



W/SERD

# NEWS

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Sefydliad Ymchwil Gymdeithasol ac  
Economaidd, Data a Dulliau Cymru

Wales Institute of Social and Economic  
Research, Data and Methods

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**Civil society**  
**Inequality**  
**Third sector**

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## Welcome from the WISERD Director

*The end of last year saw a number of significant milestones in WISERD's journey towards increasing the quality and quantity of social science research in Wales and beyond. WISERD colleagues came together at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay to celebrate WISERD at 10. This important anniversary marked a decade of influencing policy and debate, and we enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate with some of our key stakeholders who have helped shape our contribution to research so far.*

Some of WISERD's achievements to date were highlighted by Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education, and Lynne Neagle AM, who spoke at the event. We are also grateful to Professor Jennifer Rubin, Executive Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and Dr David Blaney, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), for their ongoing contribution to WISERD's work and their kind words (see page 9).

We launched *Changing Wales: WISERD at 10* at the Senedd event – a new publication showcasing some of our research from over the last ten years, and also providing an insight into some of our ongoing projects. You can download this from our website: [www.wiserd.ac.uk](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk).

Our events calendar has been busier than ever in the last few months, with a variety of conferences, seminars and practical workshops, which have allowed us new opportunities to share our research, collaborate with others and undertake further training. The 2018 WISERD Annual Conference at the University of South Wales was our biggest conference to date. This year's conference on *Civil Society and Participation* will take place at Aberystwyth University on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July, we look forward to seeing you there.

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

### Contact us

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## NEWS

## NEW PROJECTS AND FUNDING

## Projects and funding

Samantha Saville at Aberystwyth University has been awarded a fellowship by the **Economic and Social Research Council Wales Doctoral Training Partnership**.

Rhys Davies at Cardiff University is part of the **Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK)**, which is supported by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Professors Sally Power and Chris Taylor at Cardiff University have secured funding from the John Fell Fund, to explore **'Disparities in rates of permanent exclusion from school across the UK'**.

Dr Rhian Barrance at Cardiff University has been working with the Children's Commissioner for Wales on an Evidence Review and providing research support for the Commissioner's **'Beth Nawr, 2019'** project.

Dr Stuart Fox at Cardiff University has been undertaking an Understanding Society Policy Fellowship exploring **'Social action as a route to the ballot box: can volunteering reduce inequalities in turnout?'**

Professor Kevin Morgan, Professor Ian Rees Jones and Dr Eva Elliot at Cardiff University have been exploring **'Social innovation in the Foundational Economy: promoting inclusive growth in the Cardiff Capital Region'**, an Economic and Social Research Council impact acceleration project.

Professor Alan Felstead and Rhys Davies at Cardiff University are part of an Economic and Social Research Council project involving **Welsh analysis and reporting from the Skills and Employment Survey 2017**.

With funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, and the Welsh Government, we are in the process of establishing the WISERD Education Data Lab. The aim of the project is to generate high-quality, research-based evidence to help inform and challenge our understanding of educational processes and outcomes to support the Wales education sector meet the aims of *Education in Wales: our national mission 2017-2021*. The Lab will be led by Professor Chris Taylor and will be working closely with the Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK).



## New book series with Policy Press



*'Civil Society and Social Change' is a timely landmark book series from WISERD, published by Policy Press. The series editors are Professors Ian Rees Jones, Michael Woods and Paul Chaney.*

Multi-disciplinary in nature, the series brings together critical perspectives from leading academics in the fields of sociology, economics, political science, public policy, education, history, law and geography. It extends knowledge, offers new criticality and provides an original set of perspectives on the challenges facing civil society in the twenty-first century.

The series will appeal to a diverse audience of academics, practitioners and policymakers, and present rich empirical findings and theory-building, founded on rigorous, policy-relevant UK and international research.

Dr Esther Muddiman is the research associate overseeing development of the series. Dr Muddiman said: "I'm really enjoying getting involved with the writing and editing of this new series, and having the opportunity to develop further titles for publication."

### Forthcoming titles include:

Labour, love and welfare: New sites of practice within civil society  
**Dr Helen Blakely**

Age of uncertainty: Institutions, governance and the existential challenge facing civil society  
**Professor Paul Chaney and Professor Ian Rees Jones**

Civil society as a mode of governance: between self-emancipation and self-responsibilization  
**Professor Bob Jessop**

Governance, shadow states and the positioning of civil society in processes of devolution  
**Professor Martin Jones and Dr David Beel**

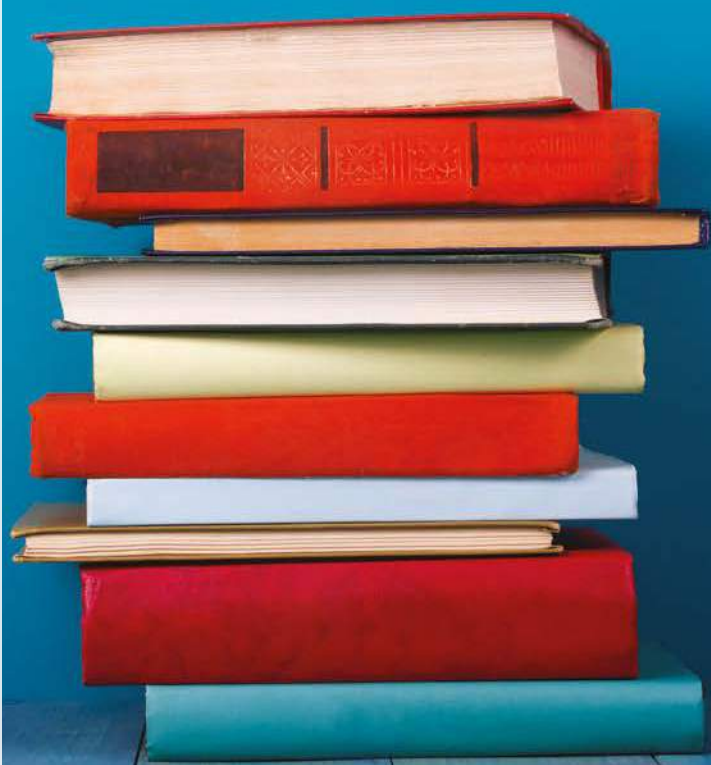
Trust-transparency paradoxes: multi-level governance in the UK, France and Germany  
**Dr Ian Stafford, Professor Alistair Cole and Dr Dominic Heinz**

## Fellowship at the National Assembly for Wales

WISERD researcher, Dr David Dallimore, from Bangor University has been awarded a fellowship at the National Assembly for Wales. He is working with the Assembly Research Service to provide information about early childhood education and care (ECEC).

Policy in this area has developed considerably in recent years in response to the rise of women in the labour force, family poverty and international evidence of the developmental importance of the early years. Increasingly, there is interest in further expansion in Wales through creating a more integrated and universal system of ECEC, yet there is a lack of detailed evidence setting out what this could look like, how it might be achieved, and the implications of different approaches.

The fellowship will produce a number of briefings to enable assembly members to contribute to discussions, scrutiny and debates in this area with the benefit of clear, contemporary evidence.



## WISERD researchers secure places at the 2019 GW4 Crucible

*Three WISERD researchers – Constantino Dumangane, Wil Chivers and Ian Thomas – have successfully secured places on the 2019 GW4 Crucible.*

The GW4 Crucible is a competitive annual programme that seeks to promote interdisciplinary collaboration between early career researchers from Cardiff, Bristol, Bath and Exeter universities.

This year's programme comprises three two-day residential labs. 30 cruciblees will have the opportunity to work together to consider creative and innovative ways to develop research impact, to

enhance professional networks and visibility, and to reflect on prospects for career development.

Each Crucible is organised around a distinct theme that matches with current priority areas for research development. This year's theme is 'digital innovation' and the cohort of researchers is broad ranging, representing disciplines including social and political science, geography, psychology,

bioscience, health and medicine, physics, computer science, and engineering.

The first residential lab was attended by several high-profile speakers from GW4 universities and beyond, who offered expert advice and insight into where and how researchers can influence policymakers, how to communicate research effectively and the positivity with which researchers should view their careers.

Photo credit: GW4





## WISERD Annual Conference 2018

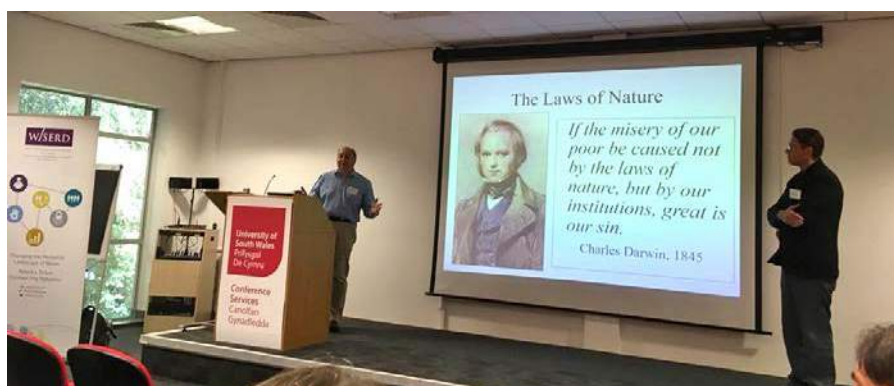
*Last year's WISERD Annual Conference took place at the University of South Wales and explored the theme of 'Addressing inequalities and injustice.'*

We were delighted to welcome Auriol Miller, Director of the Institute of Welsh Affairs and Professor David Gordon, Director of the Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research and Director of the Bristol Poverty Institute at the University of Bristol, to deliver keynote addresses.

