

WISERD NEWS

Wales Institute of Social & Economic
Research, Data & Methods



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NEW

Co-Director at Cardiff Appointed

Sally Power has been appointed as the new Co-Director of WISERD at Cardiff. Sally is also a Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University. She takes over from Paul Furlong, who has been acting in an interim capacity for a number of months.



Sally Power

Sally is a sociologist of education, who is well known for her research on education policy and on the relationships between education and social class. She is currently one of the editors of the major journal, *Sociology*. Prior to coming to Cardiff, Sally was a Professor at the Institute of Education, University of London.

At WISERD, Sally will supervise the Policy Programme. She will also work closely with Martin Jones in managing Cardiff's contribution to the Knowing Localities Programme. Sally will develop WISERD's future research on children, young people and education. Drawing on her extensive previous experience, she will take the lead on projects in this area with the Welsh Government and with the European Commission. She will also be contributing to projects on the policy outcomes of devolution and elite formation following parliamentary devolution.

Sally is based at the WISERD offices at Cardiff University.

WISERD

Overview

Researchers from several Welsh universities recently came together to publish a detailed report that examined a range of economic inequalities in Wales. The report drew on new evidence to paint a powerful picture of a country with deeply entrenched inequalities. The report particularly focuses on the importance of people's characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, age and disability. It also shows the impact of family background on life chances since for many, disadvantage begins at birth and continues right through into education, employment and retirement - often carrying on into the next generation.

The picture that emerges is of a Wales where there is a narrower gap between the rich and the poor than in other parts of the UK, although this is mainly the result of a relative absence of very wealthy individuals in Wales. There are, however, serious and persistent inequalities in Wales, with uneven gaps opening up between those who have the opportunity to succeed and those who don't.

Background to the Report

The report builds on the work of the National Equality Panel (NEP) and their report published in January 2010 entitled *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK* (also known as the 'Hills report'). The Hills report provided a step-shift change in our understanding of economic inequality within the UK. It examined overall levels of inequality, the inequality that exists between population sub-groups and inequality that exists within groups across a range of different outcome measures. The report pulled together existing statistical data, as well as drawing upon the findings of research that emerged from several projects commissioned by the NEP to contribute additional evidence for the report.

Despite the richness of the analysis contained within the Hills Report, evidence as to the extent and nature of inequalities that existed across different areas of the United Kingdom was relatively limited. It was therefore not clear whether the patterns of inequality that were demonstrated to exist for the UK as a whole were also present within the regions or devolved nations of the UK. This gap in our understanding of inequality was of particular relevance to Wales which is the poorest part of the United Kingdom and a country that is relatively reliant on the public sector as a source of employment. To address this gap in our understanding of inequality in Wales, in October 2010, the (Wales) Equality and Human Rights Commission commissioned WISERD to co-ordinate the production of a report on economic inequality in Wales. The WISERD team consisted of 15 contributors from 4 Welsh Universities and the research was carried out between November 2010 and February 2011. The report was formally launched in May 2011.



Publishes report for Equality and Human Rights Commission: An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

The report broadly retains the same structure as the Hills report to aid comparisons between Wales and available evidence for the UK. The report examines variations in education, employment, earnings, income, poverty and wealth in Wales in comparison to other areas of the UK. The data analysis compares outcomes by gender, age, ethnicity, religion, disability and housing tenure. The findings from the report therefore provide the first systematic cross-cutting review of economic inequality that has been undertaken for Wales.

Evidence Base and Structure of the Report

An important issue underlying the analysis of inequality within a small country that has relatively low incidence of certain population sub-groups (e.g. ethnic minorities) is that the degree of detail that can be achieved in the analysis can be somewhat limited. Where possible however, the report attempted to examine the different measures of inequality using a consistent approach and the best available data. In particular, the report draws upon data collected from the Labour Force Survey, the Annual Population Survey, the Family Resources Survey, Households Below Average Income, the British Household Panel Survey and the Wealth and Assets Survey. Not only have these data sources been used to provide descriptive evidence on the nature and extent of inequality in Wales, relative to other parts of the UK, but regression analysis has also been undertaken using the data. This allowed for more detailed investigation of the processes underlying some of the variations that had initially been identified. Following an introductory chapter outlining the context to the research, subsequent chapters consider in turn educational outcomes; employment; earnings and income poverty and wealth. A cross cutting summary chapter pulled together evidence for particular groups. The report culminated in a selection of short papers where contributors were invited to reflect on their own research and the current state of knowledge in these chosen areas and to identify issues where further research is required. The following key findings emerged from the report:

Education

While overall in 2009 two-thirds of pupils in Wales attained key stage 4 qualifications at National Qualifications Framework level 2 (NVQ level 2 or equivalent) by the time they were 16, the chance of gaining these qualifications was strongly related to family income. Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) are 2.5 times less likely to get A*-C grades in core subjects than their ineligible peers.

Employment

People who are both DDA disabled and have a work limiting condition experience most disadvantage in relation to employment. Seventy four per cent are not employed, three times higher than that observed for the UK population as a whole. Women are disadvantaged in employment terms: in almost all population groups women face an above-average incidence of non-employment. This is particularly the case for some ethnic minority groups in Wales, particularly women of Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani and Chinese ethnicity.

Earnings

The median hourly earnings of men in Wales (£9.88, measured between 2004/5-2008/9) were just above the overall UK median (£9.81), while median female earnings (£8.04) were only 82% of the UK median, giving a Wales gender gap of 19% in hourly earnings. Using a low-pay threshold defined as two-thirds of UK median earnings, in terms of hourly earnings 26% of employees in Wales are low-paid, compared to 22% in the UK. The incidence of low weekly pay for full-time employees in the UK is 22%, in Wales 28% and for women full-time employees in Wales it is 38%: a 'gender penalty' of 10%.

Poverty

Approximately a fifth of the Welsh population live in poverty (measured after housing costs). Those living on the lowest incomes are once again the youngest, disabled people, those of Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnicity and those living in rented accommodation. However, lone parents are the most susceptible group, with almost half living in poverty. Being in work does not necessarily provide a route out of poverty, with 13% of in-work households in Wales living in poverty.

