind that of their elders.

Another regular claim about the 'youthquake' is that young people are more engaged with politics, as the Brexit Referendum and Jeremy Corbyn's distinct appeal has given them more reason to take an interest in politics. This is also, however, not supported by the evidence. The BES shows that not only has political interest barely changed throughout the electorate since 2015, but that the Millennials continue to lag behind their elders. 14% of Millennials, for example, reported being



'very interested' in politics – this compares with a fifth of the 80s and 90s generations, and more than a quarter of the baby boomers.

The BES presents a serious challenge to politicians, academics and citizens concerned about the engagement of young people with British democracy and the ability of our politicians and Parliaments to represent the interests of their citizens. Voting in elections, and being interested in politics, is a habit developed during childhood: someone who gets into the habit of voting and taking an interest in political events by the time they are 25 is likely to continue doing so throughout their adult lives. Conversely, someone who does not develop a habit of political interest or voting is likely to avoid the polling stations throughout adulthood. Britain's Millennials continue to be the least politically interested and active generation in the electorate – and the Brexit Referendum, Jeremy Corbyn's leadership and the unique 2017 election campaign has done nothing to change that.

The lesson we can take from the myth of the 'youthquake', therefore, is that it will take a lot more hard work to reverse the decline of political interest and turnout amongst younger generations than a controversial referendum or change in party leadership.

Cultural Participation Research Network (CPRN)

The Cultural Participation Research Network (CPRN) brings academics, researchers, community organisations and people working in the cultural sector (arts and heritage) together to develop a programme which explores the role of the arts and culture sectors in research, policy making and community development.

We also seek to work with artists and organisations that are committed to addressing the involvement and recognition gap, recognising that the cultural sector itself reproduces inequalities in the production and consumption of cultural products.

Growing rapidly, with national and local cultural and community organisations now offering spaces for participants to meet, it is supported as a WISERD network. Responses to date have suggested that people welcome the space for lively critical reflection and debate, and in articulating, finding and understanding points of both common interest and difference.

We have recently funded five seed-corn projects which came to an end this spring. They have had a number of positive impacts and have provided ideas for future research. The themes emerging so far include theatre and performativity of data for knowledge exchange, the 'city region' identity and the role of arts and culture; place-based heritage and regeneration; and arts/culture based methods for engagement and data production.

However these are not exhaustive, and we anticipate a number of different collaborations and research proposals to be produced over the coming months.

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

NEWS

CHANGING COMMUNITIES

A space for the voices of young, BME women in the Brexit process



With EU-UK exit negotiations well underway, this study was carried out in partnership between WISERD and the Ethnic Youth Support Team for Wales (EYST) for three reasons.

Firstly, in the words of Akwugo Emejulu, “Despite vociferous claims to the contrary, Brexit really is about race”. Racist incidents rose by 57% following the EU referendum and, in this context, race and ethnicity are an identified ‘missing piece’ in our WISERD study of minority and marginalised voices during Brexit – a gap identified by EYST team-members Yasmin Begum and Mymuna Mohamood. Secondly, much like young people – who overwhelmingly supported ‘remain’ – Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BME) groups were on the losing side of the EU referendum, as 75% of BME voters opted to remain in the EU. Finally, we chose to work with young, BME women because we felt data collection in a female-only environment would create a safe space for participants to voice their views and experiences.

The findings so far

This small scoping study has collected data from focus groups with 11 young BME women aged 15-25. The women were from diverse backgrounds and heritages, including those born in and outside of Wales, and all were Muslim.

Words used to describe the pre-Brexit metaphor were overwhelmingly positive and largely focused on feelings of belonging: ‘happy’, ‘united’, ‘together’, ‘alright’.

The closer each description came to the EU referendum, the more words like ‘worried’, ‘surprised’ and ‘anxious’ arose.

Discussions on ‘after the Brexit vote’ were largely negative and included the words: ‘nervous’, ‘shocked’, ‘disappointed’ and ‘unhappy’. Less passive descriptions included ‘anger’, ‘corruption’, ‘frustration’ and ‘betrayal’. More than one participant described feeling ‘unsafe’ and ‘afraid’. Participants also discussed a change

A joint blog between Dr Sioned Pearce & Dr Esther Muddiman



in their views associated with how ‘others’ perceive them ‘after Brexit’. Many moved away from an assumption that the ‘person on the street’ is tolerant, or at least neutral, towards their dress or accent, and described becoming more uncertain about how others see them. Being an asylum seeker was an added source of anxiety for three of the 11 participants; with increased uncertainty in an already uncertain situation a compounding impact of Brexit.

Discussion

Themes emerging from this first set of data include losing a sense of certainty and belonging. For the women in the project, the fallout of the EU referendum has caused ongoing feelings of isolation and alienation – similarities with being a victim of a racist incident highlighted by discussions around ‘recovery’ and ‘living life as normal’, phrases associated with trauma or shock.

This project will continue running focus groups to gather views of Brexit among young, BME women in a partnership with EYST. It will also provide training in ‘action research skills’ to focus group participants.

Thanks are due to all partners at EYST and particularly Yasmin Begum, Mymuna Mohamood, Ginger Weigand, Dr Constantino Dumangane Jr. and Dr Dawn Mannay.