WISERD Co-Director, Professor Gary Higgs is Director of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Research Centre at the University of South Wales. Professor Higgs said: "The focus of the 2018 conference 'Addressing inequalities and injustice' led to lively debates across a number of different thematic areas, such as housing, education, health, crime and social policy; no doubt prompted by various ongoing political 'developments'.

"Whilst a key theme of the conference was looking at how inequalities are impacting on communities in Wales, presentations in a number of sessions, and excellent keynote presentations, enabled such research

to be appreciated in wider contexts. The event truly emphasised the multidisciplinary approaches taken by research teams across the five partner universities to address such inequalities."



Keynote speaker, Professor David Gordon, Director of the Townsend Centre for International Poverty, University of Bristol



Congratulations to Kirsty Anderson from Cardiff University who won this year's Learned Society of Wales and ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Partnership Prize for the best student poster. Kirsty is pictured on the left receiving her certificate from Martin Pollard, Chief Executive of the Learned Society of Wales



Congratulations to Cardiff University PhD student, Amy Sanders (pictured second from left) who won this year's three-minute engagement and impact competition (3MEI). Amy was awarded her prize by WISERD Director, Professor Ian Rees Jones, the Welsh Government's Chief Social Research Officer, Steven Marshall, and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership Director, Professor David James

## NEWS

## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH

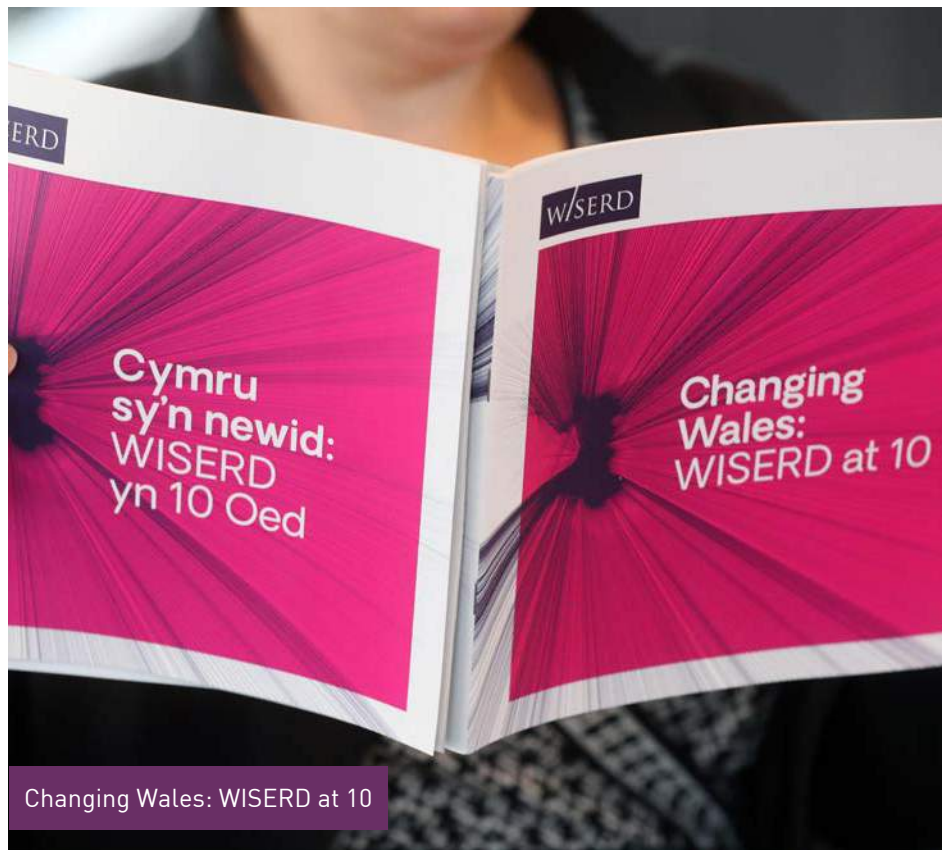
## WISERD at 10

*Over the last year, WISERD has celebrated a decade of influencing policy and debate. To mark this important anniversary, external stakeholders were invited to join former and current WISERD colleagues for WISERD at 10, at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay.*

The event marked the launch of *Changing Wales: WISERD at 10*, a new publication showcasing just some of WISERD's research that has taken place over the last ten years, and giving an insight into some of the ongoing projects that will continue to address some of society's most pressing issues.

With a focus on tackling inequality and improving the lives of people living here, the work of WISERD researchers has had a major impact on shaping the future of the nation, while also contributing to international research.

The past decade has seen major constitutional and political developments in Wales, with WISERD's work providing new and timely evidence on a broad range of policy issues.



Changing Wales: WISERD at 10



Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education speaking at WISERD at 10





## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH

## NEWS

WISERD, which has attracted more than £27m of funding into Wales from a wide range of sources, is now looking to the next ten years.

Professor Ian Rees Jones, Director of WISERD, said: "We're delighted to be celebrating a decade of research that is of national and international importance. As a collaborative partnership of five universities in Wales and others in the UK and Europe, we have gathered our collective expertise to pioneer policy-relevant, evidence-based research across a range of social and economic challenges.

"WISERD's work reflects Wales' position as a devolved country operating in a global context. Our research has helped policy-makers tackle a range of challenges – from the educational needs of our young people, the sustainability of future generations, labour market changes, social care, housing and the needs of an ageing population, to poverty, inequality and political disengagement in post-industrial Wales.

"In a decade, we have built strong international links, bringing new ideas and allowing us to draw on a wealth of expertise in addressing local and global challenges. With further support of our universities, Welsh Government and the ESRC we

are set fair to address the challenges of change over the next ten years."

Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education, said:

*"Congratulations to WISERD on reaching their 10 year anniversary. It is vital that Wales has a strong research infrastructure, which provides insightful and thought-provoking analysis."*

"WISERD's research and the data produced is invaluable as it provides us with an in-depth knowledge of civil society, and helps to assist in finding answers that allow us, through improved methods, to understand the impact of our decisions. This in turn helps us to make sure that we're delivering for the people of Wales."

Jennifer Rubin, Executive Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), said: "I am very proud of ESRC's work with WISERD, and

pleased to be celebrating their 10th anniversary. The institute continues to host impactful ESRC projects, including the UK-wide WISERD Civil Society Research Centre. WISERD demonstrates the depth and quality of collaborative research in Wales, consistently producing social science research with outcomes at a national and international level."

Dr David Blaney, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), said: "We are delighted to have watched WISERD develop over the past decade, having invested from the outset in its establishment. WISERD has gone from strength to strength and is now firmly established as an internationally credible source of independent research evidence in Wales, for Wales and making a real difference to the people of Wales. Congratulations, WISERD, on the first 10 years and best wishes for the next 10."



Lynne Neagle AM speaking at WISERD at 10



Professor Ian Rees Jones, WISERD Director speaking at WISERD at 10



WISERD directors, past and present



WISERD director and co-directors from our five partner universities

## NEWS

## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH

# Launch of WISERD Politics and Governance Research Network

*The new WISERD Politics and Governance Research Network was launched in September 2018 in Swansea. This multidisciplinary network will bring together scholars who conduct and publish research that centres on Welsh politics and governance, from across the five WISERD partner universities. The Network is jointly led by Dr Matthew Wall and Dr Bettina Petersohn from Swansea University's Department of Political and Cultural Studies.*

Future network activities will include: developing awareness of research projects and plans across the member institutions, identifying potential synergies and collaborations among network members, identifying opportunities for collaborative funding proposals among network members and assisting with the drafting of funding proposals. The Network will share its work through conference papers and panels, including at WISERD's Annual Conference.

WISERD Co-Director, Professor Paul Chaney, said: "The launch of the Network is an exciting development with strong potential to link-up leading experts working on politics and governance issues in Wales and beyond – and to advance research that will have real impact on scholarship, policy and public life."

Dr Wall and Dr Petersohn added: "The launch event was an excellent start towards what we are aiming to achieve with this research network."

It brought to light overlapping research interests among network members and sparked discussions about potential collaborations between early career and more established researchers."

To find out more and join the network, visit: [www.wiserd.ac.uk/research](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/research)

The Politics and Governance Research Network held an event in May this year, in partnership with the Wales Centre for Public Policy. *Welsh Policy and Politics in Unprecedented Times* provided an opportunity to discuss opportunities for Welsh policy and politics in the current context of uncertainty.





## ESRC Festival of Social Science 2018

*From sharing our latest research findings and hosting expert panel discussions, to providing practical workshops and networking opportunities, WISERD ran four events as part of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Social Sciences 2018.*



ESRC is part of UK Research and Innovation

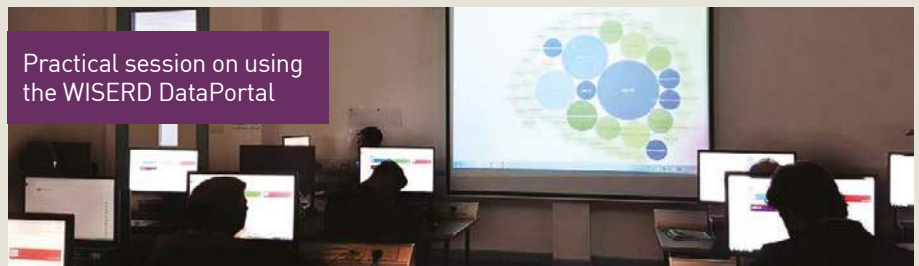
We began the week by visiting a local secondary school and sharing some of the latest findings from our WISERD Education longitudinal multi-cohort study with young people across Wales. The study has recently revealed some interesting findings on which qualities young people consider to be most important in an ideal friend.

This interactive session provided an introduction to the methods social scientists use and pupils gained a useful insight into how survey data are analysed.

The following day we were joined by colleagues from the voluntary sector, civil society organisations, policymakers and fellow researchers, for a practical session on how to use the WISERD DataPortal for civil society research.