Overall Inequality

Overall levels of inequality within Wales are not as wide as in the rest of the UK as Wales has relatively few people who earn the highest salaries or who are 'very rich'. Those who are among the wealthiest 10% of people in Wales have around £100,000 less total wealth compared to the wealthiest 10% across the UK as a whole. The level of inequality within most sub-groups of the population is generally narrower than that observed across the population as a whole. Inequality between groups therefore does indeed contribute to overall inequality. However, there is a considerable level of inequality between rich and poor within each of these groups.

Dissemination and Publicity

The report was formally launched at Cardiff University on 12 May 2011. The launch was accompanied by the circulation of a press release by the EHRC, as a result of which the report became one of the main news items across Welsh media outlets. For example, some of the findings from the report were amongst the main headlines on Welsh television and radio news programmes on that day, as well as being widely covered on the internet and in newspapers such as the Western Mail and South Wales Echo. Some of the authors of the report and representatives from the EHRC were also interviewed on the radio and television. A feature on the report that appeared on the BBC website can be accessed at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-13371064.

The report has also been presented to representatives of the Welsh Government and the Office for National Statistics. It was also presented at the WISERD Annual Conference and the Shelter Cymru Conference, both held in Swansea in June 2011.

The report and the data used to develop it can be downloaded from: www.wiserd.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/WISERD_RRS_002.pdf

Mapping Accessibility

Using integrated innovative approaches to measure access to public transport opportunities

People require access to business activities, employment opportunities, education, retail services, recreational facilities, and family and friends. Thus a well designed transportation system is essential both for economic development and social interaction. Adequate provision of transit aids equal access amongst the population to services, helping to reduce social exclusion and lessen geographic isolation.

For households with limited mobility and financial resources, public transit is of particular significance since it in turn provides access to essential services, facilities, and amenities that help to meet social, health, education and recreational needs. WISERD has carried out a significant amount of research on the 'accessibility' of a range of public and private services such as post offices, health centres and retail sites. As part of a social equity approach to accessibility measurement, our on-going research is exploring the use of more refined GIS-based indicators of accessibility for those groups that are potentially more reliant on accessing such opportunities via bus services. We are primarily concerned with developing innovative measures that are both intuitive and easily interpretable and which can be compared to user experiences of the transportation system.

Based on the two-step floating catchment area methodology, but carefully modified to account for the inherent relationship of bus stops to bus routes, it captures many aspects of accessibility including proximity, cumulative opportunity and temporal availability to provide dynamic accessibility measures which can be compared to facility attributes such as opening times to provide a more realistic appraisal of accessibility for those dependent on public transport. The metric returns a value that reflects the number of buses per person able to access them and is constructed using a framework of distance based service areas which will be familiar to the transportation modelling community.

The measures being developed provide considerably more analytical detail than traditional approaches to estimating 'percentage of population deemed to be served' that are based on Euclidean buffers and area-ratio overlays. Using a case study in a local authority in South Wales, we have integrated publicly available digital transport timetables and information on bus stop locations with geospatial analysis tools to provide a realistic appraisal of bus transit accessibility.

We have mapped these scores for the unitary authority of Merthyr Tydfil (Figure 1): compared to the simple buffer methods it is immediately apparent that superior analytical information is provided by our approach. The map reveals complex patterns of bus transit accessibility levels across the town's neighbourhoods. Each Output Area receives an individual score which are observed to vary widely both across the town in general, and often within localised neighbourhoods too. If necessary a summary statistic of transit system accessibility can be derived by summing these individual scores. This measure is more informative than a simple proximity based measure which only reports on whether or not a population demand centre is within a threshold distance of a bus stop or a cumulative opportunity measure of accessibility based on the counts of bus stops within a specified buffered distance. This new metric provides a much richer assessment of accessibility which incorporates a measure of service quality (the number of



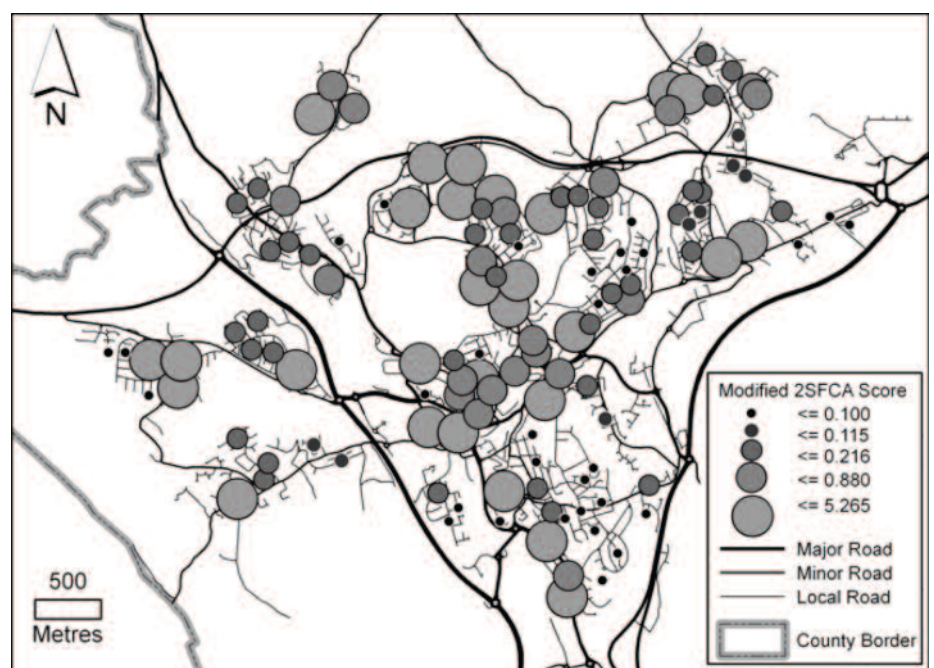
buses available in any chosen time frame), a measure of potential service demand (the population within service area catchments of bus stops), a measure of cumulative opportunity (the sum of population-to-provider ratios for significant bus stops), and a measure of proximity (since the entire analysis is conducted within the framework of a 'tolerable walking distance'). This measure therefore has the potential to not only explore the implications of changes to the network configuration or factors such as service frequency but also to proactively contribute to ways of promoting coverage efficiency by extending the types of proximity analysis presented in previous research

