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Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods

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Issue 10 January 2015

An Introduction
from the WISERD Director

Professor Ian Rees Jones
WISERD Director

As I write a Winter chill seems to have descended upon Wales, so I wish to extend you all a warm welcome to the Winter issue of the WISERD newsletter.

Following the result from the Scottish referendum just a few short months ago, and as the repercussions of the vote for Westminster and devolved governments begin to play out it, would be foolish to try to predict the future; but I think I can say we live in interesting times, particularly for those of us who are concerned with the relationship between civil society and the state. If more powers are devolved in the future, including tax raising powers, there will also be important questions around the delivery of health, welfare and education in devolved states as well as questions about the ways in which social inequalities are addressed. WISERD is now ideally placed to address such issues both in the UK and internationally, and WISERD staff members have been very busy over the last year preparing the ground for the start of our new ESRC Centre WISERD Civil Society, which commenced its programme on the 1st of October, 2014.

The Centre has an ambitious programme of work based around four themes and the details of the different research projects planned are set out in this newsletter. The Centre will have a formal launch in the New Year and plans for that are being put together over the coming weeks. The new Centre will also fund a substantial cohort of PhD students located in the different WISERD Universities. This is a key part of our strategy to develop and nurture new research talent in Wales.

In the meantime our other research activities are going from strength to strength. WISERD Education researchers have been presenting findings at the European Educational Research Association and updates on their activities are available on the WISERD Education blog. WISERD health, social care and well-being research is being taken forward by strengthening our collaboration with the Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Wellbeing (CISHeW) and there are already strong examples of success in this area in a JRF funded project in collaboration with the Research Institute for Applied Social Sciences (RIASS) at Swansea and our recent success with a NISCHR research fellowship. This collaboration will also mean that there is closer working on Cardiff University community engagement projects that overlap closely with the Civil Society work being planned. These and other activities mean that we are about to grow in size quite dramatically and this will mean some disruption as we appoint new staff and find more office space.

All in all there hasn't be much time for rest and the Christmas holidays now seem a distant dream, but as the frost settles in my back garden my thoughts turn again to what changes may be on the horizon and I am sure there are plenty of exciting and interesting times ahead of us.

WISERD News

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Introducing the new

WISERD Civil Society Research Centre
Professor Ian Rees Jones & Victoria Macfarlane

WISERD has been awarded £7m of funding under the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) 2014 Centres and Large Grants programme. Together with matched funding from the WISERD Universities, this establishes a £10m research centre from October 2014. WISERD Civil Society, is a National Research Centre undertaking a five-year programme of policy relevant research addressing Civil Society in Wales, the UK and Internationally.

The Centre is inter-institutional, involving thirty-nine academic researchers from twelve universities across Wales, England and Scotland. The centre also has an international focus, with twelve additional partners from a range of countries engaged in the programme.

The research programme will be multidisciplinary and will aim to produce new evidence on the changing nature of civil society at local, regional and national levels, and in places where there are forms of devolved government. The programme will include a series of eighteen research projects, nested within four key thematic areas:

Locality, Community and Civil Society

This theme will examine local forms of civil society in the context of contemporary social and economic change. Projects will explore experiences of participation and mobilisation at local and community levels; investigate how global connectivities impact on local civil society; examine migration within Europe and its effects on local civil society; and explore the role of civil society actors in the development of City Regions in the UK.

Individuals, Institutions and Governance

This theme will examine devolution and multi-level governance and the changing relations between individuals, institutions in civil society and the state. Projects within the theme will explore the relationship between participation in higher education and engagement in civil society; investigate how changes in the territorial administration of the third sector in Wales have affected the way third sector organisations' shape and deliver welfare; examine conceptions of language, identity and civic participation promoted within the statutory education system and within civil society organisations working with young people in Wales and Scotland; and explore the role of trust and transparency in relation to patterns of multi-level governance in different parts of Europe.