The WISERD DataPortal is a free tool developed by WISERD researchers that allows you to discover, map, analyse and compare social, demographic and economic data relating to Wales. Participants were given a live demonstration of the main functions of the DataPortal, before having the opportunity to participate in a structured workshop, interrogating and mapping a number of secondary data sets under the expert guidance of our researchers. The session culminated in participants providing some useful feedback which will now inform future development and improvements to the DataPortal.

Practical session on using the WISERD DataPortal



Our next event brought WISERD researchers from Aberystwyth University and the University of Roehampton to Cardiff, where they were joined by a variety of organisations, including third sector representatives, to share their research into how European migrants contribute to civil society in Wales.

This research project explores how participating in civil society affects migrants' sense of belonging. The event provided the opportunity for a range of stakeholders to discuss the lessons learned from this research, and how this information could be used to inform policy and practice. The event culminated in a panel discussion and Q&A session where practitioners spoke about their experiences of EU migration and civil society, focusing on common experiences, practices and challenges.

Our final ESRC event was organised in partnership with the Wales TUC and took place at the Unite Building in Cardiff, where we were joined by trade union officials.

WISERD researchers shared insights from our analysis of recent trade union campaigns, which have effectively used social media to share their message, including the #McStrike campaign. The event aimed to develop participants' understanding of the strategic use of social media in trade union organising.

This year's ESRC Festival of Social Sciences will run from 2-9 November with events being held across the UK. The Festival aims to explore the ways in which social science affects the everyday life of people of all ages and from all walks of life.



Pupils took part in a quiz at the school event



## WISERD hosts Social Anthropologies of the Welsh: Past and Present

*WISERD hosted an evening lecture and one-day symposium at Cardiff University in May this year. The event was organised jointly with the Royal Anthropological Institute, the Learned Society of Wales, and the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion.*



Dr Robin Mann (Bangor University) presenting at event

*Social Anthropologies of the Welsh: Past and Present* examined the development of social anthropology in Wales from the perspectives of both national scholarship and international engagement. The event brought together academics and those with an interest in Welsh history, the origins and development of contemporary Wales, and community studies.

The public lecture, which was held at the University's Main Building in the evening, was given by Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, FBA and Honorary Fellow, the Learned Society of Wales (University of Cambridge), on 'The Language of Relationship: Anthropology's Commitment to Comparison'.

The one-day symposium began with a consideration of the proto-anthropology of Gerald of Wales and went on to trace the emergence of a distinctive style of Welsh social

anthropology. Folk culture and oral traditions, language and identity, music and religion all emerged as important themes throughout the discussion of Welsh social anthropology in the past. The symposium also examined the role of Welsh scholars such as Iorwerth C. Peate, William Jones, and Alwyn D. Rees.

This was followed by consideration of modern and contemporary social anthropology in Wales, in which community studies were used to examine issues of diaspora, labour and welfare, language, and identity. The symposium concluded with a keynote presentation on class, community, settlement and mobility in industrial and post-industrial south Wales by Welsh anthropologist, Professor Chris Hann, now director of the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology, at Halle, Germany.

Professor Emeritus W. John Morgan of WISERD convened the symposium.

He said: "The social anthropology of the Welsh has been neglected for many years, together with the contribution of Welsh academics to the subject more generally. The excellent papers we have heard revisited what was done in the past and shown what is possible now and in the future.

"I hope that the symposium with its scholarly outcome will reinvigorate anthropological research and teaching in Wales, including comparison with other cultures and communities." Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, whose keynote lecture emphasised this theme, described the symposium as 'a triumph!'

The symposium papers, to be edited by W. John Morgan and Fiona Bowie (University of Oxford), are to be published in the Royal Anthropological Institute's Country Series, Sean Kingston Publishing, London.

## WISERD researcher awarded Learned Society of Wales medal

*Dr Stuart Fox has been awarded the Dillwyn medal for Social Sciences from the Learned Society of Wales. He is among three researchers from Cardiff University to have received an award in recognition of outstanding early career research.*

The medals were awarded on the evening of the 22nd May at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, in a ceremony celebrating achievement in academia. The medals were created to inspire and recognise the long – and often overlooked – legacy of Welsh achievement, while celebrating the exceptional researchers of today.

Dr Fox was awarded the medal for his work on the study of political and civic attitudes and behaviour, which uses social surveys and quantitative research methods. His work has considered young people's political engagement, specifically during the EU Referendum and Brexit, and the 2017 general election.

His recent work has also explored youth volunteering, and specifically whether it can help to engage more young people with politics and reduce inequalities in turnout, and he has worked with the Welsh Government's Task and Finish Group on volunteering funding.

On receiving the award, Dr Fox said: "The life of an early career researcher can be extremely challenging and unpredictable, and it is immensely gratifying to see such hard work recognised. I am extremely grateful to my colleagues for nominating me and providing invaluable support and guidance throughout my academic career, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to help develop the next generation of social researchers in Wales."



The Learned Society of Wales medal



Dr Stuart Fox with his award

## BLOG

## EXPANDING WELLBEING RESEARCH

# Does being religious improve life satisfaction?

*Growing up as a Christian, I found that when life got hard I could lean upon my faith to find peace and contentment, hope and joy. When I started my PhD looking into subjective well-being, ie, happiness, life satisfaction, mental health, etc, I could not pass up the opportunity to look at how religion truly affects well-being.*

Researchers have been looking into the effects of religion upon subjective well-being for many years. This research tends to find that religious people have greater well-being than those with no religion (or those who are less active in their religion). My intention was to test these findings in the UK, exploring whether it is religion itself that boosts well-being or if it is religion improving other aspects of life that improves well-being.

The methodology I used was structural equation modelling, looking at the direct and indirect effects of religiosity on well-being through various mediators, such as social capital, income, employment, marital status, education and health.

I found that Christians in the UK receive a direct boost to their life satisfaction from regular attendance at religious services and the belief that their religion makes a difference

in their life. However, they also receive a boost to their life satisfaction through increased sociability, income, education and health. With Christians also having been found to be more likely to be married and in employment than those with no religion, life satisfaction is boosted through these factors also.

Interestingly, those of a non-Christian religion (or, in the UK, a minority religion) actually don't benefit directly from attending religious services or from believing their religion makes a difference in their life. However, they are more likely to be married and sociable, leading to an indirect boost to life satisfaction from their religion. So, why is it that those of a minority religion in the UK don't receive the same boost to life satisfaction that Christians do?

My research found that those of a minority religion tend to have a lower income, fewer employment options and poorer health than Christians or those with no religion. These all have a negative impact upon the life satisfaction of those of a minority religion.

This research leads to many questions about those of a minority religion. First, why do they not benefit directly from regular attendance at religious services, or from a belief that their religion makes a difference in their life? Could this be due to them feeling ostracised or outcast, as the minority? Would these findings be the same in another country, where their religion is the majority?

Also, why are those of a minority religion suffering with lower income, fewer employment options and poorer health? Could discrimination still be an issue for these minorities, and is there something that the Government should be doing about this?

Ultimately, this piece of research has produced more questions than answers, however, I feel these are important questions that must be asked. In the future, I hope to look into how the well-being of those of minority religions in other countries varies.



**Samuel Brown**

Samuel Brown is a PhD student and WISERD research officer based at Swansea University. The focus of his research is the relationship between civil society, social capital and subjective measures of well-being.

To find out more about Samuel Brown's work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/samuelbrown](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/samuelbrown)





# What helps people living with mild-to-moderate dementia to 'live well'? Findings from the IDEAL study

*In 2014, WISERD began working on the 'Improving the experience of dementia and enhancing active life' (IDEAL) project along with investigators from twelve other universities and organisations, led by the University of Exeter. IDEAL is the largest study of its kind in the UK and has involved interviewing over 1,500 people with dementia and those who care for them, every year for three years.*

The study aims to find out what social and psychological factors influence people with dementia and their families' ability to live well with any type of dementia. The evidence will enable the development of new policy, interventions and initiatives to transform the lives of people with dementia and of those who care for them.

## IDEAL baseline findings:

Participants were asked to rate their quality of life, satisfaction with life, and well-being. These ratings were combined into one 'living well' score. A number of factors were found to be related to the capability of people with dementia to live well, including:

- Psychological characteristics and psychological health, such as personality, optimism, self-esteem, loneliness, and depression
- Physical fitness and health, such as lifestyle and health conditions
- Resources and assets, such as size of social networks, and taking part in social and cultural activities
- Managing everyday life with dementia, such as the ability to do routine activities
- Social situation, such as social class and perceived social standing in the community

From these findings, ways to improve the capability of people with dementia to live well have been identified:

- Sustain good mental health, such as by reducing levels of depression
- Maintain good physical health and enable people to manage their activities more effectively
- Reduce isolation, increase social and cultural engagement and help people with cognitive problems to feel more secure and more engaged with their local communities

At WISERD, we have undertaken a number of more in-depth interviews with a smaller sample of participants, which will provide context for some of the baseline findings. Participants have been telling us about themselves and their lives. This can be difficult for those who find recalling events and reflecting on their meaning to be a significant challenge. However, hearing the stories of those directly affected by cognitive problems is integral to understanding the factors that influence a person, and their families', ability to manage and cope with its effects.

Our approach has been to find strategies for inclusion – to focus less on the specific details of an event or occurrence that someone might describe and instead to explore their feelings about it, to ground

our questions in people's everyday experiences, and to allow more time to enable people to express their thoughts and feelings.

This smaller scale qualitative work is essential to the success of the IDEAL study. It enables participants to describe what is important to them in relation to living well with dementia, in their own words and on their own terms. It also provides the wider research team with more in-depth detail about how and why certain factors may impact on living well.