Current trends in the UK, such as the increase in the number of elderly, have focused attention on the travel patterns of such groups; however, there is a relatively poor empirical base with which to examine the localised implications of demographic changes or to monitor the impacts of Government transport policies such as concessionary bus fares for the elderly. The types of measures developed here could clearly form the basis for future studies of social exclusion/environmental injustice to public transport opportunities and will also provide a more detailed analysis of access to employment opportunities and public services in the education, health and leisure sectors. Such research is drawing attention to the potential for including more intelligent demand-side and supply-side modelling inputs in measuring access to services and will permit more accurate evaluations of

the current and future state of the public transport network in Wales. In addition, integrated approaches combining GIS-derived quantitative measures of accessibility with, for example, data from passenger surveys have real potential to reflect more subjective factors of travel behaviour. Research is currently being

undertaken using mixed methods approaches to combine our refined measures of access with data derived from survey and interview-based methodologies to examine mobility trends for potentially socially excluded but heterogeneous groups that reflect actual experiences of the users of these bus services.

Figure 1: Transit system accessibility across Merthyr Tydfil as reported by a modified two-step floating catchment area score.



WISERD Survey Summary

WISERD is funding a boost to the Skills and Employment Survey to be carried out across Britain in 2012. The overarching aim of the survey is to collect data on skills and employment experiences of those working in Britain in 2012, making it a key and distinctive resource for research on contemporary working life.

The Skills and Employment Survey (SES) will also provide continuity with and build on previous surveys funded by the ESRC, set a benchmark for future research in the field and allow some contemporaneous international comparisons to be made. Stemming from this overarching aim, there are four further objectives to be addressed, using the survey data:

- i. Describe and analyze the level and distribution of skills requirements of jobs in British workplaces in 2012 and compare these patterns with earlier data points.
- ii. Similarly, describe and analyze the level and distribution of key aspects of workers' experiences of their jobs in 2012, and compare with earlier data points.
- iii. Use the data to develop three distinctive original and substantive contributions to scholarship surrounding job quality and job skill.
- iv. Make the data available and provide the necessary data support and infrastructure for further analyses by academic or policy-based researchers in the field of skills and job quality.

The research team is being led by Professor Alan Felstead (SOCSI) who will be working with Rhys Davies (WISERD) to analyze Welsh data and produce a special report.



UPDATE

on localities research programme

A key activity undertaken by the localities team over the past 24 months has been the stakeholder interview programme. With the fieldwork now fully completed, and second stage analysis fully underway, WISERD research staff (and a wider tranche of WISERD research associates) are currently using this broad ranging empirical evidence database as a springboard into a series of discrete projects.

The stakeholder interviews provide a snapshot of Wales at the time of a major recession, and they document the concerns and prospects of local government and shadow state representatives as they prepared to face an era of public sector austerity. This provides the opportunity for researchers to weigh the assumed scale and form of financial cutbacks and public cutbacks as expected by those at the front line of service delivery in contrast to the actuality of these changes as currently being experienced by these stakeholders, and by those communities they represent.

Access to localities stakeholder interview data can be requested by applying to WISERD. Access is only available to registered WISERD associate members, further information about WISERD's associate membership scheme can be found at: www.wiserd.ac.uk/get-involved/wiserd-associate-members/.

For further information on accessing data and related issues please contact the WISERD Director of Operations by emailing WISERD@cf.ac.uk or telephoning 029 20879338.



WISERD Mini-

As part of the second phase of the research programme, WISERD researchers have begun working on a series of mini-projects. These projects build on existing research undertaken by WISERD to date and enable further analysis of key themes and issues identified during the first phase of the WISERD research programme.

The projects are diverse in nature and include colleagues from different institutions, organisations and disciplines. Themes include immigration, welsh language, national identity, boundaries and many more. A brief summary of each project is provided below with further information available from www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/.

Welsh Speakers and the Labour Market

Research Team:
Robin Mann (WISERD Bangor)
Stephen Drinkwater (WISERD Swansea)

Existing quantitative evidence points to differences between Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers in terms of labour market outcomes, however little is known about the precise mechanisms underlying such differences. A range of factors have been identified which may contribute to this including educational attainment, bilingual employment policies and economic restructuring. By using a combination of quantitative and qualitative data the aim of this project is to unpack the explanations for differences in labour market outcomes to a far greater extent than has been possible with previous quantitative or qualitative studies. The project will combine examination of quantitative data on the position of Welsh speakers in the labour market with analysis of qualitative data on public sector organisations via the WISERD localities stakeholder interviews. The analysis may be enhanced by carrying out a small number of further in-depth interviews with a range of employers.

Talking Across the Table: An Analysis of Academic-Stakeholder Face to Face Communication

Research Team:
Robin Smith (WISERD Cardiff)

This project aims to empirically investigate the way in which a 'shared perspective' is achieved in face-to-face communication between academics and stakeholders. The project is based around the stakeholder feedback meetings being organised by the WISERD localities team as a follow up to the 122 stakeholder interviews carried out by the team during 2010. The project will use 'naturally occurring' first order data, recorded in the stakeholder feedback meetings. Conversation analysis will be

used to demonstrate the way in which knowledge is communicated, shared, and understood between two parties who can both, in a different sense, lay claim to being experts. This will provide an empirical engagement with the current drive for the communication of research outside of academia.