Exploring organisational change at the National Museum of Wales

Patricia Jimenez, a WISERD research assistant is working with the National Museum of Wales / Amgueddfa Cymru to assess the 'More and Better' project, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

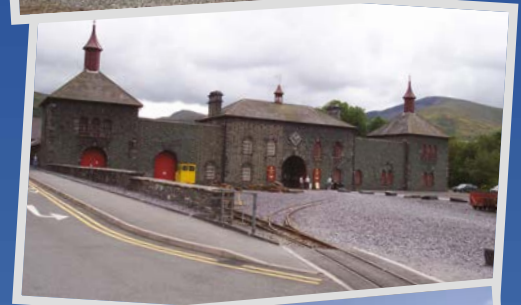
Within the context of the More and Better project Patricia will investigate the extent and the way organisational change is taking place within the four settings of the National Museum of Wales / Amgueddfa Cymru (National Museum Cardiff, St Fagans National Museum, Big Pit National Coal Museum and National Slate Museum).

Key objectives include identifying the critical areas of action of the More and Better project, as well as staff members understanding of it. The data collection techniques will mostly consist of a participant and non-participant observations, such as general observation within meeting rooms, and galleries or observation in less formal setting such as during lunch or ad hoc breaks. There will also be semi-structured interviews with staff members at various stages.

When asked why this project inspired her, Patricia replied saying 'I thought this project represented a good opportunity to consider which kind of insights an ethnography can identify in a sociopolitical

context characterised by the rule of standards and numeric indicators of success. I've found this to be an incredibly rich opportunity to get to know Wales better'.

'The tradition of researching Museums usually focuses on investigating 'a final product' – e.g. exhibitions – ignoring the commonly problematic processes by which these products are accomplished, this project looks at the process instead which I find very interesting'.



Images (top to bottom):

Big Pit National Coal Museum / Photo: Steinsky (cc-by-sa/2.5)

National Slate Museum / Photo: David Neild (cc-by-sa/3.0)

St Fagans National History Museum / Photo ©Mick Lobb (cc-by-sa/2.0)

National Museum Cardiff / Photo: Ham II (cc-by-sa 3.0)

Sharing research and extending learning

Dr Christala Sophocleous reflects on the experience of co-writing with WISERD colleagues.

What did we learn from Communities First? This question was at the heart of many (often fierce) debates, as this government programme ended. Across Wales, in communities, policy circles and, academia, Communities First (CF) stirred the emotions. Those of us in WISERD whose research focused on CF were no exception. We feared history was being re-written with CF being labelled too simplistically, a 'failure'. In this context four researchers in WISERD started to reflect on our work through informal conversations and some serendipitously timed seminars.

Sharing and debating our respective research, we realised our work had much in common, with similar themes and a remarkable alignment of findings.

This was all-the-more notable because between us we had worked on six research projects, across a 10-year period from 2008. Each had a different focus, and were located in different areas.

This seemed significant and called for more careful investigation. Our discussions became more systematic, attending to where our findings and analysis were similar or complementary, and where they diverged. While each project stood alone, bringing our analyses together created depth and greater insight, generating a new collective analysis.

We started asking ourselves 'What might we be able to say about Communities First collectively that we couldn't do alone?'

Working together and reflecting analytically on how different research with similar but distinct methodology might be harnessed for greater insight, we have written a joint paper, which will be submitted for publication shortly. It addresses the CF programme and its place in policy-making and implementation in Wales.

The paper is not a synthesis, although there is an element of drawing our work together, but an extension of the analysis. It has developed through an on-going conversation between us and our individual studies; moving

back-and-forth between analyses in an ever more systematic way, and emerging slowly through a process of refinement. Each author has added, amended, and fine-tuned the arguments, leading to a greater focus. The analysis is stronger both because of our iterative method and its roots in different research projects.

Co-writing *across* projects has been a new experience for us all and has raised some interesting issues, e.g. about what is 'data?' and the validity of using data collected in one context in another. We have reflected on the value of sharing work and what might be gained in doing so. Our co-location in the Cardiff WISERD hub is significant, creating opportunities for developing joint work. This environment allows and encourages researchers to share ideas, question and reflect, supporting collaborative working across projects and enabling us to ask, how our different work can inform social issues.

So, while we're not able to answer the question 'What did we learn from Communities First?' collectively, we have been able to make a small, but more informed contribution.

The four researchers involved in this joint writing project are:



Dr Sioned Pearce

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Dr Eva Elliott

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Dr Helen Blakely

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Dr Christala Sophocleous

SophocleousC1@cardiff.ac.uk / @DrChristala

Building bridges not walls

Wales in the 1950's might seem a strange place to start a blog about the impact of Brexit on young people and of the potential of young people to influence Brexit. However just after the Second World War was a time where fundamental questions were being asked about the nature of identity within states across Europe.

An interesting Welsh contribution to this debate about how to shape a future Europe arose in the context of the work of Urdd Gobaith Cymru (the Welsh Guild of Hope), which had been created in 1922 as a Welsh-speaking counterpart to the Scouting and the Girl Guide movements.

The Urdd placed a great emphasis on humanitarianism and on the need to build bridges between different communities. The second element of its pledge stressed the need to love one's fellow humans; both commitments which continue to this day.

During the 1950's the Urdd sponsored trips for its members to different European countries including Bielefeld, Oberammergau in Germany the Spanish capital of Madrid; it also encouraged people from Europe and beyond to visit Wales.

There may be some lessons that can be learnt by young people and by youth organisations in Wales from the Urdd's activities:

First it is possible to contest the erection of walls or boundaries between different nations and states – not least between the UK and Europe – which could be a result of BREXIT. Europe during the 50's was a subdivided continent and yet young people and youth organisations were determined to build bridges across the continent; through words and deeds.