Baseline findings will be built upon with the analysis of data from the first three visits and using the insight from in-depth interviews. Further, IDEAL has been recognised by Alzheimer's Society who have chosen to fund its continuation until December 2022. This extension to the IDEAL programme of work will allow us to see how participants experience change over a longer period of time and will involve another three visits. Part of this extended programme of research will also involve the recruitment of new people into the study, especially those from groups that are underrepresented.

## IDEAL study presentation at the Senedd

Professor Ian Rees Jones gave a presentation on the IDEAL study at the National Assembly for Wales Cross Party Group on Medical Research in March.

## Training EYST Wales on community research methods

*In 2018, a group of young volunteers from Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales (EYST Wales) joined WISERD for a two-day participatory action research training course.*

EYST Wales, an award-winning charity, was set up in 2005 by a group of ethnic minority young people in Swansea, with the aim of providing a targeted, culturally sensitive and holistic support service for black and minority ethnic (BME) young people. Since then, EYST Wales has expanded its mission and vision to also meet the needs of BME families and individuals of all ages including refugees and asylum-seekers living in Wales.

The group of budding community researchers had previously participated in a WISERD and EYST Wales collaborative project to better understand young women's experiences and thoughts on the Brexit referendum, and life after Brexit. After taking part in a focus group, the young women had voiced an interest in further developing links with WISERD, and learning research methods in order to explore issues important to them.

On the first day of training, the group were introduced to some classic participatory engagement methods. They used brainstorming, sorting and voting to select a research topic: homelessness in Swansea. They then used mapping to further explore the issue of homelessness in Swansea.

Day two involved exploring potential research methods and devising a strategy for how to put them into practice, in order to better understand city centre homelessness in Swansea. This included deciding who to speak with, where to find them, and what problems or ethical questions may surface. The group decided to narrow the focus of this potential community research project to the experiences of people seeking asylum and those within the asylum process who have been made homeless in Swansea. They also practised participatory data analysis.

Evaluations of the experience were resoundingly positive. One participant, Rudina Koka, noted that people research every day, even if this is just using Google's search engine, and appreciated the chance to learn how to investigate a question systematically and with rigour. Rudina said: "Thank you for helping us to research better and also to help us improve our ideas." The only criticism from the group of young volunteers was that they felt there was a need for more than two days in order to fully explore the concepts introduced and design a viable research project to take forward.

Rocio Cifuentes, Director of EYST Wales, said: "We appreciate this opportunity for EYST volunteers to learn community research methods from two excellent trainers and would welcome further opportunities to collaborate with WISERD for volunteers to develop research skills and use them to work towards resilient communities."



Participatory action research training



Exploring homelessness in Swansea

# Student internships with the WCVA and the Welsh Government



Amy Sanders

Co-owner and director of a social enterprise called Dynamix, Amy Sanders works on projects that bring the third sector and public sector together. Amy's PhD research is about the relationship between the third sector and the institutions of Government in the context of the devolved state.

To find out more about Amy Sanders' work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/amysanders](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/amysanders)



*My PhD is concerned with the third sector-state partnership in Wales and its impact on equalities third sector organisations and advancing equality.*

I was fortunate to secure two internships with organisations that are directly relevant to my research. My first internship took place with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). Part of my role developed into facilitating a Third Sector Partnership Council meeting and subsequently producing a report. In addition, I was tasked with meeting each staff member who coordinated the portfolio meetings and producing an internal report for WCVA. I also produced a literature review for WCVA staff, which was shared with the Welsh Government's Third Sector Unit.

During my Welsh Government internship, I was able to support the delivery of two conferences, which turned out to be a useful approach to developing relationships with the staff in the Unit. I also undertook

meetings with link officials who coordinate the portfolio meetings in each department and consequently developed an Induction Guide for future link officials. Additionally, I conducted a review of the Welsh Government's latest strategy from a third sector perspective.

This describes what I did, but let me explain why it was useful for my research. Access to elite interviewees is recognised as challenging, especially in political arenas, but through both internships I developed networks that have enabled access to interview participants. Furthermore, the relationships I established made it possible to access relevant documents for my analysis. I anticipate I have also formed the foundational relationships I will need to communicate my emergent findings to the relevant

players, thus informing their institutional practices and ensuring my research has impact.

Both placements afforded me a solid level of expert knowledge on institutional structures and a familiarity with appropriate language to ensure my elite interviews were effective. I also gained detailed knowledge of key actors, thus facilitating a refinement of my purposive sampling for interviews.

Given these benefits, I consider myself exceptionally lucky to have had these opportunities. If I were to pass on to other students the key to a successful internship it would be to find out what matters most to your hosts, make yourself invaluable in delivering on that, and, most crucially, make friends.



## BLOG

## WORKING WITH THE THIRD SECTOR

# Trams, canals and international perspectives on third sector research

I recently attended the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) Conference in Amsterdam, with some of my WISERD colleagues from Cardiff University and Bangor University. This bi-annual gathering of academics and practitioners from over 80 countries, aims to promote the study of civil society and the non-profit sector.

Hosted by Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam, the conference saw over 500 papers presented, stimulating debate around civil society through a range of starting points including gender, environmentalism, volunteering, policy and governance. We presented five papers and chaired three panels over the course of the event.

The conference also created a forum for debates about the funding of civil society, its challenges and the potential of non-

state sources such as crowdfunding, and social enterprises. Papers took a multitude of theoretical and conceptual positions, creating a stimulating and intellectually challenging environment through which to reflect on our own work at WISERD.

In particular, we found similarities and differences between our work at WISERD and research in other international social, cultural and political contexts thought-provoking. For example, while hybrid organisations have formed between the public and voluntary sectors in both Denmark and the UK, trust and mutual cooperation as opposed to competition and tendering appear to play a more significant role in the Danish case.

Case studies showing the impact of devolution and decentralisation in federal systems, as another example, were discussed with Canadian ISTR colleagues to share insights into the asymmetrical, devolved constitutional arrangements seen in the UK and Canada.

and debate. We found colleagues from all levels of academia willing to engage in constructive discussions, asking relevant and penetrating questions. The conference also included a good range of papers from PhD candidates, and an excellent PhD mentoring programme.

Finally, we were bowled over by the hospitality of the conference. Amsterdam was a fascinating and vibrant city to spend time in, not least because of its fantastic tram and bike networks. Thanks to the hospitality of the Mayor of Amsterdam, we ended our time there with a historical and relaxing canal ride followed by a Gala in the majestic Rijks Museum; home to classical artists Rembrandt and Vermeer. All in all, the ISTR was, intellectually, culturally and in terms of collaboration, time well spent, and we returned inspired to write and share our research ideas, and to build new international collaborations.



**Dr Christala Sophocleous**

Dr Christala Sophocleous is a Research Associate at Cardiff University working on the project, *Territoriality and Third Sector Engagement in Policy-Making and Welfare Provision*. This project investigates how the territorial administration of the third sector in Wales has changed over the post-war period and how this has affected the way third sector organisations shape and deliver welfare. It also explores civil society's role in advancing human rights in Europe, Asia and Africa.

To find out more about Dr Christala Sophocleous's work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/christalasophocleous](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/christalasophocleous)

A view of the conference shared by all, was the highly supportive and nurturing, though still critical, nature of discussions



## gofod3 2019

*Organised by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), gofod3 is 'Wales' space for the third sector'. This year's event at Cardiff City Stadium in March attracted over 500 delegates and demonstrated the breadth and value of the third sector in Wales.*

The WISERD team received visitors to the exhibition stand throughout the day, welcoming the opportunity to network with a diverse range of organisations and share some of WISERD's research findings.

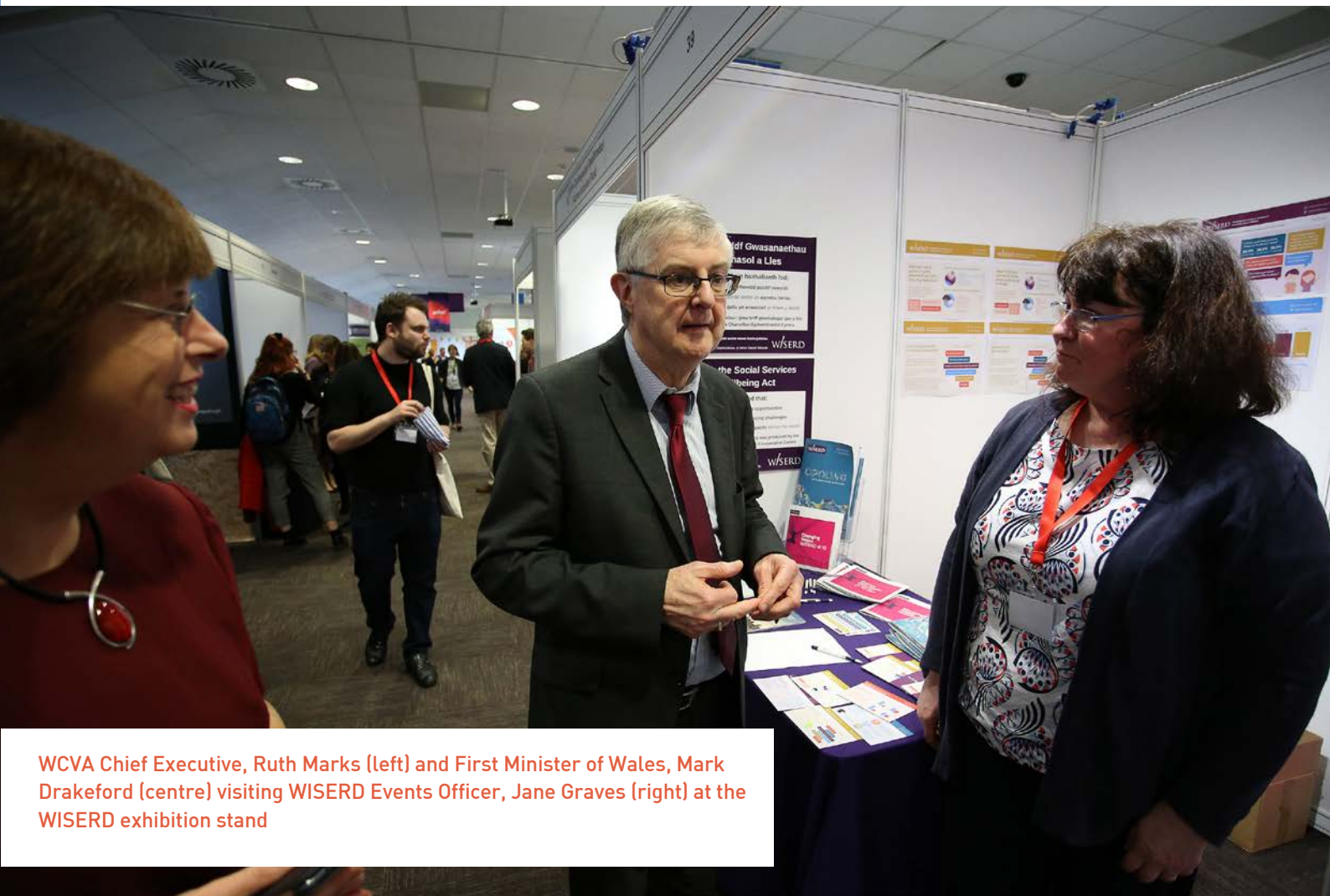
Dr David Dallimore from Bangor University and Dr Christala Sophocleous from Cardiff University delivered a workshop on 'Civil Society Research: Reflections on volunteering, participation and social change'.