Immigrant and Local Workers in Merthyr Tydfil

Research Team:
Stuart Tannock (WISERD Cardiff)
Martin O'Neill (CESAGen)

Over the past decade, a growing number of immigrants have moved to Merthyr Tydfil to take up jobs in both the public and private sector. This project aims to investigate the changing relationships of both local and immigrant workers in Merthyr Tydfil over the last decade, both with one another and also with local employers, state agencies and voluntary sector organisations. In doing so, the project seeks to address several gaps in the academic research literature on immigration and development in Britain

Understanding the 1996 Reorganisation of Local Government in Wales: Oral Histories

Research Team:
Ian Stafford (WISERD Cardiff)
Richard Wyn Jones
(Wales Governance Centre)

This project is focused on exploring the decision-making process and debates which underpinned the reorganisation of local government in Wales in 1996. Given current debates around the structure of local government in Wales and the challenges of service delivery – the project aims to identify key lessons from the previous reorganisation which can be used to inform contemporary policy. The study draws on oral histories from key actors in the 1996 reorganisation process and documentary evidence.

- projects

Behaviour Change in Wales: analysing stakeholder perspectives

Research Team:

Jesse Heley & Laura Jones (WISERD Aberystwyth) Alex Plows & Robin Mann (WISERD Bangor)
Linked Stakeholder: Brian Collis (Wales Council for Voluntary Action)

Behaviour change is a topic which is of key importance to policy makers both in the Welsh Government and further afield. The theme of behaviour change emerged as a prominent topic during the WISERD localities stakeholder interviews and subsequent stakeholder feedback sessions have indicated that a range of third sector stakeholders in Wales are engaging with the behaviour change agenda and have expressed a need to discuss and understand the implications of behaviour change further. The project will use the localities stakeholder interview data to identify and analyse relevant data returns, identify patterns and compare and contrast these by locality or domain. Findings will be related to current academic and policy discourses.

The British Military in the South Wales Valleys

Research Team:

Stephen Burgess, Kate Moles & Stuart Tannock (WISERD Cardiff)

Talk of industry in the South Wales Valleys has been preoccupied with the loss of the mining and steel industries and also the failure of foreign direct investment. This is combined with boosterism around tourism and pleas for the promise of higher education. However, there is another industrial presence in the South Wales Valleys that rarely attracts mention but plays a significant role in the lives of the young: the British armed forces and their affiliated military based industries. This project will consider what role these play and what their significance is for the Valleys youth, families and communities.

National Identity in Wales: Reassessing the Three-Wales Model

Research Team:

Ian Stafford (WISERD Cardiff)

Drawing on data from the recent qualitative interviews conducted in Wales as part of the National Child Development Study and existing survey data on national identity in Wales, this project will critically assess the 'Three Wales model' put forward by Balsom (1987). The project aims to add to recent work on concepts of Britishness and Welshness (Andrews & Bradbury; Marinetto & Andrews) and also compliment the quantitative research being undertaken by Richard Wyn Jones & Roger Scully (Wales Governance Centre) who are exploring the Three-Wales Model using their ESRC funded Referendum and Election Surveys.

Older People's Connected Rural Lives

Research Team:

Jesse Heley, Laura Jones, Suzie Watkin & Mike Woods (WISERD Aberystwyth)

This project seeks to problematise homogenising narratives of older people as predominately 'static' and 'passive', and therefore somehow less implicated in wider social and economic networks; perceptions compounded by the context of rural peripherality. The research will investigate how older residents are shaping and can shape communities both in the present and future, with the aim of informing policy and politics. The assumption that older residents do not, cannot, or will not contribute to sustainability agendas (environmentally, socially, economically and otherwise) will be considered. Research will primarily be through methods of in-depth qualitative interviewing, which will potentially be combined with other mixed methods approaches including the use of GIS/ geo-tagging.

Responses to Redundancy at Anglesey Aluminium: Narratives of Transition

Research Team:

Alex Plows & Howard Davis (WISERD Bangor)
Rhys Davies (WISERD Cardiff)

This project is concerned with the impact on workers, their families and neighbourhoods of the closure of the Anglesey Aluminium (AA) smelter in September 2009. The project will incorporate such aspects as the spatial dimension of individual transitions from employment to unemployment and back to employment; self employment or business start-up; the time dimension, as transitions become more complex and sometimes prolonged; opportunities available through the global strategies of multi-national firms; and the role of trade unions. The project will combine some secondary analysis of data concerning the regional economic environment and social inequalities with qualitative data derived from biographical narrative interviews with ex-employees at Anglesey Aluminium and semi-structured interviews with other stakeholders.

Heads of the Valleys Boundaries

Research Team:

Kate Moles & Stephen Burgess (WISERD Cardiff)

The project will aim to engage with the various ways that the Heads of the Valleys region has been bound. Research will draw on policy documents; the WISERD localities stakeholder interviews and some small scale follow up interviews, engaging with different levels of stakeholders (for example: residents, community activists, etc). The research team will look at the ways different knowledge regimes use, adopt, disrupt, corrupt and embrace the various and shifting definitions of the Heads of the Valleys region.

AHRC Connected Communities Programme

The AHRC is leading the development of a new cross-Research Council research programme on Connected Communities in partnership with the EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC. As a part of this development process, the AHRC has commissioned a number of small scoping studies and research reviews addressing a number of underpinning issues.

It is hoped these projects will stimulate debate and provide some early outputs from the programme; inform future discussions about its shape, focus and priorities; and be of value to researchers undertaking research under the Programme in the future. WISERD researchers and associates have been successful in gaining funding for two projects under this scheme.


Connectivity, place and elective belonging: community and later life

This project led by Ian Rees Jones and Graham Day (Bangor) and Paul Higgs and Chris Gileard (UCL) is focused on a review of studies of community and later life. The review will address two key thematic areas. First, a review of studies of social networks and later life focusing on the relationship between social connectivity and levels of well-being, attachment to place and belonging in the context of migration, ageing in place and retirement to place. Second a review of the impact of ICT on community and older people focusing on studies of levels of diffusion of ICT in older

groups and the positive and negative effects of connectivity for older people and their communities. Two workshops with invited speakers have been arranged. The first will be held on Friday 8th July 2011 in London addressing 'Community, Place and Well Being in Later Life' and speakers will include Paul Milbourne (Cardiff University), Kieran Walsh (National University of Ireland Galway) and Wendy Martin, Christina Victor and Maria Zubair (Brunel University). The second workshop will be held in Bangor on Friday 16th September 2011 addressing 'Community, Connectivity, ICT and Later Life' and speakers will include Panayiota Tsatsou (Swansea University), Miranda Leontowitsch (St George's University of London) and Sergio Sayago (Dundee University). The team have also organised a special symposium at the British Society of Gerontology, 40th Annual Conference in July with Professor Chris Phillipson (Keele University) speaking on 'Globalization, Community Change and Constructions of Ageing: social connections and economic divisions'.