Second, this was a dialogue that was promoted and sustained in the absence of any European-level institutional infrastructure. There was no European Union in existence then and yet young people and organisations such as the Urdd explored imaginative ways of creating dialogue between countries.

Third, the example from the 1950's demonstrates the important role that can be played by voluntary youth organisations in fostering links between young people in Europe. Questions have been asked

about the extent of the role of youth organisations and how they can continue to help young people to develop their own identities in Wales and the UK, especially because of funding cuts associated with austerity. I contend there is now more need than ever for them to provide as much support as they possibly can for young people to maintain pre-existing links and to forge new ones with distant youth, wherever they are.



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



Rhys Davies reveals how official figures have under-estimated the presence of trade unions within UK workplaces over many years

This summer the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) published its latest estimates for trade union membership in the UK based upon data from the Labour Force Survey.

These figures reveal that 6.2 million employees were members of trade unions during 2017. Whilst overall levels of membership within the UK have increased slightly since 2016, they remain well below the peak of 13.2 million that was observed in 1979. The headline figure for trade union membership is 'union density' which measures the proportion of employees in employment who are

union members. These results reveal that just 23% of employees in the UK were members of trade unions during 2017. Twenty years ago, union density was over 30%.

The influence of trade unions at the workplace however extends beyond those who are members. Official statistics produced by BEIS therefore also estimate the proportion of employees who are employed at workplaces where trade unions are present, referred to as union presence. These figures are also derived from interview data collected by the Labour Force Survey. Between 1996 and 2016, official estimates of trade union presence also declined from 50% to 41%.

Research undertaken by Rhys Davies at WISERD has revealed that official statistics of trade union presence have been incorrectly estimated over the last 20 years. Government statisticians have mistakenly treated those who did not respond to the question on trade union presence as if they had said that nobody at their place of work were union members. Normal practice would be to exclude such people from the calculations.

In light of these findings, statisticians at BEIS have revised their methodology for estimating trade union presence. This publication reveals that 49% of employees are employed at workplaces where trade unions are present. The effect of the change has been to increase the rate of union presence by 8 percentage points, roughly equivalent to 2 million employees.

Rhys Davies comments:

"Declining levels of trade union membership is often cited as evidence that trade unions have become less relevant within the modern UK economy. Whilst the downward trend in union membership is not open to debate, today there are many more workers employed at workplaces where trade unions are present than was previously thought. By implication this suggests that the workplace influence of trade unions in the UK has been significantly underestimated for many years."

For more information about this research, please see the WISERD Blog Measuring Trade Union Membership: Harder than it may seem? More detailed analysis is available from the Research Note Making Sense of Official Estimates of Trade Union Membership.



Rhys Davies

Dr Rhys Davies is a Research Fellow at WISERD and Associate Director of the Wales Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC), based at Cardiff University.

As an applied quantitative researcher Rhys has undertaken a variety of research projects examining a variety of issues related to employment and the labour market.

Prior to joining WISERD he worked at the Institute for Employment Research at Warwick University and the Office for National Statistics.

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/rhys-davies



Sheffield Needs a Payrise

The Sheffield Needs A Payrise (SNAP) research project follows the campaign of the same name and builds on the WISERD Spaces of New Localism Civil Society research project. It looks primarily into forms of grassroots, civil society and trade union working together to address issues of low pay and precariousness in work in Sheffield.



Dr David Beel

After completing his undergraduate degree in Geography at the University of Hull and then a masters and PhD at the University of Glasgow again in Geography David became a Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, working in the dot.rural digital economy hub. He is now the Senior Reseracher on the spaces of new localism project which is part of the WISERD Civil society research centre. The project is interested in understanding the ways in which NEW Localism and devolution is being delivered at the city regional scale within the UK.

To find out more about Dr David Beel's work, visit wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/david-beel

SNAP is a campaign that has been initiated by Sheffield Trades Union Council (STUC). The first impetus for the campaign was the earlier creation of the Britain Needs A Pay Rise organised by the National Trades Union Congress which was inaugurated