Dr Christala Sophocleous said: "gofod3 was a great way of sharing some of the main findings of our research with voluntary organisations. It's always rewarding when the workshop participants recognise the issues you raise and our work stimulates further discussion among practitioners."

Dr David Dallimore said: "This is the second time I've presented at gofod3 and it's a really great opportunity to share and discuss our research with a wide and knowledgeable audience."

Doing qualitative research means that we can only draw conclusions based on a small number of cases, so engaging at events like this is really important in understanding how generalisable our findings are – and the feedback we've had has been really positive."

Dr Dallimore continued: "gofod3 is also a rare opportunity to network, to tell people about what we're doing, but also to listen to the views of people engaged in civil society in Wales."



WCVA Chief Executive, Ruth Marks (left) and First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford (centre) visiting WISERD Events Officer, Jane Graves (right) at the WISERD exhibition stand



## BLOG FOCUSING ON HOUSING

# Collecting homelessness data in Wales

*The Welsh Government has part-funded a project with the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) to explore what a new homelessness data collection system could look like and how it could work best in Wales. Ian Thomas from Administrative Data Research Wales (ADR Wales) gives an overview of the project and how it could radically change the evidence base on homelessness in Wales.*

In England, the introduction of new duties for local authorities to assist people faced with homelessness as part of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 coincided with a new individual-level data collection. The aim of this new collection is to assist in the monitoring of England's new legislation, and also to open up opportunities for research into what works in homelessness assistance by linking actions under the legislation to outcomes for individuals.

Alongside this change in England's approach to statutory homelessness data collection, projects in Wales and Scotland are underway to explore national platforms that help third sector or statutory homelessness services to share information and engage in cross-agency working to help rough sleepers. As these developments in different data collections across the UK illustrate, an increased importance is being placed on centrally collecting individual-level data.

The approach adopted in Wales to monitor statutory homelessness services under the Housing (Wales) Act is through aggregate data, which provide local authority-level counts of homelessness assistance and some limited information on household

circumstances. Whilst this aggregate collection is useful for monitoring overall levels of homelessness assistance being provided, in order to assess people's longer term outcomes and what works in preventing or alleviating homelessness, individual-level data are needed.

The intended outcome of the project is a series of options for a new homelessness data collection system. As part of the process of generating these options, a review of local, national, and international data collection systems has been undertaken. In addition to having a wide geographic scope, the review has looked at data collections in areas other than homelessness in order to learn from others and explore interesting applications of new technologies.

So far, 34 examples of data collection have been identified and reviewed, spanning seven countries. As each system is unique in terms of its purpose and context, different aspects of the 34 systems have been considered when constructing the options for a new homelessness collection. In addition to generating options, the project is looking at current local authority data collection practices, initially through a survey of local authorities. Although local authorities all report the same aggregate counts to

Welsh Government, each authority has its own way of collecting and managing information about the people they help under the Housing (Wales) Act.

In addition to the survey, over the next few months, we hope to visit several local authorities in order to see their collection practices first hand, and learn more about when, where and by who data are entered into local systems, and how local authorities use their own data to determine service provision. Knowing where we are now in terms of local authority capacity will help guide the way forward in terms of developing a new homelessness data collection for Wales.

If you would like to find out more about this project or get involved, please contact Ian Thomas  
[www.wiserd.ac.uk/ianthomas](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/ianthomas)

## Wales Housing Research Conference 2019

WISERD's Wales Housing Research Network co-hosted the Wales Housing Research Conference 2019 with the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence, Shelter Cymru and the Welsh Government in January this year at Cardiff University. Find out more on our website: [www.wiserd.ac.uk](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk)



# Social action as a route to the ballot box: volunteering and turnout

*Dr Stuart Fox's latest project examines the benefits of volunteering for the political engagement of young people in the UK. Voting is the single most common and important form of political participation in a democracy, and yet today's young voters have an unprecedented reluctance to turn up at the ballot box.*

This decline of engagement is not limited to voting – whether it is joining community associations such as sports clubs or trade unions, taking part in protests or lobbying politicians, Millennials are less likely to be active than their parents or grandparents were at the same age. Perhaps even more concerning is that there are some Millennials who are even less likely to be active than their peers, particularly those from poorer backgrounds or who do not go to university.

One activity that seems to buck this trend, however, is volunteering. Millennials are at least as likely to join volunteering organisations and take part in voluntary work as their elders, and some evidence suggests that they might even be more likely to do so. Volunteering is not only an activity that brings great benefit to communities and vulnerable people in our society, it brings great benefits to the volunteer as well: it helps to develop transferable skills in teamwork, leadership, independent working and time management; it gives people access to new skills and experiences; it develops their awareness and knowledge of community issues; and it expands and develops social networks.

*There is a clear potential, therefore, for volunteering – and schemes that promote volunteering, such as the National Citizen Service – to make it easier for young people to vote and to reduce the turnout gap between young and old in elections.*

There is also a potential for volunteering to be disproportionately beneficial to young people from poorer backgrounds, as they have access to far fewer sources of political information, skills and social networks than someone from a middle-class family and/or who went to university.

This project examines that potential and determines whether it is being realised. Using the UK Household Longitudinal Survey (also known as Understanding Society), it looks at whether volunteering provides young people with the skills, information

and networks that makes them more likely to vote, and considers whether the benefit is particularly profound for young people from poorer backgrounds.

The findings of the project will be used to assess the effectiveness of Government schemes designed to promote volunteering. Working with civil society partners such as the Wales Council of Voluntary Associations and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, it will also develop a series of policy recommendations for the Welsh, Scottish and UK Governments regarding their support for volunteering schemes, and how they could use those schemes to address the growing divide in turnout and political engagement between Millennials and their elders.

Dr Stuart Fox has written a number of blog posts as part of this project, which you can read on our website:  
[www.wiserd.ac.uk/news](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/news)



## Does fear of crime impact social involvement?

*It has been shown that despite lower risks of victimisation, older people tend to be more fearful of crime than younger members of society. Our research hopes to uncover whether there is evidence that this fear of crime also impacts their social involvement.*

To answer this question, we have used data from several Home Office Citizenship Surveys. These provide an annual cross-sectional study on the issues of community cohesion, civic engagement, race, faith, and volunteering in England and Wales. For our study, we differentiated between respondents with various levels of involvement in groups, clubs, or organisations.

To measure a fear of crime we have explored how safe our respondents feel walking alone after dark (believed to measure a more general anxiety for crime) and respondents' perceived risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Examining the relationship between the age of respondents and these two measures revealed that as we age, we feel less safe walking alone in the streets after dark. However, worrying

about becoming a victim of crime had a curvilinear relationship with age, with a peak in people's 30s, and a rapid decline after their 60s. When asked about the extent to which one feels safe to walk alone after dark, respondents tend to report their anxiety about becoming a crime victim. However, asking respondents specifically about their worry of becoming a victim of crime will tap into their perceived risk of being victimised.

We found that the two measures of fear of crime did affect the likelihood of being more socially active. Feeling less safe to walk alone in the street after dark had a strong linear negative effect on the extent to which one is socially active. In addition, this relation was stronger for respondents who were older. Therefore, not only do older respondents feel less safe walking alone after dark but the impact this feeling has on them being socially active is stronger for them too.

Worrying more about becoming a victim of crime, on the other hand, had a curvilinear relationship with social activity, increasing one's activity at first, followed by a decline of activity after a certain level of worry was reached. We found no evidence that the extent of this decline varied by age, but we did find that the initial increase in activity caused by an increase in worry was less strong for older respondents.

We can thus conclude that fear of crime does indeed affect older people's involvement in social participation differently. However, this was found to be true only for our measure of walking alone after dark, as opposed to the measure which captured one's perceived risk of becoming a victim of crime.