Further information about the project and the workshop are available from Ian (i.r.jones@bangor.ac.uk).





Understanding the role of ICT use in the connectivity of minority communities in Wales

This project is made up of an interdisciplinary team led by Dr Panayiota Tsatsou (Swansea University) and comprising Dr Ian Stafford (WISERD, Cardiff University) and Professor Gary Higgs, Dr Robert Berry and Dr Richard Fry (WISERD, University of Glamorgan). The overall aim of the review is to gain an understanding of the impact of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) on changing cultures and patterns of connectivity within and between minority communities in Wales and the potential of multifaceted digital divides in constraining or shaping these forms of connectivity. The research review encompasses a range of activities including a desk-based literature review of existing research around digital exclusion and the connectivity of minority communities and a comprehensive search, collection and analysis of existing data around ICTs and minority communities. This data search will provide the basis for a research database that will be hosted on the project website. As part of the project the research team is organising a series of workshops designed to bring together academic researchers and key stakeholders within the public, private and third sectors to discuss these issues and inform the research review. The first workshop, held on 30th March 2011, was attended by a wide range of stakeholders including Welsh Government officials, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and Welsh Language Board. The second workshop took place on the 28th June 2011 at Swansea University and included presentations from Claudia Davies, Wales Co-operative Centre on the Communities 2.0 programme and Dr. Grant Blank, Oxford Internet Institute on the Oxford Internet Survey.

For more information please visit the project website:
www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/cc/

Rock School Summer Project 2010



During summer 2010 WISERD provided support to the 3G's development trust to organise a four week programme aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of culturally based approaches for engaging young people. The project was led by WISERD Associate Dr Martin O'Neill from the Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Cesagen).

Overview of the project

The 3Gs Development Trust covers the areas of Gurnos, Galon Uchaf and Penydarren to the North of Merthyr Tydfil which are some of the most deprived communities in a deprived area. Although there are a number of initiatives that have previously adopted such an approach in developing community engagement there had been little systematic consideration as to their usefulness or effectiveness. This particular initiative was based on the understanding that many local young people, although maybe somewhat alienated from the formal school or college education have a keen interest and knowledge of the world of popular music and this enthusiasm could be utilised for developing community and civic engagement. The four week initiative was structured around five day weekly sessions which commenced at 10.00 and ended at 16.00.

Previous work that Cardiff University had been involved with in the area had identified that young people, especially young men, were a particularly difficult group to engage with. This initiative however at an early stage demonstrated that this approach could effectively engage with this group as from its inception. Fifteen people attended the project which comprised six girls between the ages of thirteen to seventeen and nine boys between the ages of eight and nineteen.

Over the four week period group participants were asked to engage with various different initiatives which sought to inform them as to the dynamics and aspects of being a professional in the music industry. Alongside this there were individual instrument lessons to increase technical skill and also sessions about song writing, musical performance, music technology and recording procedures, musical genres, the music industry and other related topics such as the business side of the music industry.

The four week initiative was given a focus by being aimed at a live performance at the end of the project where participants would perform a song they had written. They were also given the opportunity to record and edit their performance in a professional environment as a concrete outcome of their participation and also to provide motivation for continued participation.

Outcomes

In order to monitor and evaluate this initiative at the end of the programme a number of feedback sessions were organised based around a semi-structured interview. The outcomes from these sessions indicated that participants had found it what was called "a once in a lifetime opportunity", as access to a professional recording environment was something that was not available locally and was cost prohibitive. Although the initiative had not been marketed or labelled as educational, participants recounted that they felt they had learned a lot through the process. They also recounted that they had found it very enjoyable and fun.

From discussion with the community development workers who delivered the project there was a strong feeling that this approach had been particularly effective at engaging the so called "hard to reach" and developing a form of structured and disciplined approach to learning.

The evaluation exercise indicated that all of the individuals involved all left with increased knowledge and also with increased self esteem and well being. Project workers also indicated that participants had learned useful lessons in relation to higher education and the pathway into University.

Conclusion

The project was also able to generate some useful knowledge in relation to the future development of such culturally based community education programmes:

- Rather than have individual groups of around five, the first week should be taught in a classroom environment for between three to four days therefore allowing a larger number of the young people to interact and develop group dynamics. Smaller groups could then be developed from this group based around individual's interests.
- Organising a visit to a professional live performance could also contribute to the programme as the instructor could then explain the processes in action.
- Provision of greater one to one instruction could improve greater participant engagement and progression.

Generally the feedback from the Development Trust as a community regeneration organisation was that the initiative was a big success and the feedback from all the young people involved has been very positive and they hope to be able to develop and build on the knowledge generated from this initiative. Many young people believed that music and the cultural industries provide an aspirational impetus to both employment and academic achievement. Therefore, such projects can contribute to nurturing such aspirations and dreams and therefore hopefully social and economic regeneration.

Skills and Economic Performance:

The Impact of Intangible Assets on UK Productivity Growth Funded by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills

Research Team:

Rebecca Riley, NIESR London
Catherine Robinson, WISERD
Swansea

For further information visit:

www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/skills-and-performance/

Overview

Intangible assets may be defined as economic competences embedded in the firm which do not easily transfer or operate within a market. Increasingly research has focussed on the role that these assets play in facilitating productivity growth. This project used secure microdata for the UK to construct an occupationally defined measure of own-account intangible capital stock based on the pay of intangibly rich occupations, notably R&D, IT and organisation workers. Firm level data gives us a great deal of flexibility over industry and geography, enabling us to examine the role of intangibles in raising productivity, including at different sectoral and regional levels.