Economic Austerity, Social Enterprise and Inequality

This theme will explore the inter-relationship between aspects of civil society and the economy in a time of austerity. Projects within the theme will analyse the growth in social enterprise and the changing role of the third sector; investigate levels of social capital within communities; examine the reasons behind trends and geographical variations in trade union membership; explore the implications of faith-based welfare provision for equality and diversity; and develop and test indicators related to the measurement of social cohesion and civil society.

Generation, Life Course and Social Participation

This theme will address the importance of intergenerational transmission of values, beliefs and of different forms of social, cultural and economic capital for civil society. Projects within the theme will explore the distribution and determinants of the intergenerational transmission of language, religion and community cohesion; examine the benefits of 'serious leisure' in retirement for the individual and for the wider communities of which they are part; investigate the relationship between ageing, participation in civil society, fear of crime and intergenerational trust; analyse the impact grandparents can have on their grandchildren's cognitive, social and emotional development; explore the relationships between social mobility, spatial mobility and intergenerational transmission; and use the prism of ageing to address the effects of, and responses to, nascent globalization for civil society and social participation at national and local levels.

The Centre will also include a series of cross-cutting projects focusing on areas such as the relationship between social media and civil society and exploring the relationship between social theory and social policy and civil society.

WISERD Civil Society will have a focus on capacity building and will include a cohort of eighteen PhD students, all of whom will be linked to the Wales Doctoral Training Centre. Studentships will be based in the WISERD Universities and will include projects addressing language, culture, equality, wellbeing, and education. The Centre will also lead to the creation of sixteen new researcher posts across Wales, England and Scotland.

A key priority will be knowledge exchange and transfer and the Centre will work closely with colleagues from the public, private, policy and third sectors in developing and implementing the research programme; and will also establish a programme of engagement and networking events to facilitate dissemination of research evidence.

A launch event for the Centre will be held during February 2015.

This will include an exhibition and networking session focused on WISERD's civil society research; and presentations by Ruth Marks, incoming Chief Executive of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and Professor Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University.

Administrative Data Research Network

New Network to Provide Controlled and Regulated Access to Administrative Data

Cathrine Richards

ADRN

The new Administrative Data Research Network, part of the UK Government's Big Data Phase One initiative, is now ready to discuss projects using de-identified linked administrative data with accredited UK researchers.

The Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and works in partnership with universities, national statistics authorities, government departments, government agencies and researchers throughout the UK.

The Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ARDC Wales), led by Professor David Ford at Swansea University is one of four UK Centres alongside England, Northern Ireland and Scotland operating within the ADRN. ADRC Wales is based out of Swansea University and WISERD at Cardiff University.

The ADRN and its centres have been established to provide a safe, secure and transparent data linkage service for accredited, approved research in the UK with the aim of helping the UK towards 'Better Knowledge for a Better Society'.

The ADRN via the four UK Centres will facilitate opportunities for researchers in the UK to provide a clearer picture of our society by linking long standing records from differing government departments. This will:

- Facilitate the effective use of a wealth of existing valuable data resources for research that aims to benefit the public good

- Encourage the development of research projects that have the potential to inform government policy and decision making

- Enhance the UK's research standing in the international arena of big data and data linkage

The ADRN and its Centres will provide:

- A UK-wide service that is being governed independently, legally and transparently

- An independent approvals panel for all applications that will include lay members who will reflect the public's interests

- Privacy protection by having the requested data matched by a *trusted third party

- Expert staff who will safeguard data security by applying mandatory statistical checks for statistical disclosure control, ensuring that all research findings released are safe and ethical

- Accessible nationwide safe settings for accredited researchers to analyse data

- Details of each project's findings on the website to demonstrate the important impact of the research

ADRC Wales is led by Swansea University in partnership with WISERD and brings together staff from a variety of social science disciplines including Swansea's Research Centre for Criminal Justice and Criminology, the Centre for Improvement in Population Health through E-records Research (CIPHER), the Universities' Police Science Institute, Cardiff Centre for Crime, Law and Justice, the Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer), the Older People

and Ageing R&D Network in Wales and Swansea Research Institute for Applied Social Sciences.