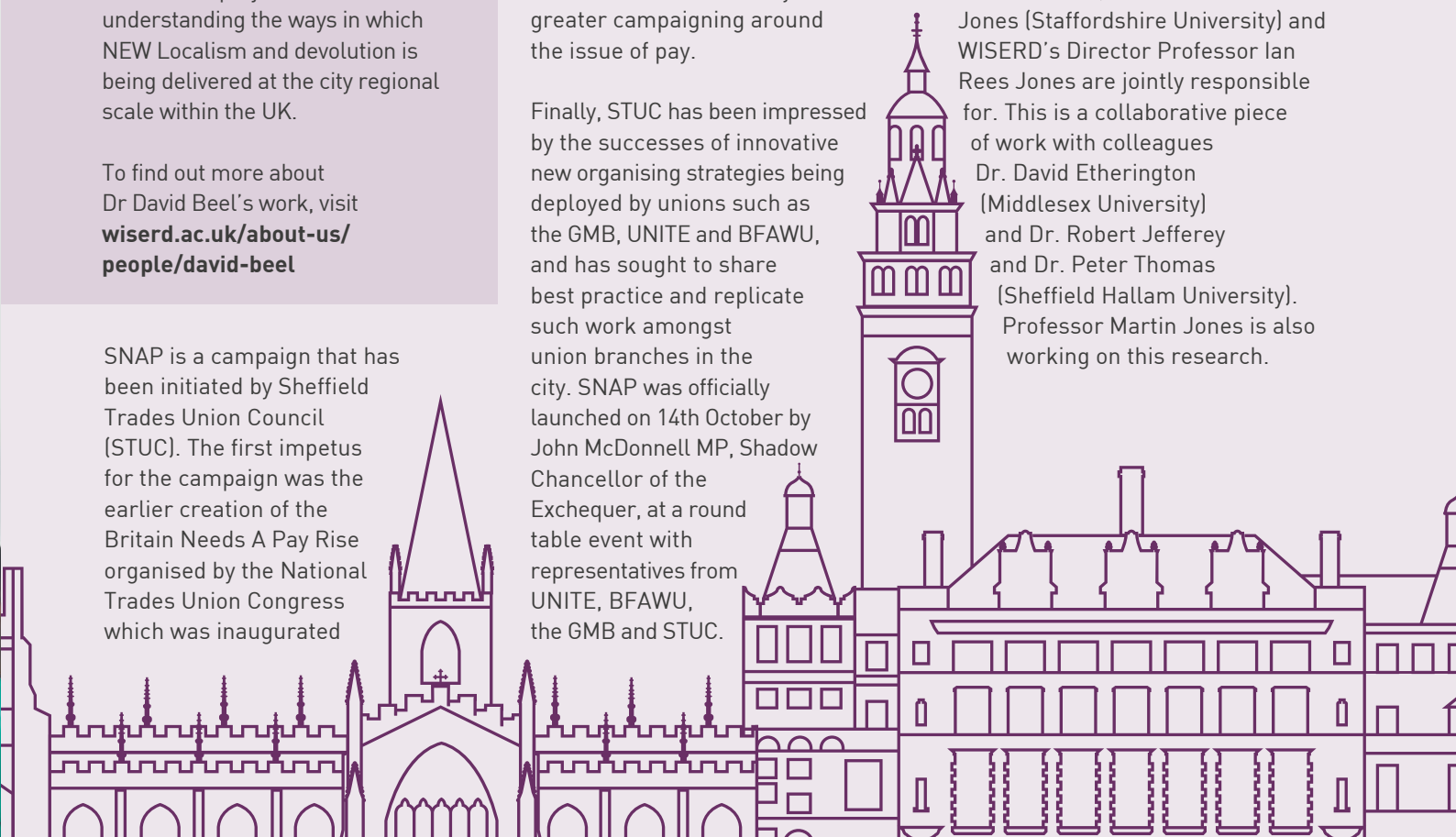
in the autumn of 2014. STUC has sought to develop this campaign on a more grassroots basis.

Secondly, STUC was struck by a series of reports by the Resolution Foundation, which showed that the City of Sheffield has the largest proportion of its workforce paid below the National Living Wage (NLW). It has suffered the largest pay drop of the UK Core Cities since the onset of the 2008 recession, suffered most from issues of low pay, and consequently potentially had the most to gain from the introduction of the Conservative government's National Living Wage. This highlighted to the STUC the necessity for greater campaigning around the issue of pay.

Finally, STUC has been impressed by the successes of innovative new organising strategies being deployed by unions such as the GMB, UNITE and BFAWU, and has sought to share best practice and replicate such work amongst union branches in the city. SNAP was officially launched on 14th October by John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, at a round table event with representatives from UNITE, BFAWU, the GMB and STUC.

Our project has sought to highlight best practice in addressing issues of low pay and precariousness and extends the impactful work of WISERD funded research by drawing on the links between civil society, employment and skills. The team will be presenting our research findings back to the community in Sheffield at an event organised by STUC.

This piece of work sits within our work package 1.4 which partakes in extensive research under the heading of - Spaces of Localism: Stakeholder Engagement and Economic Development in Wales and England, it is a project that Dr David Beel, Professor Martin Jones (Staffordshire University) and WISERD's Director Professor Ian Rees Jones are jointly responsible for. This is a collaborative piece of work with colleagues Dr. David Etherington (Middlesex University) and Dr. Robert Jefferey and Dr. Peter Thomas (Sheffield Hallam University). Professor Martin Jones is also working on this research.



NEWS

Back row, left to right - Chris Fowler
& Dr Scott Orford
Front Row, left to right - Carole Green,
Beverly Owen, Dr Eleri Rosser & Simon Baston

Empty shops research launched at the Welsh Leisure and Retail Summit

2017 saw a slight decline in the number of empty shops on Welsh high streets, but that number is still much higher than England or Scotland, according to a new report compiled by WISERD academics.

Data researchers Dr Scott Orford and Samuel Jones worked with the Local Data Company (LDC) on the report, which found a clear link between local levels of deprivation and the rates of empty shops.