Our research builds on earlier EU funded work and focuses on the productivity associations using econometric and growth accounting techniques over industries and City-Regions (of which there are two in Wales: Cardiff and Swansea). Our findings suggest that R&D intangibles have a very sector specific role to play, whereas IT intangible assets have a comparatively smaller role to play across all sectors and regions. Organisation capital is significant in all sectors and quite substantial in many sectors. Our findings highlight the importance of intangible assets and their link to the knowledge economy is apparent.

**The full report will be
available in July, 2011.**

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Conferences &

WISERD colleagues attend the British Sociological Association Annual Conference

There was a strong WISERD presence at the British Sociological Association Conference, held at LSE in April this year. The densest cluster of this activity was a session organised by Bella Dicks and Gabrielle Ivinson, which brought together different papers on the south Wales valleys.

The session began with Heike Doring and Kate Moles giving a paper on the construction of the valleys through time, looking at continuities and ruptures in the historical discourses. Focusing on how a place comes to represent a particular 'type' of people, this paper looked at the shift in how the valleys has been variously

described as derelict, distressed and special. Valerie Walkerdine presented on her work in 'Steeltown', focusing on the concepts of solidarity, masculinity and affect. By contrasting ideas of solidarity and aspiration, Valerie explored ways in which historical ideas of co-operation often stood in contrast to more contemporary discourses of bettering oneself. Gabrielle Ivinson presented work from the KLiC project Young People and Place, focusing on parenthood as an ambivalent social resource. Using empirical data, the paper looked at the ways in which fatherhood had taken on a new significance as a marker of adulthood in the absence of other social resources. Martin O'Neill and Mike Ward presented on the idea of myths and stories in a valley time, looking at the way these 'vernacular tales' constructed and conveyed particular masculine identities that drew on the historical and modern symbolic capital of the area. Bella Dicks

gave the final paper, which used empirical data interviews with each of the researchers in the valleys. This informed her paper on accessing classed experiences, providing a methodological reflection on how research accessed and made sense of classed experience and how the particular subjective dimensions of classed experience might trouble the research relationship. In addition to this session, Rob Smith presented in the Mobilities, Space and Place stream on work from the KLiC project 'Mapping Urban Patrols' and Kate Moles spoke about the necessity to critically engage with ideas of participatory methods in the Innovative Methods stream.

Stephen Burgess reflects on the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Seattle 2011

Seattle. Gateway to the Klondike Gold Rush. Home of Boeing. Birth place of grunge. And location of this year's annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG).

This yearly congregation of several thousand people from across the world gives the attendee an insight into the current state of global geographical research. Attending this meeting on behalf of WISERD, I contributed to a Special Session Track: the AAG Symposium on Space-Time Integration in Geography and GIScience.

This was a three day stream within the body of the main conference, dedicated to issues surrounding space-time integration. My paper, titled Qualitative GIS: defending a mixed-method approach to spatiotemporal analysis presented some of the work we have undertaken in WISERD on Qualitative GIS and data integration. It also built on contacts made during the first international conference on Qualitative GIS held here in Cardiff in 2010, helping to develop our international collaboration around this approach to research.

As a geographer who hadn't attended the AAG before, I found this an incredibly useful conference. The space-time integration symposium itself provided a focused set of debates across three days of the conference. Sessions were well attended with stimulating presentations which produced some very interesting subsequent conversations. Outside of this symposium, as well as sessions that were directly related to my research, as is my habit in such conferences, I made sure I attended a few presentations on subjects that I either haven't engaged with for a while or might otherwise not have engaged with at all. I usually find this a very refreshing experience, and the AAG was no exception providing me with different theory which could enhance my current WISERD research.

Presentations

WISERD, Swansea: Dr Catherine Robinson presented at the ICTNET Conference at Imperial College, London, April 2011

A paper entitled 'Agglomeration Spillovers from Intangible Assets' was presented by Dr Catherine Robinson at a recent conference in London organised by ICTNET, a European Network for Research on the Economic Impact of ICT, funded by the European Commission.

The paper, co-authored with Rebecca Riley, NIESR, utilises a recently constructed firm level dataset on economic performance within a regional framework using City Regions as our unit of analysis to explore the links between productivity spillovers and regional intangibles, controlling for firm level intangible assets.

The paper uses standard econometric methodologies to estimate the association between firm performance (wages and productivity) and firm and regional characteristics. We include measures of industrial diversity in a city region, the degree of sectoral concentration, the employment density as well as the concentration of intangible assets within a city region. At the firm level, we control for firm level intangible capital as well as employment size and capital intensity.

Using micro data for the UK city regions, we see that intangible assets have not only a direct firm level association with productivity, but that regional concentrations of intangible assets have a positive association with higher productivity. Whilst we cannot yet establish a causal relationship, this paper adds to the growing literature on intangible assets and the policy debate on the importance of a strong regional skills base.

Our findings are that firms in the most densely populated city regions pay higher wages around 4% higher and are generally around 2.5% more productive than those in the average city region. There is evidence of intangible spillovers over and above the contribution that firm level intangibles make to productivity.

Working paper available at:
www.innodrive.org/attachments/File/workingpapers/Innodrive_WP_15_RileyRobinson2011_a.pdf

For further details contact
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The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement n° 214576

WISERD, Swansea: Dr Stephen Drinkwater presented at the NORFACE Migration Conference at University College London, April 2011

Stephen Drinkwater recently made a presentation on "Surveying Recent Polish Migrants in England and Wales" at a conference on Migration: Economic Change, Social Challenge.

The conference was organised as part of the NORFACE migration initiative, which is a consortium of European funding agencies supporting interdisciplinary research on migration. The conference was attended by around 500 participants, making it probably the largest migration conference ever held in Europe.

Swansea University is a partner on the Temporary Migration, Integration and the Role of Policies (TEMPO) project that is funded as part of the programme, with their focus being on the temporary migration patterns of recent Polish migrants in England and Wales.

The presentation provided details of the data that the Swansea team has collected as part of the TEMPO project, the field work for which took place in the Autumn of 2010 at seven locations across England and Wales. The interviews have now been coded so that some preliminary results could also be presented during the talk. Following an overview of some issues related to the collection of information on recent Polish migrants to the UK, the presentation mainly focused on the types of migration strategies adopted by this group of migrants. Particular emphasis

was placed on the fact that many post-enlargement arrivals from Poland do not know how long they will stay at their current location or in the UK more generally, even if they have been resident there for some time. Further analysis of the data should enable the Swansea team to shed light on the factors determining this phenomenon. Such an investigation should be facilitated by the nature of the data that has been collected, which contains both quantitative and qualitative information.