To find out more about ADRC Wales, its fellow UK Centres and the Administrative Data Research Network visit
www.adrn.ac.uk

**Contact ADRC Wales on
ADRCWales@swansea.ac.uk
or call 01792 606918**

*A secure linkage environment that adheres to the principle of separation of identifying data and payload data though this separation may be operationalised differently at the different centres

The Administrative Data Research Network is a partnership across the UK. It brings together universities, government, national statistical authorities, funders and research centres. We deliver a service providing secure and lawful access to de-identified linked administrative data to researchers. Our work will provide a structured and auditable route to allow accredited researchers to carry out research based on administrative data. Most importantly, we provide a linking facility whereby the data collected from different departments can be linked together and consequently have an invaluable benefit to researchers and government for better knowledge and a better society. The ADRN is coordinated by the Administrative Data Service, led by the University of Essex.
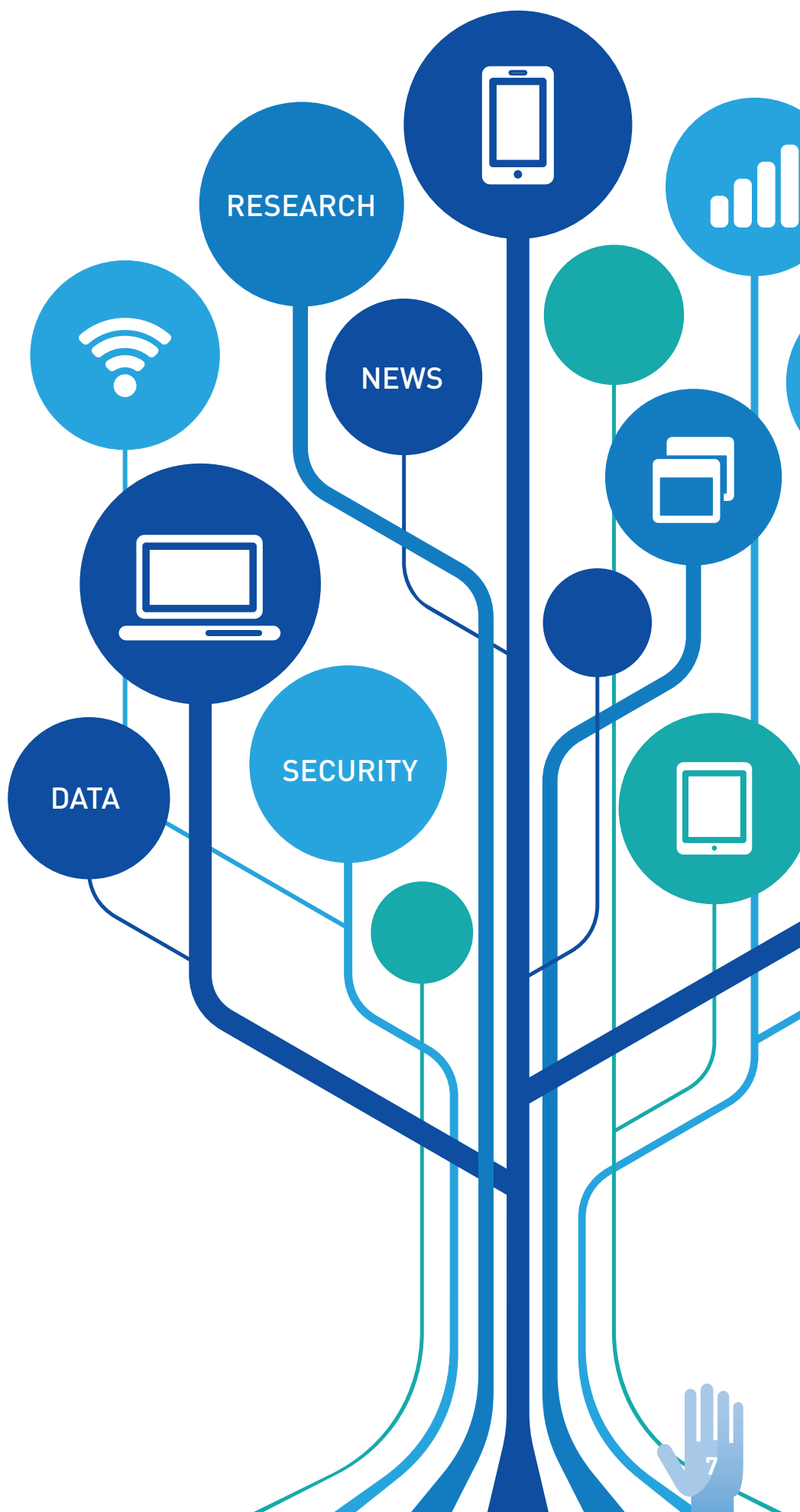
The Administrative Data Research Centre Wales (ADRC Wales) is a collaborative venture between the Universities of Swansea and Cardiff. The Centre is part of the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN). The Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) has been created to make the vast amount of information collected by different government departments and agencies available for academic research. ADRC Wales provides support and facilities for researchers to carry out analysis using administrative data. The centre has access facilities based at both Swansea and Cardiff Universities. The main aim of ADRC Wales is to create a world-class administrative data research centre that is widely known for its ability to access, link and make safe use of data for high quality research. Our work will be underpinned by a robust governance framework.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK's largest funder of research on the social and economic questions facing us today. It supports the development and training of the UK's future social scientists and also fund major studies that provide the infrastructure for research. ESRC-funded research informs policymakers and practitioners and helps make businesses, voluntary bodies and other organisations more effective. The ESRC also works collaboratively with six other UK research councils and Innovate UK to fund cross-disciplinary research and innovation addressing major societal challenges. The ESRC is an independent organisation, established by Royal Charter in 1965, and funded mainly by the Government. In 2015 it will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