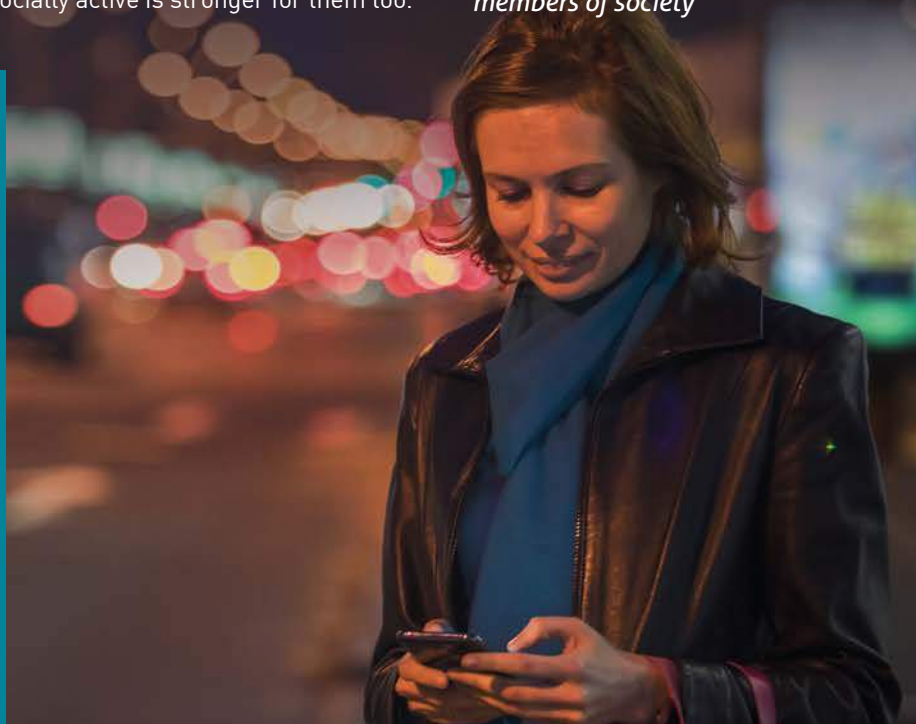
*"Older people tend to be more fearful of crime than younger members of society"*



**Dr Martijn  
Hogerbrugge**

Dr Martijn Hogerbrugge is a Quantitative Research Associate at Cardiff University working on the *Social and Cultural Capital in Later Life* project with colleagues at Bangor and Cardiff University.

To find out more about Dr Martijn Hogerbrugge's work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/martijnhogerbrugge](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/martijnhogerbrugge)



# The Magical Mystery Tour of English ‘devolution’

*Since the late 1990s, the approach to devolution adopted by successive Westminster Governments has reflected the classic ‘muddling through’ characterisation of policy-making. Devolution across the UK has been defined by its evolution through small, incremental steps and a built-in asymmetry rather than an overarching constitutional vision.*

Last summer, as part of the WISERD Civil Society project ‘Building Trust’, we spoke with various actors in the North West about the changing nature of governance arrangements.

The current devolution agenda in England has been characterised as a ‘journey rather than a destination’, echoing the former Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies’ capturing of devolution in Wales as a “process not an event”. However, the first twenty years of devolution in Wales looks relatively coherent and well-planned in comparison to the fragmented and frequently aborted policies adopted in England.

In parallel to the introduction of the National Assembly for Wales and Scottish Parliament, the New Labour Government hesitantly

pursued a regional agenda in England, introducing regional development agencies (RDAs) and indirectly elected regional assemblies. However, this regional agenda was unceremoniously abandoned following the North East’s overwhelming rejection of elected regional Government in November 2004 and the UK Government’s increased enthusiasm for city-regions.

The Conservative-led coalition Government continued this journey, scrapping the RDAs and Government Offices of the Regions (established in the early 1990s) and creating business-led local enterprise partnerships (LEPs). The LEPs were originally intended to reflect economic geographies but somewhat inevitably ended up providing a patchwork quilt of partnerships across the whole of England – even where there was little apparent economic logic.

The most recent attempt to grapple with the sub-national governance of England has centred on ‘devo deals’ creating combined authorities and elected metro mayors, sparked by the then chancellor, George Osborne’s ‘Northern Powerhouse’ initiative.

*However, the Conservative Government’s approach to devolution in England appears to have taken ‘muddling through’ to a new level.*

Although a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach has been frequently described by participants in our research as inappropriate, the differences in the degree of devolution across England have steadily increased over the past four to five years.

In the North West, Greater Manchester has been at the forefront of English devolution, receiving delegated responsibility for health and social care, but local authorities in Cheshire, Cumbria and Lancashire have yet to get past square one by agreeing partnership arrangements. In this sense the patchwork quilt is not just threadbare, it has gaping holes in it.

Furthermore, Government ministers and Whitehall departments are perceived as not having a coherent vision for devolving powers and responsibilities, rather combined authorities in Liverpool and Manchester have adopted an opportunist approach to drawing powers down from central Government.

In summary, it may be appealing to characterise English devolution as a journey, but importantly not everyone appears to be on the bus. Furthermore, no-one has much of a clue as to where it might be going or what happens if, and when, it breaks down.



**Dr Ian Stafford**

Dr Ian Stafford is a co-investigator at Cardiff University and part of a three-year Leverhulme Trust-funded international network exploring questions of territorial governance.

To find out more about Dr Ian Stafford’s work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/ianstafford](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/ianstafford)



## NEWS

## INVESTIGATING INEQUALITY

## Global trade union organisation recognises WISERD's research impact

*The importance of a new report, 'Trade Union Responses to the Changing World of Work', written by Dr Helen Blakely and Steve Davies, which looks at the trade union responses to the changing world of work around the world, has been recognised by UNI Global Union. In a letter from UNI Global Union's General Secretary, Christy Hoffman, the WISERD team were thanked for providing 'such an important body of research'.*

She states that their presentation and report were of high interest to the hundreds of union leaders from over 460 organisations at the UNI Global Union's Fifth World Congress in Liverpool earlier this year. In particular, she singles out the significance of their conclusions concerning how to use collective bargaining as a remedy for the ails of digitalisation and the crucial role unions play in social cohesion.

*Her letter acknowledges their report as 'a defining point of reference to guide our thinking on the subject...'*

The report focuses on the strategic capacity of unions to both develop old, and build new resources and capabilities in response to the rapidly changing world of work. While there are important variations across countries and regions, a number of global trends present challenges to trade unions such as changing forms of

employment, digitalisation, automation and outsourcing of work.

The team looked at 25 case studies from five continents, they demonstrate in varying ways how trade unions are able to enact change. Some of the cases show trade unions are using genuinely new approaches. However, it is often the application of traditional methods and ideas in a new or different context, or transferred from one country to another, or one sector to another, to provide a breakthrough.

The study shows the role of union agency in transforming difficult situations into opportunities for union growth and bargaining gains. The report concludes that the research found through the use of combined and complementary strategies, it is possible for unions to draw upon, strengthen and create new sources of power to find direct and indirect routes to sustainable gains.



Dr Helen Blakely speaking at the Future World of Work Leadership Summit at UNI Global Union's headquarters in Switzerland

### Trade union organising through social media

WISERD researchers shared insights from effective trade union social media campaigns as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2018. The two-hour workshop included an analysis of how social media was used in the recent #McStrike campaign and was aimed at trade union officials and activists who were interested in developing their understanding of the strategic use of social media in trade union organising.

# Understanding garment workers' experiences

*A team of researchers from WISERD and the Cardiff Business School have recently started a new ESRC-funded project as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). The UK team will collaborate closely with research partners at Cividep-India to understand garment workers' experience of their workplaces.*

Over the next two years we will be focusing on the seemingly intractable challenges faced by workers in operationalising their labour rights at the base of the labour-intensive, buyer-driven value chain in garment assembly.

Our research will be a workplace-centred study in the context of uneven international development. It will consider the challenges facing socio-economically disadvantaged workers, new to urban, industrialised environments and unfamiliar with collective organisation, in accessing remedy and operationalising core labour standards.

These are based on the principles of decent work established by the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental

Principles and Rights at Work and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

*The associated Protect, Respect, Remedy Framework, developed by John Ruggie, demands first, of nation states that they protect their citizens and second, that corporations should respect human rights at work. Our research focuses on the last pillar of the Ruggie framework, which is 'access to remedy'.*

We are concerned with mapping the degree to which human rights such as, for example, freedom of association, may be given structure and form as enforceable employment rights in ways that allow ordinary workers to be heard, in a meaningful way, in the workplace.

In this study, therefore, we will explore the nature, process and outcomes of workplace grievances as a means of assessing how far it is possible for a worker to use mechanisms of dispute resolution to operationalise labour rights (including the enabling right to organise) in gaining access to remedy at the local level.

Through this study we aim to provide a reliable database of information on employment conditions that will inform academic publications and contribute to theory and knowledge of workplace industrial relations within the international garment supply chain. Our partners will also utilise the findings in different aspects of their advocacy with policymakers and international brands.

## WISERD presents at Hay Festival

As part of the new Global Challenges Research Fund project, Dr Jean Jenkins, Reader in Employment Relations at Cardiff University presented at the Hay Festival in May 2019. 'Fashion - an Industry of Gross Exploitation' gave visitors a powerful insight into the gross exploitation that thrives in clothing manufacture and how workers are struggling against the odds to fight back.





## NEWS

## INVESTIGATING INEQUALITY

# The Shared Prosperity Fund should give Wales a future – not just a cheque

*Wales faces an imminent funding hole. After Brexit, we will lose access to the net benefit we gain from EU funds. These include the so-called 'structural funds', which support regional development and social initiatives. For 2012-20 alone, Wales has been allocated some £2 billion worth of structural funding. That's a lot of money to miss out on, so there are hopes that a new, UK-wide Shared Prosperity Fund will fill the gap.*

There are already plenty of questions – and few answers – about what the Shared Prosperity Fund will look like in practice. In a Westminster debate, Welsh MPs argued that continued funding for Wales should not fall below the current EU funding levels. Ceredigion's Ben Lake, for example, described a well-financed Shared Prosperity Fund as a potential "lifeline for our communities".