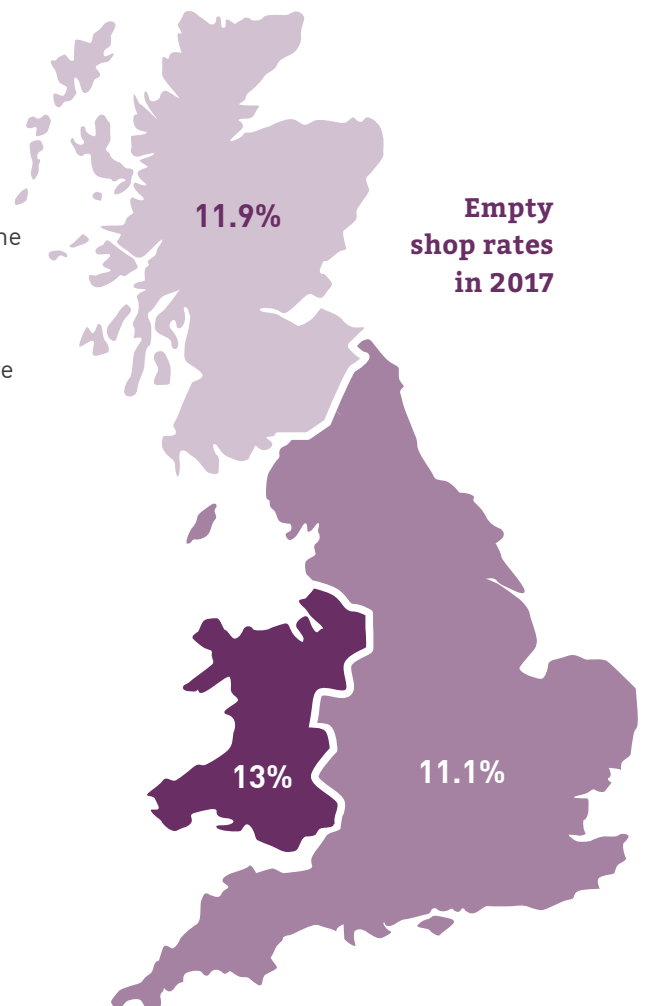
The report was launched at the 3rd annual Welsh Retail and Leisure Summit, held in January 2018 at Cardiff University.

62 people from across the retail and leisure industry attended the event, which included presentations from Dr Orford and Chris Fowler of the LDC.

ITV Wales Business Editor Carole Green chaired a panel of retail experts comprising Dr Eleri Rosier (Cardiff University Business School), Simon Baston (Loftco) and Beverly Owen (Newport City Council).

You can see tweets from the event bit.ly/2HkdQXO and download the full report here: bit.ly/2JtSdt6

Dr Scott Orford also featured in two parts of a three-part series on BBC Radio 4's 'You and Yours' programme exploring this issue. You can listen to these here: bit.ly/2JtSs7u



How the UK's first #McStrike was tweeted

In September 2017, McDonald's workers went on strike for the first time in the UK. Researchers at WISERD analysed the social media conversation that surrounded the 'McStrike' at the time. Wil Chivers outlines key findings from this research.

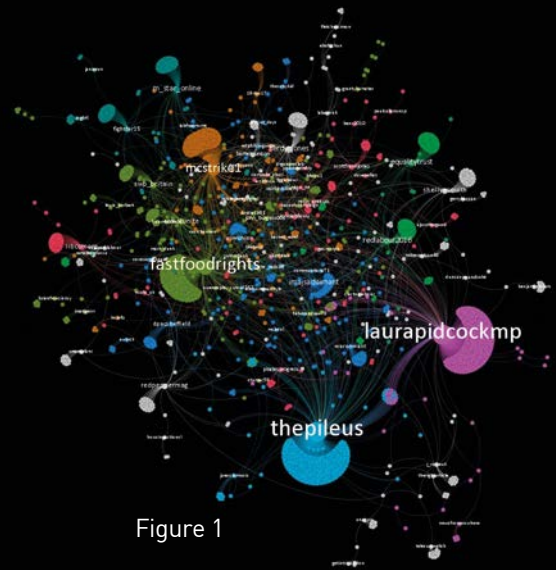


Figure 1

Young workers unite

McDonald's is a major user of zero-hours contracts, reportedly employing 90% of its workforce in this way (42% of whom are under 21).

Critics attack these arrangements as exploitative, particularly for the low waged, and workers have responded with sustained collective action to fight for decent work around the world, most notably Fight for \$15 in the US.



Dr Wil Chivers
Social Media
Research Associate

Wil is a WISERD Research Associate based at the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University. His PhD thesis explores the nature of contemporary governance by examining the changing landscape of digital surveillance and resistance.

Will is working across the WISERD Civil Society research programme, exploring the relationship between engagement with social media and civil society.

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/wil-chivers

On 4th September 2017, 40 McDonald's employees in two UK restaurants, mostly aged 25 and under, went on strike for £10 an hour, an end to zero hours contracts and recognition of their union.

#McStrike on Twitter

One key element of the campaign was the way the physical presence on the picket line was complemented by its social media presence. McStrike was a simple and effective hashtag (a McStroke of genius if you like), and using this hashtag, our research team collected live data from Twitter over the two weeks before, during and after the strike. This produced a little over 90,000 tweets featuring #McStrike, from 46,247 different users. We analysed this activity, identifying influential Twitter accounts and tweets. The retweet network image (Figure 1) captures the first week's activity.

The social media campaign was designed to exert pressure on the McDonald's brand by framing the protest with a strong social justice narrative, harnessing the symbolic power of the workers. Unsurprisingly, the defining characteristics of Twitter activity on the strike day were tweets and retweets of images and video of the picket lines.

McStrikers in the public eye

More detailed examination of the McStrike Twitter activity reveals one communication strategy that we plan to analyse in more detail: the prominent positioning of young workers in the campaign. In written accounts and, more particularly, in pictures and videos, the McStrikers' stories were deployed to personalise the strike and generate popular support. Although McStrike was (and is) part of a wider labour movement campaign, it is notable for the 'backstage' support of the strikers' own union, the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union, and civil society organisations like War on Want.

Theorising the strike

Despite McStrike causing little in the way of disruption to McDonald's day-to-day operations, in January 2018 McDonald's recommended that its 1,200 franchises, which set their own pay rates, increase pay for all staff. Our research will continue to explore how McStrike has implications for how we reformulate traditional conceptualisation of strike activity in the contemporary era, particularly in the light of social media.