Further information on the data set should soon be available from a WISERD Data Resource publication that is currently being prepared.

PhD Students Swansea University

There are five WISERD affiliated PhD students based in the School of Business and Economics, Swansea University. Each of these students is investigating issues that are relevant to WISERD's research themes. Their research is based around the analysis of large-scale UK survey datasets, with a particular focus on spatial issues.

Much of the analysis is concerned with a range of issues connected to the labour market, although firm level data are also being examined. A number of the students are also associated with the Spatial Economics Research Centre (SERC), which is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Welsh Government and Departments for Business, Innovation & Skills and Communities and Local Government. SERC is based at the London School of Economics and brings together leading researchers in spatial economics from the Universities of Glasgow, Newcastle, Oxford, Strathclyde and Swansea. Below is some information on the research topics of each of the students:



James Carey

Inequality in Wales: An Economic Analysis
Started October 2007:
WAG/ESRC Case Award



Sami Souabni

The Scale and Nature of Spatial Disparities
Started October 2008:
WAG/ESRC Case Award



Panagiotis Fouskas

Productivity and Management Practices in England and Wales
Started January 2011:
University Award



Sandra Dettmer

Unemployment Differences and the Quality of Life
Started October 2009:
University Award



Sicong Wang

The Scale and Nature of UK Spatial and Unemployment Disparities
Started January 2010:
University Award

Three of the students made presentations at the 2010 WISERD Summer Conference held in Cardiff:

James Carey: "The Welsh Wage Curve: Evidence from the Living in Wales Survey"

Sandra Dettmer: "The Evolution of Earnings Differentials in the UK, including Wales"

Sami Souabni: "The Gender-Pay Gap in Wales over the Noughties' Recession"

The same three students also presented at the 2011 conference in Swansea:

James Carey: "Returns to Higher Education Across the UK: Regional Evidence"

Sandra Dettmer: "Wage Curves for Different Unemployment Specifications"

Sami Souabni: "The Regional Nature of Pay Structure Across Three European Countries"



Celebratory Conference for Prof. Huw Beynon

On 10 June 2011, a conference was held at Cardiff University to celebrate the career of Professor Huw Beynon, WISERD's founding Director

Huw has made a very important contribution to the sociological analysis of work-places, most notably through his studies of the motor car and coal industries. He has also conducted major studies of the impacts of industrial change on particular places, in the north east of England, Manchester and, most recently, South Wales. His work has been very influential in setting the intellectual agenda that is now being pursued by WISERD.

Huw's contributions to social science research were celebrated by a number of distinguished speakers, including Ray Hudson (the chair of the WISERD Advisory Group), Hilary Wainwright, Lionel Cliffe, Jill Rubery, Tony Lane, Theo Nichols and Michael Burawoy (an international member of the WISERD Advisory Group).

WISERD Director, Gareth Rees, gave a presentation on a research project currently being carried out within WISERD, involving Huw, Heike Döring and him. This work focuses on Ebbw Vale and aims to develop our understanding of the role of the state in the restructuring of social and economic relations locally.

The event concluded with a photographic representation and reading that depicted

some of the effects of the 1984-1985 coal strike in Easington in County Durham. This was especially appropriate not only because of Huw's deep involvement with the miners, but also his pioneering work on the use of photographs in sociological research.



WISERD/NCRM Workshop

Advanced Approaches to Grounded Theory

On 7th of June WISERD were privileged to jointly host (with the NCRM) a workshop on Advanced Approaches to Grounded Theory (GT) led by Prof. Kathy Charmaz.

Grounded Theory, is the name given to a series of analytic strategies associated with Symbolic Interaction and developed by Barney Glaser and Anselm Strauss. Prof. Charmaz was a member of Strauss' first doctoral cohort and has subsequently developed GT strategies within a social psychological framework focusing primarily upon death and dying and the experience of chronic illness and suffering as related to social time and the self.

As many readers will know, the subsequent development of GT has proved somewhat contentious with the analytic strategy being developed in various guises, notably by Glaser himself and Adele Clarke. Workshop participants were provided with an insider account of some of the existing debates regarding the form and application of GT and were invited to apply strategies such as focused coding, free writing, memo writing and theoretical sampling to their own data. Participants were drawn from many disciplinary and substantive backgrounds and the workshop was well pitched to cater for both GT novices and those with some experience of the strategies. Many interesting points of discussion were

raised, including the problematics of avoiding infinite regress, the relationship of GT to its roots in Symbolic Interactionism and the use of GT in mixed-method research. Whilst not all concur with the way in which the founding principles of GT have been interpreted and developed by Charmaz, the workshop certainly provided an excellent introduction to the debates surrounding the method and came in to its own in providing practical analytic strategies with which doctoral students and early career researchers might develop their own categories and concepts from their materials.

ESRC National Centre for
**Research
Methods**



WISERD, in collaboration with the EU Framework 7 EuroIdentities project team at Bangor, offered a training workshop for staff and researchers on Tuesday 22nd March 2011 at Bangor University.

EuroIdentities is an EU funded project which uses qualitative methods of autobiographical narrative interviewing and analysis to gain insights into the evolution and meanings of 'European

identity' from the perspective of individual members of European societies. The project is contributing to the development of qualitative/biographical research methods and to debates on European identity.

The theme of the workshop was 'Collective phenomena in biographical perspective' and the focus was on alternative traditions in biographical narrative research and the methods researchers use to make connections between individual and collective phenomena. The participants included biographical researchers, other qualitative researchers as well as those with experience in related methods such as oral history.

All of the EuroIdentities teams have adopted techniques from Professor Fritz Schütze's autobiographical narrative interview method and some, while sharing a common base in grounded theory, have experimented with approaches that use narratives as data to interpret complex 'structural' phenomena such as the cross-border transmission of educational capital within Europe. The workshop included sessions on theory, data collection, comparative method and the interpretation of narrative content. The interaction between specialists from several countries and traditions gave special value to the event.