While we don't dispute the need for ongoing investment in Wales, Welsh communities have been thrown financial 'lifelines' from the EU for almost two decades. 'West Wales and the Valleys' – an amalgamation of our most economically under-performing areas – first qualified for the highest level of structural funding in 2000. At the time, hopes were high. EU funding plaques sprouted around Wales, promising all kinds of schemes and dreams.

Yet when we interviewed Welsh policymakers as part of our Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe (IMAJINE) project research, many believed that the funding hadn't actually worked. As one senior advisor explained, "We started with a position of economic and social

inequality and we certainly haven't closed that gap." So, after Brexit, will the same amount of funding by another name prove any more effective for Wales?

There are stubborn socio-economic disparities in Wales. Some have argued that 'left behind' places in the UK swung the Brexit leave vote, which should make sharing prosperity matter more than ever. But it's fair to say that Robin Hood redistribution won't be Government policy any time soon. If the Shared Prosperity Fund works like the structural funds, there will be strategic investment in some places or regions with the aim of helping them to catch up with other, more prosperous, places or regions.

The trouble with regional development as a catch-up game is that success gets defined by what the strongest economic centres have already done. That makes it a hard game ever to win. We'd like to see instead an approach based on what several theorists have called 'spatial justice'. Put simply, spatial justice is not about continued advantage for regions that are already better off, but it doesn't assume, either, that every region needs the same development recipe. A prosperous Welsh future is

not London's past – nor simply one big Cardiff.

In our work with the IMAJINE project, Professor Rhys Jones and I have been looking at how spatial justice can be turned from a good idea into policies that work. There are already some encouraging signs in Wales. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, for example, is helping to define a Welsh future that extends beyond conventional measures of economic success.

Policymakers in Wales need to continue to have the courage to pursue a Welsh version of a just future – and academics, like those of us in WISERD, have a role to play in helping refine and realise visions of justice in and for Wales. So, let's talk about a Shared Prosperity Fund that delivers justice to Wales, not just the same sized funding cheque.



**Dr Bryonny Goodwin-Hawkins**

Dr Bryonny Goodwin-Hawkins is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Aberystwyth University. Bryonny works on the Horizon 2020 funded IMAJINE project to develop new policy responses to territorial inequalities in Europe.

To find out more about Dr Bryonny Goodwin-Hawkins' work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/bryonnygoodwinhawkins](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/bryonnygoodwinhawkins)





# The growing phenomenon of bride trafficking



*Constitutionally a secular state, India is a diverse country with marked religious divides. Recent years have seen growing international and domestic concerns over multiple forms of discrimination affecting persons belonging to religious and linguistic minorities, and a growing trend of violence against members of religious minorities. There are similar worries over the discrimination and oppression faced by women and girls.*

To explore these issues in detail, we've been undertaking qualitative interviews and participant observation with non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) concerned with religious freedom and gender equality. In August 2018, we held a research workshop on civil society and citizenship rights in India, in New Delhi (pictured) and can now share some of our emerging findings.

The accounts we have gathered provide rich detail supporting concerns over rights violations expressed by the United Nations and other observers. The intersection of gender equality and religious freedom can be clearly identified with reference to one issue: the growing phenomenon of bride trafficking.

The civil society representatives we interviewed highlight the prevalence

of bride trafficking, in particular, trafficked girls from Assam and Bengal, and Bangladesh. Our research participants spoke of how NGOs are acting to rescue trafficked women. Of these, a large percentage belong to the Muslim community. They warned that it's over-simplistic to apportion blame to just one religious community because, to varying degrees, it affects most religious groupings. The problem is driven by a grave rights violation – female foeticide.

The accounts gathered underline a key challenge for NGOs in how to raise awareness of the issue of bride trafficking. There is also a need for civil society to participate in the formulation and criticism of the Government's policy response. NGOs' work across states in northern India, ranging from Assam in the east to Madhya Pradesh in the west, revealed low public policy awareness on the issue – just two districts had some knowledge of the Indian Government policies on bride trafficking.

This points to a classic Government policy implementation gap, which as the research participants argued, suggests an urgent need to ensure that civil society is aware and mobilised to tackle the issue of bride trafficking in order to uphold the citizenship rights of all women and girls.

## What is female foeticide?

Human rights law on abortion is complex and fraught with contradictions. Notwithstanding this, female foeticide is an unlawful means of abortion and it contravenes Article 3 of the Universal Convention on Human Rights (the right to life).

The motives for female foeticide are grounded in history and culture. Traditionally, male children have been preferred because they provided manual labour and succession in the family lineage. The selective abortion of female fetuses is most common in areas where cultural norms value male children over female children for a variety of social and economic reasons.



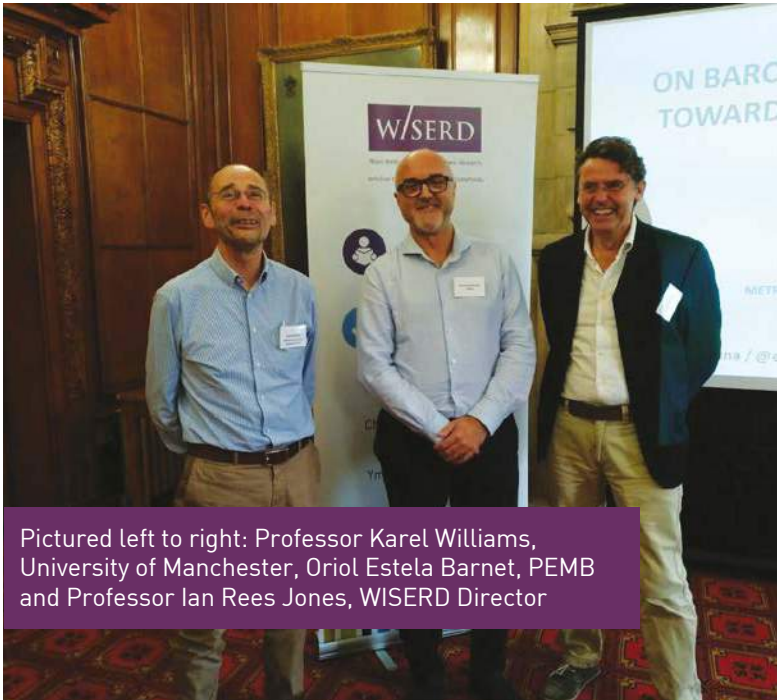
**Professor Paul Chaney**

Professor Paul Chaney is a WISERD Co-Director, and Professor of Policy and Politics in the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University. His latest research with Professor Sarbeswar Sahoo from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, explores civil society organisations' views and experiences of the promotion of human rights, good governance and social justice in India. This research is funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences, Global Challenges Research Fund.

To find out more about Professor Paul Chaney's work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/paulchaney](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/paulchaney)



## Social innovation in the foundational economy



Pictured left to right: Professor Karel Williams, University of Manchester, Oriol Estela Barnet, PEMB and Professor Ian Rees Jones, WISERD Director

*WISERD recently held an ESRC-funded international colloquium on Social Innovation in the Foundational Economy in Cardiff and Ebbw Vale. This two-day event drew together academics, politicians, policymakers, service providers, practitioners and representatives from the third sector, to debate and discuss radical responses to economic insecurity and social inequality.*

The event provided an opportunity to look at innovative responses from across Europe and discuss examples of work being undertaken in key sectors. Delegates also considered how foundational perspectives are

already changing the policy landscape in Wales and identified priorities for the future.

We welcomed Oriol Estela Barnet, general coordinator of the Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan (Pla Estratègic Metropolità de Barcelona – PEMB) as the plenary speaker, who shared his work *On Barcelona's first steps towards a foundational strategy*.

Other highlights included a presentation on the first day by Mark Drakeford AM (now First Minister of Wales) on Wales now, and panel sessions on the second day. These included a discussion of what assembly members can and should do, where we were joined by further assembly members, Hefin David, Vikki Howells, Adam Price and Lee Waters.

## How city deals could make a difference

*Earlier this year, WISERD collaborated with Swansea University's Morgan Academy, to deliver a symposium on city deals, which brought academic researchers together with delegates from local authorities and the business sector.*

The event took place at Swansea University's Bay Campus and provided an opportunity to discuss the strategic nature of city deals, and to learn from research and practice across the UK and internationally. Speakers highlighted the key policy implications of city deals, which provoked a discussion on the challenges and opportunities these new structures present.

Keynote speakers included Professor David Blackaby, WISERD Co-Director, presenting on the Welsh economy, including research on public sector pay. Also, Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales who discussed 'a prosperous Wales' in the context of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



Professor David Blackaby, WISERD Co-Director, Swansea University



Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



## WISERD presents latest research on curriculum reform in Wales

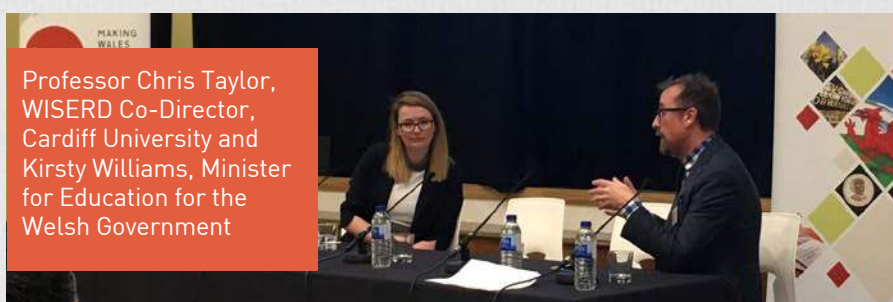
*WISERD Co-Director, Professor Chris Taylor and Dr Nigel Newton presented at an education event sponsored by WISERD and the Learned Society of Wales in February, to launch a new report by the Institute of Welsh Affairs on the implications of curriculum reform.*

Following a review undertaken by Professor Graham Donaldson in 2015, the Welsh Government is designing a new curriculum for 3 to 6-year-olds: *A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life*. WISERD Education researchers have been at the forefront of examining what curriculum reform means in reality for schools and learners, through the *Successful Futures for All* project.