Special thanks to Dr Helen Blakely and Dr Steve Davies

Trade Union responses to the changing world of work

WISERD researcher Dr Helen Blakely is working with UNI Global Union to identify trade unions' responses to the changing world of work from around the world. This work is being presented at UNI Global Union's World Congress in June 2018, the largest single global union gathering in the UK in 2018. Here Dr Blakely and her team outline some of the case studies they have been examining and reflect on some of the challenges facing trade unions at present.

I am currently working with UNI Global Union to consider how trade unions are adapting to the rapidly changing world of work, an issue provoking debate at a global scale. UNI represents more than 20 million workers from over 900 trade unions in the fastest growing sectors in the world – skills and services. A total of 90% of new jobs are expected to be in these sectors in the next decade. UNI and their affiliates are driven by the responsibility to ensure these jobs are decent and workers' rights are protected, including the right to join a union.

This is a qualitative project focusing on a number of case studies of trade union activity from around the world. The case studies cover a broad range of activity, but essentially all of the unions are grappling with the issue of establishing effective representation – whether this is in terms of building on past success, and growing an existing union in new ways, or building new unions to tackle contemporary challenges. The case studies reflect a spectrum of trade union responses, from forms of social movement and community based unionism, with no immediate 'pay

off' in terms of securing collective bargaining coverage or membership fees for unions, to activity which has secured collective bargaining agreements and transformative increases in membership.

Some have developed new approaches within established organisations as in the case of Unite in the UK and its highly effective leverage campaigning, and cases in Germany (ver.di), the Netherlands (FNV) and France (CFDT, CGT, FO), which relate to union activity in direct response to the digitalization and automation of work. Those working in uncharted territory and creating new unions in response to the fragmentation of the global economy include SITT in Romania and SITRATTEL in the Dominican Republic. There is also valuable work being done demonstrating unions' capacity to benefit society beyond the workplace. Perhaps the most striking example of this is in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the FNTPC has expanded its activity to help to develop the nation's postal infrastructure.



**Dr
Helen
Blakely**

Dr Helen Blakely is currently working with Dr Steve Davies, Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University, to learn more about trade union responses to the changing world of work. This research stems from ongoing collaboration with UNI Global Union who are fighting to secure decent work for people around the world. Helen is a Research Associate on an ESRC WISERD Civil Society Research Centre Project - 'Trade Union Membership, Associational Life and Wellbeing'

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/helen-blakely

The study shows the capacity of unions to respond to new challenges. We have found that in particular contexts it is possible for unions to mobilise and strengthen existing sources of power and harness new resources and capabilities to forge direct and indirect routes to sustainable gains for the labour movement.

Women in Sport:

Reflections on a three-month student internship

Philippa Davies is one of WISERD's PhD students, funded by the ESRC, Civil Society Research Centre. As part of her studies, she recently concluded an internship with the Women in Sport charity. Her research examines gender representation in Welsh sports and below she talks about her time with the charity and how it shaped her research.

The Women in Sports charity's role is to advance gender equality within the world of sport, and to work towards a sector where men and women have equal opportunities in sport, from the playing field to the boardroom. I chose Women in Sport, as I wanted to gain an in-depth understanding of women leaders' experiences in a major sports charity dedicated to promoting gender equality.



Philippa Davies

Philippa Davies is a PhD student at WISERD. Her research topic is gender equality in Welsh sports policy - specifically examining women sports leaders and policy makers, how they are represented, their experience of Welsh gender equality policy-making and their effect on gender equality in sports policy making in Wales.

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/philippa-davies

The internship involved working in their Insight and Innovation team, carrying out specific tasks to support current research projects, such as writing reviews and briefings on topics related to sports leadership and women. I also shadowed research project and team meetings and attended group interview sessions for the Beyond 30% Female Leadership in Sport research project.

What I learned during my time at the Charity has heavily impacted on my research, the three key points that I took from this experience were:

Firstly, I gained a practical and well-rounded insight into their work. This included research on examining the impact of gender stereotypes on girl's participation in sport and the representation gap between sportswomen and men in the media. I also learned about how the charity promoted and achieved policy changes, built and influenced relationships with stakeholders and the facilitators and barriers experienced by women leaders.

Secondly, the women I met were all friendly and supportive of one another and offered me a new understanding into a very different workplace. There was a sense of encouragement and celebration of success amongst the staff and there was a positive attitude towards issues such as flexible working patterns, something that is rarely seen in the world of business.

Thirdly, at the end of this placement, I felt more encouraged with my PhD and felt stronger about the research I had set out to do. Seeing the team's passion for gender equality was inspiring and gave me a further boost of confidence on this topic.

Prof. Sir
Michael Marmot



The health gap: the challenge of an unequal world

WISERD was pleased to co-host Professor Sir Michael Marmot's Julian Tudor Hart Trust lecture at Cradiff University. Professor Marmot is a leading public health expert and this lecture dealt with tackling the issue of health inequalities.

The Julian Tudor Hart Trust lecture held in partnership with Public Health Wales and Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences, focused on how when developing strategies for tackling health inequalities we need to confront the social gradient in health and not just the difference between the worst off and everybody else.