The instructors were drawn from the research partner teams at Bangor University School of Social Sciences, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Łódź, Poland, the University of Magdeburg, Germany and Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. The members of the Bangor EuroIdentities research team are Howard Davis, Graham Day, Sally Baker and Marta Kowalska.

WISERD Seminar in Aberystwyth

On Friday 3rd June WISERD held a research seminar at the Visualization Centre, Aberystwyth University. Hosted by the Aberystwyth team, this event brought together WISERD associates from Aberystwyth and Cardiff and prompted a stimulating discussion regarding current work and future research agendas.

The meeting was opened by WISERD Director Gareth Rees, who provided an overview of achievements of WISERD to date, the future goals of the organisation, and prospects for the role and position of WISERD in facilitating Higher Education collaboration in Wales, the UK and Europe. This theme was picked up in the subsequent presentation by Aberystwyth University Pro-Vice-Chancellor Aled Jones, who called attention to the longstanding tradition of cross-disciplinary working in the social sciences in Wales, and underscored the important role that university hierarchies must play in driving forward research initiatives which make the best use of the expertise and resources of multiple institutions. Following on from

this, Martin Jones, Aberystwyth University Pro-Vice-Chancellor and WISERD co-director, introduced the WISERD Localities Research Programme as an important example of such an initiative and set the scene for Suzie Watkin's subsequent discussion of findings from the facilitating to date. Jesse Heley then gave a presentation on a project currently being undertaken by members of the WISERD localities team, which further builds on this data to explore the role of older people as service users and providers in rural communities.

The seminar then shifted its focus to the work of WISERD associates beginning with Kate Williams, Deputy Director of the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice, who provided a summary of the organization and its role in integrating work on criminal and social justice in Wales and beyond. Next, Rhys Dafydd Jones of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences gave a presentation on the subject of rurality, religion and the experiences of Muslims in West Wales. Drawing on his own research, Rhys outlined how the everyday lives of this community are characterised by the absence of particular services and political capital, before discussing the implications these deficits have for creating and

maintaining support networks. Peter Merriman, also of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, then gave a synopsis of his work on mobility and national identity in Wales which incorporates a particularly strong interest in the politics of road signs and highway construction. The following presentation was given by Sophie Wynne-Jones from the Wales Rural Observatory, who introduced their current work programme and explored the potential for future collaboration, particularly in regard to employing innovative research techniques for the purpose of better understanding the choices made by farmers as regards to land use. The final presentation of the day was made by Stephen Burgess, a WISERD researcher based at Cardiff University. On the subject of 'qualitative GIS', a mixed methods research approach currently attracting interest across a range of disciplines, Stephen gave an overview of some of the key debates in this field and reflected on his own research as a means of relaying the possibilities of combining qualitative and quantitative methods in this way.

The seminar concluded over lunch, where participants were given the opportunity to network and discuss each other's research interests.



Training Events

September 2011 to March 2012



Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research,
Data & Methods

Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th September 2011

(Two day course)

Multidimensional Scaling
Using NewMDSX

Course Leaders:

Professor Tony Coxon
(Cardiff University) &
Phil Brown (SERAC, Cardiff)

Venue:

Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University

Thursday 15th September 2011

Locating and Using Data
Resources on Wales

Trainer:

Various Presenters from the
Welsh Government

Venue:

WISERD, 46 Park Place, Cardiff

Wednesday 21st September 2011

Mapping your Research Data

Trainer:

Dr Robert Berry and Dr Richard Fry
(WISERD Glamorgan)

Venue:

Haldane Building, Swansea University

Wednesday 21st September 2011

Quantitative Methods:
Refreshing your Skills

Trainer:

Dr Clair Wilkins (WISERD, Cardiff)
in association with AQMEN

Venue:

University of Edinburgh

Thursday 22nd September 2011

Quantitative Methods:
Refreshing your Skills

Trainer:

Dr Clair Wilkins (WISERD, Cardiff)
in association with AQMEN

Venue:

University of Edinburgh
(repeat of course delivered on
21st September 2011)

Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th November 2011

(Two day course)

Multi-level Modelling
Using MLwiN

Trainer:

Dr Helen Brown (Edinburgh University
and AQMEN) and Rebecca Pillinger
(LEMMA and University of Bristol)

Venue:

WISERD, 46 Park Place, Cardiff

Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th November 2011

(Two day course)

Introduction to Spatial
Analysis Using OpenSource
GIS Software

Trainer:

Dr Robert Berry and Dr Richard Fry
(WISERD Glamorgan)

Venue:

WISERD, 46 Park Place, Cardiff
(familiarity with GIS software is a
prerequisite for attending this course
please check if you are unsure)

Thursday 8th & Friday 9th March 2012

(Two day course)

Undertaking Research with
Children and Young People

Trainer:

Dr Sally Holland, Dr Emma Renold
(Cardiff University) and others

Venue:

WISERD, 46 Park Place, Cardiff

Upcoming conferences

WISERD 2012 "Devolution, Place and Change"

Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th March 2012

Key Note Speakers:

Professor Ron Martin

Professor of Economic Geography and a Fellow of the
Cambridge-MIT Institute

Professor Ron Martin is a Research Associate of the Centre for
Business Research attached to the Judge Business School. His
research interests fall into five major areas; The Geographies of
Work, The Geographies of Financial Systems, Regional
Economic Development, Economic Theory and Economic
Geography (and especially Evolutionary Economic Geography),
Geography and Public Policy.

Venue: Bangor University

Professor John Curtice M.A. (Oxon)

Professor of Politics, University of Strathclyde

Professor John Curtice conducts research into social and
political attitudes, electoral behaviour, electoral systems and
survey research methods in Scotland, Britain and
comparatively. He is a frequent broadcaster and contributor to
newspapers, and has been a regular member of the BBC's
general and local election night programmes' production team.



Full details of all courses and events are available on the
WISERD website www.wiserd.ac.uk **WISERD** can also
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