*Successful Futures for All* seeks to add value to work being carried out by the Welsh Government in evaluating progress of the Pioneer Schools in developing the new curriculum. Dr Nigel Newton shared an update on this project at the event, giving a valuable insight into teachers' hopes and fears for the new curriculum.

Our research has found that teachers have a lot of hope for the new curriculum but there are a number of challenges to work through. These include a fear of not having enough support, concerns over how assessment is measured, potential loss of subject-specific knowledge and variability between schools.

The new report, *Common Purposes: Implications of curriculum reform in Wales for Further Education, Higher Education, Skills and Business*, engages with communities beyond the school gates, asking representatives from further education, higher education, and



Professor Chris Taylor, WISERD Co-Director, Cardiff University and Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education for the Welsh Government

skills and business communities about their engagement with the new curriculum so far.

The report also presents findings from interviews with representatives from these same communities in Scotland, where a similar curriculum reform has already taken place. It is envisaged that taking on board the experiences and lessons learned from Scotland's *Curriculum for Excellence* will help Wales effectively implement its own new curriculum.

*Common Purposes* also identifies practical steps to ensure the implementation of curriculum reform in Wales is integrated with and supported by the Further Education, Higher Education, Skills and Business communities.

It is vital that institutions beyond schools are engaged with the development and roll-out of the new curriculum to ensure it is well integrated with other areas of policy and that it provides a seamless pathway for learners as they progress from compulsory education.

At the event, Professor Chris Taylor presented a session alongside Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education for the Welsh Government. In the report, Professor Taylor explains that the development of a new curriculum for Wales is "by far the greatest reform to the education system since devolution in 1999. It will also be the most challenging."

WISERD previously undertook an independent evaluation of the Foundation Phase early years education policy for the Welsh Government. Professor Taylor highlights that recommendations from this review, along with those set out in the *Successful Futures* review by Professor Graham Donaldson and his team, will be of benefit to current reforms.

The event brought together representatives from further education, higher education, skills and business communities in Wales and Scotland, to share their experiences so far and to discuss possible areas for action to ensure the new curriculum is as effective as possible for young people, and for Wales.



# Childhood in Wales is changing, Wales' services must change too

*New data from over 10,000 children and young people in Wales reveal the impact pressures of modern life are placing on their mental health. WISERD Research Associate, Dr Rhian Barrance carried out the Beth Nawr, 2019 survey for the Children's Commissioner for Wales, which collected data to help shape the Commissioner's new three-year work plan.*

## The survey found that children as young as seven were worried about:

- 42% worried about school tests
- 40% worried about bullying
- 27% worried about family problems, including parental separation, and 38% had asked their parent to stop using their smartphone in their presence

*"I get worried that my dad will leave our family again."* (Girl, 10)

*"...because (parents) won't listen to me or anything or attend to my needs when they are on their mobile phone."* (Girl, 10)

## Young people, aged 11 – 18, were concerned about:

- 45% worried about school work/exams
- 40% worried about life after school
- 28% worried about the way they look and about mental health/wellbeing

*"In general, I worry a lot about many things on a day-to-day basis."* (Girl, 14)

On most questions about worries or concerns, girls expressed higher levels of concern than boys, as did children from more materially deprived backgrounds than those from wealthier backgrounds.

Commenting on the findings, Professor Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales, said: "I've heard the message loud and clear: the new pressures of modern life are impacting heavily on children, even our youngest

citizens. We cannot continue with our established systems and pathways of support – we need mental health services and structures designed round children and their families' needs. It makes no sense for children's mental health teams and social services to be organised separately for families who need all the support they can get when their children are struggling with mental health difficulties. There must be no wrong door for children and their families needing support.

"What this tells us is that factors that could have a negative impact on our children's mental health are everywhere. How we respond to this as adults is crucial.

## The Commissioner's team also surveyed 585 professionals working with children and young people:

- 86% of them were worried about the mental health of children
- 81% were worried about the effect of social media and
- 82% worried about family problems

## Over 600 parents also took part and shared their top worries:

- 74% worry about mental health
- 68% worry about bullying
- 60% worry about the effect of social media

Professor Holland added: "Before surveying, I wanted to consider the national information which is already collected about children and young people. That review shows that

some aspects of children's lives are improving, including areas of health such as lower infant mortality, better dental health, less smoking and drinking and much lower rates of teenage pregnancy. But here are areas which remain a concern.

"All this work provides me, and other decision makers, with a broad picture of children's lives. Having access to such detail about what children, young people and those care for them experience and worry about provides me with a very clear direction about what I need to do to enable all children and young people an equal chance to be the best that they can be."

The Commissioner's new three-year plan includes details of the team's ambitions and specific areas of work, including shaping new ways of approaching mental health services for children and ensuring children and young people across the country are given meaningful opportunities to be informed, involved citizens.



## Research links family arguments to civic engagement

*Professor Sally Power, Director of WISERD Education, presented research findings on family arguments at A Child's World Conference 2018 – 'New Shoes New Direction', at Aberystwyth University. This research is from the ESRC Civil Society Centre research project, The intergenerational transmission of 'civic virtues': the role of the family in civil society engagement.*

Professor Power's presentation, 'Family Arguments: about what and with whom?' explores arguments within families – their causes, frequency and consequences. The findings stem from a survey of over 900 13 to 14-year-olds in Wales, which was carried out between October 2016 and March 2017.

The survey covers the causes of arguments and examines who is involved and how often. The responses show that for both boys and girls two of the main causes of arguments within the family were the use of mobile phones or technology and household chores. They also showed that girls were nearly twice as likely to have

arguments with both their mother and father over their clothes while boys were twice as likely to argue with their mothers (not their fathers) about politics.

The survey highlights that those who have more arguments are more likely to be active in civil society. Findings show that those who argued 'a lot' compared to those who never argued were more likely to have been involved with a humanitarian aid or human rights organisation in the last 12 months, to have often given time to help a charity or cause, to have contacted a politician or the media, or to have signed a petition. The

research suggests that arguing may be the route through which young people acquire skills of debate and argumentation that enable them to have higher levels of civic engagement and therefore questions whether a more simplistic view of family arguments as negative is accurate.

A Child's World Conference 2018 – 'New Shoes New Direction' aimed to bring together academics and practitioners, to frame new concepts in collaborative practice in childhood studies in the context of social, legislative and organisational changes.

*"Arguing may be the route through which young people acquire skills of debate and argumentation that enable them to have higher levels of civic engagement."*



## How does grandparental childcare affect the child?

*Due to increases in life expectancy, more people than ever before are living long enough to be able to have relationships with their grandchildren. In the UK, it has been estimated that over 80% of 20-year-olds still have at least one living grandparent.*

Not only can these grandparents and grandchildren expect more years of shared lifetime, these relationships have the potential to be of a higher quality than in the past. Grandparents tend to be healthier and wealthier now, with fewer grandchildren amongst whom to spread these resources.

Alongside this, trends in mothers' labour force participation have increased the demand for childcare for pre-school aged children. While this has increased the number of children attending formal childcare settings, this provision is often scarce or prohibitively expensive. Indeed, the UK has some of the highest childcare costs in Europe, at roughly £6,500 per year for the average household. It is not surprising that increases in the use of informal childcare have also occurred, particularly for very young children, not yet entitled to free formal childcare provision.

Grandparents, often the maternal grandmother, tend to provide this informal childcare, with close to half of all children being looked after by a grandparent at some point in their pre-school years. The role that grandparents play in this context is a complex one which integrates the role of caregiver with other grandparental roles, including mentor, friend and playmate. The benefits of grandparental care may be similarly complex, with an obvious benefit to the household budget but a less straightforward impact on grandchildren's outcomes.

In terms of childcare, research has tended to focus on the relative benefits and disadvantages of maternal and non-maternal care, as well as between formal and informal care in the latter. It is only recently that attention has turned to the unique role of grandparental care and the impact that this can have on their grandchildren's cognitive, behavioural, and social outcomes. From this literature, a mixed picture emerges.

In terms of cognitive outcomes, children looked after by their grandparents appear to perform better in terms of vocabulary development but worse on non-verbal and concept development measures; they are better at naming objects but perform worse on picture similarity and school readiness tests.

*Grandparental care is also found to improve communication and socioemotional development, although some studies have found increased levels of hyperactivity and difficulties with peers.*

The relationship between grandparental care and grandchild outcomes is further complicated by the indication that both the frequency of contact with the grandparent and the socioeconomic status of the household effect the magnitude of grandparent influence.

Existing literature investigating the potential and perceived impact of grandparent-grandchild relationships



**Dr Jennifer Hampton**

Dr Jennifer Hampton is a research assistant at Cardiff University. Having recently achieved her PhD in Education from the School of Social Sciences, Jennifer's research interests include the use of advanced quantitative methods in a variety of social science disciplines. She also has an interest in mixed methodology and methodological innovation.

To find out more about Dr Jennifer Hampton's work, visit [www.wiserd.ac.uk/jenniferhampton](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/jenniferhampton)

has tended to take a retrospective or cross-sectional approach. Our study intends to expand and develop on the existing work, using data collected in the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), which has been following a large sample of children born in the year 2000. We intend to make full use of the longitudinal nature of the study to examine the short-, mid-, and longer-term effects of grandparental childcare in pre-school years on outcomes from early childhood into adolescence.