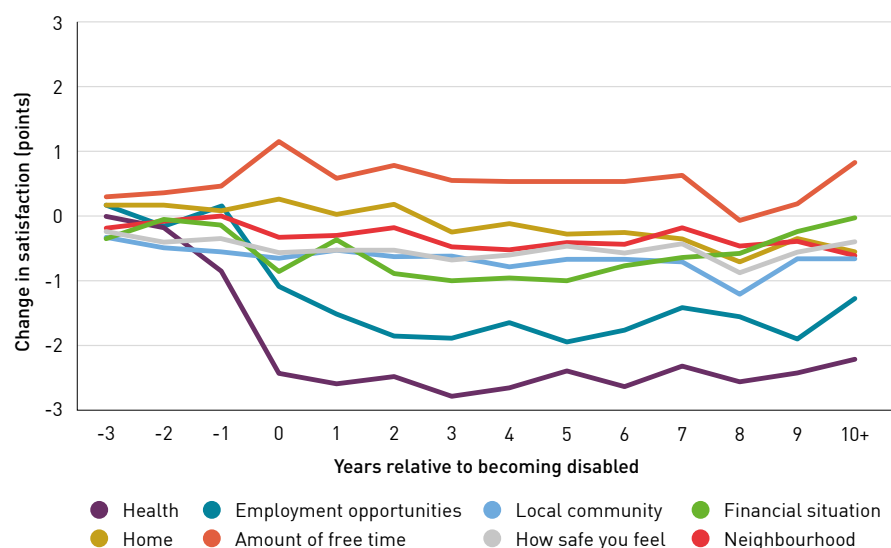
Professor Sir Michael Marmot argued that there is clear evidence when we look across countries that national policies make a difference and that much can be done in cities, towns and local areas. However policies and interventions must not be confined to the health care system; they need to address the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.

The evidence shows that economic circumstances are important but are not the only drivers of health inequalities, he concluded that tackling the health gap will take action, based on sound evidence, across the whole of society.

Photo: NHS Confederation [cc-by 2.0]

How does disability affect life satisfaction?

For more information please see the extended WISERD blog:
wiserd.ac.uk/news/how-does-disability-affect-life-satisfaction



Source: The figure is generated from results presented in Appendix Tables A.1-A.8 of Jones, M., Mavromaras, K., Sloane, P. and Wei, Z. (2018) "The Dynamic effect of Disability on Work and Subjective Well-being" forthcoming at *Oxford Economic Papers*.



Melanie Jones
Professor of Economics

Melanie joined Cardiff Business School in 2015 having previously held positions in the University of Sheffield and Swansea University. Her research in empirical labour economics involves the quantitative analysis of large scale secondary data. She has worked on a range of policy relevant issues but has a particular interest in the interaction between health and the labour market.

wiserd.ac.uk/about-us/people/melanie-jones

Professor Melanie Jones (Cardiff Business School and WISERD), with co-authors Professor Peter Sloane (Swansea University), and Professor Kostas Mavromaras and Dr Zhang Wei (Future of Employment and Skills Research Centre, University of Adelaide), has explored the impact of becoming disabled, that is, the onset of a long-term limiting health condition, on life satisfaction.

Using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (2001–2013), in which individuals are traced over time; life satisfaction is compared before and after becoming disabled. The results show a sharp decline in wellbeing and this persists when disability is long-term.

A range of dimensions of life satisfaction are analysed, from

satisfaction with health and economic circumstances, to the community and neighbourhood. Each is increasing on an ordered scale (0–10) and, the Figure above, which presents results from 3 years before to 10 years after becoming disabled, measures the change relative to more than 3 years before. Unsurprisingly disability has a pronounced negative impact on satisfaction with health (about 2.5 points). However, there is also a negative impact on employment opportunities (up to about 2 points) and, to a lesser extent, financial situation (up to about 1 point). The latter does not persist, potentially reflecting government (e.g. welfare) or family support (e.g. spousal income) in the event of job loss.

While the impact is more modest, becoming disabled also leads to a decline in satisfaction with the neighbourhood, with feeling part of the community and personal safety

(typically 0.6–0.8 points), illustrating the range of impacts of disability. In contrast, there is a temporary positive impact on satisfaction with the amount of free time, a likely consequence of lower employment levels and, albeit providing no indication of its quality.

The results suggest that the traditional focus on income will underestimate the disadvantage experienced by disabled people and highlight the need for wider policy support. This is consistent with the Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme which targets the *social and economic* participation of disabled people.

Full reference: Jones, M Mavromaras, K, Sloane, P. and Wei, Z (2018) "The Dynamic effect of Disability on Work and Subjective Well-being" forthcoming at *Oxford Economic Papers*.
<https://academic.oup.com/oep/advance-article/doi/10.1093/oep/gpy006/4991925?guestAccessKey=0d46fa69-34c5-4c2a-95ec-61ed8822faf9>

Ageing, intergenerational relations, and barriers to social participation

In ageing societies, promoting active ageing and intergenerational solidarity has been a key aim of policy at national as well as European level. Governments have promoted these policies as a response to concerns over the social exclusion of older people; critics have suggested that such policies merely serve to ease the economic and financial burden of ageing societies and 'exploit' older people's capacity for work or voluntary activity.

These policies, whatever the motivation, raise questions about how strongly involved and invested older people are in their communities; how actively they participate in civil society; and what the barriers are to participation and civic engagement.

In this context, relationships, cohesion, and solidarity between different generations have been raised as a potential cause for concern across Europe, the US, New Zealand and the UK. Some research suggests that increasing fear of the young among the older generation leads to a reduction in intergenerational relationships and interaction outside people's immediate family which in turn has a negative effect on older people's wellbeing, their willingness to participate in civil society, and levels of fear of crime. Additionally, it has a negative effect on young people as they are stereotyped as anti-social and troublesome and are subjected to more stringent forms of social control.

Fear of crime and old age has often been linked and there is a widespread perception among policy-makers, the public, as well as academics that fear of crime is a serious problem for the elderly and one that may impact on people's perception of their community and prevent their active participation in civil society.

In our research we have started to interrogate existing survey research on ageing and intergenerational relations through the lens of 'fear of crime' and attitudes towards the threat posed by young people.

When we look at the available survey data, some fairly clear and well-rehearsed headline statistics emerge. The older we get the more unsafe we feel being out at night, the more worried we are about crimes committed by people in their 20s, and the more worried we are about the impact of burglary. These findings should be considered against lower levels of victimisation reported as we age and are framed as the age-fear of crime paradox.

However, digging a little deeper into the data, some more complex relationships appear. Worries about becoming a victim of violent crime are unrelated to age; we consider teenagers less of a problem as we age, and fear of crime across all ages appears to respond to actual crime levels. There are clear contradictions in the data and some indications of underlying factors which may affect headline rates – physical vulnerability, sociability, where we live, etc. Our research is trying to explore in much more depth some of these findings and by looking

at existing survey data in new ways we hope to find out more about the complex relationship between ageing, fear of crime, intergenerational relations and much more.



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Exploring spatial patterns in newly registered organ donors prior to the introduction of the Human Transplantation (Wales) Act 2013

For the full article visit: www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1353829218300388

On visiting the NHS Blood and Transplant website for information on organ donation a person is likely to come across phrases such as “Give the gift of life today” and “Together we can save more people”. The use of such emotive language is designed primarily to encourage visitors to the site to sign-up to the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) – on which over one-third of the UK population are currently registered, representing 24.9 million people. Despite such numbers, the demand for organs remains greater than the available supply, both domestically and globally, and as such more than 6,000 people are currently on the UK transplant waiting list.

Within the UK, there is some evidence that spatial variations in ODR sign-up rates may exist – for example, lower rates of registrations are found in England (35% of the populous), compared with Wales (38%), Northern Ireland (40%), and Scotland (44%). Whilst these trends could be indicative of some underlying spatial factors, few studies have attempted to explore organ donation registration rates at more detailed spatial scales.

In our most recent research we examine spatial patterns in, and potential drivers of, registrations to the ODR in Wales between January 2010 and November 2015. This work aims to redress a noticeable gap in the existing evidence-base concerning the effects of geographical factors on local variations in ODR sign-up. We found that areas characterised by higher levels of education had higher rates of newly registered donors, whereas lower rates were found in areas of higher deprivation and areas with great

numbers of non-religious residents. Spatially, this meant lower organ donation registration rates were identified in South Wales valleys communities in contrast to higher rates around major urban areas and areas close to the Wales-England border (Figure 1). Moreover, our results implied that education level, as recorded at the area level, had the greatest effect on ODR sign-up rates in Wales over the study period.

Following a recent policy change, implemented under the Human Transplantation (Wales) Act 2013, an opt-out system of consent for organ donation now exists in Wales; all adults are thus deemed to be consenting organ donors unless explicitly registering to opt-out. A similar policy is also being considered in both England and Scotland.

Whilst data on opt-out rates for organ donation under this new policy are not yet available at local level, it is hoped this research will act as a benchmark for future studies seeking to compare spatial patterns in opt-out rates – particularly in light of 6% of the Welsh population having already opted-out of donation since the implementation of this Act.

Dr Nicholas Page, Dr Mitchel Langford and Professor Gary Higgs (WP 3.2)

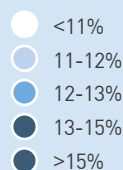
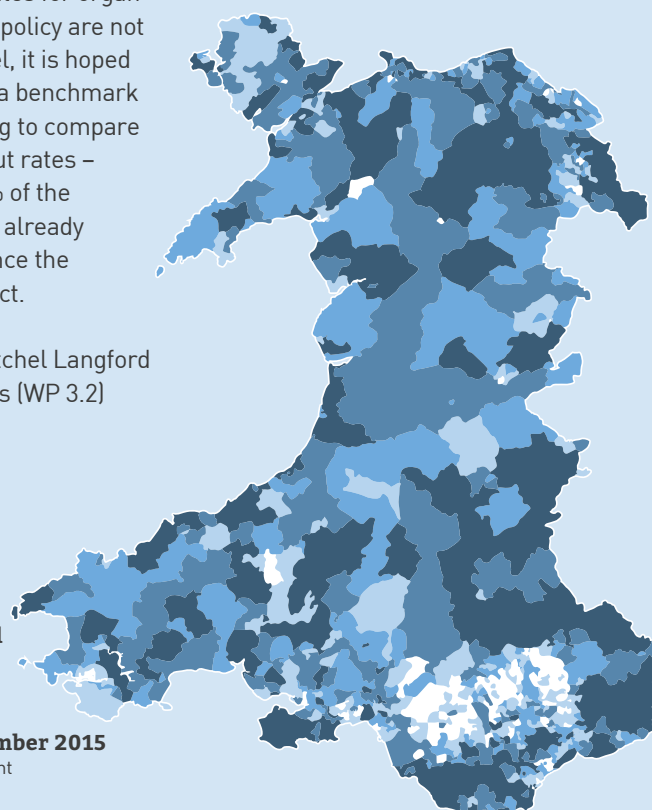


Fig. 1: Age-standardised rates of registered organ donors aged 16-70 years between January 2010 and November 2015
Source: NHS Blood and Transplant



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Nick joined WISERD as a Senior Research Assistant in 2016. He is currently working for WISERD on a work package that aims to use existing secondary sources of data to investigate levels of social capital within local Welsh communities in relation to changing levels of provision of key public services.

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