RESEARCH

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Locality, Community and Landscapes of Civil Society

Professor Mike Woods (Aberystwyth University) and Professor Howard Davis (Bangor University)

The projects in Theme One aim to map shifting patterns, practices and experiences of participation in local civil society; to document the character, structure and objectives of contemporary local civil society organizations; and to analyse the consequences of changing patterns and practices of local civil society activity for community cohesion and identity, internal power dynamics within a community, and the community's capacity to act in response to challenges or opportunities.

Traditionally, participation in civil society for most people has started in their own local community. People have joined local groups and societies and helped to organize community events or to run community services, they have discussed local, national and global issues with neighbours or across the bar in the local pub, and they have tended to become involved with national and international organizations by joining local branches.

However, heightened physical, social and residential mobility, economic restructuring and new lifestyle and consumption practices have been linked to a weakening of community cohesion and a perceived fall in participation in community activities. It can be argued that collective action is increasingly liked to be directed through 'communities of interest' that are not necessarily geographical in nature, although there is also evidence that elements of local civil society remain resilient, albeit shaped by nuances of class, gender, ethnicity and geography.

The theme involves four projects:

Work package 1.1 is entitled:
Researching Civil Participation in Wales, In Place and Over Time (October 2014 – September 2017) and is led by Howard Davis and Robin Mann (Bangor University), examines. Through detailed studies of two localities in Welsh-speaking north west Wales and industrial south Wales, it will investigate patterns of participation in local civil society by different social groups, how these have changed over time, and how they differ between places, drawing on life-history interviews and participant observation.

Work package 1.2 is entitled:
Redefining Local Civil Society in an Age of Global Interconnectivity (October 2016 – September 2018) and is led by Michael Woods (Aberystwyth University) and Jon Anderson (Cardiff University) It will explore how the structure and practice of local civil society has been reconfigured by globalisation, for example by an increasing emphasis on groups concerned with global issues rather than local issues, or by the effect of technologies such as Skype and email in enabling individuals to remain involved in the local civil society of their home community from a distance. Research in three case study locations will allow analysis of how these dynamics are influenced by class, ethnicity and geographical context.

Work package 1.3 is entitled:
Migrants, Minorities and Engagement in Local Civil Society (October 2015 – September 2017) and is led by Rhys Dafydd Jones (Aberystwyth University), Stephen Drinkwater (University of Roehampton) and Andrew Thompson (University of South Wales). This research will focus particular emphasis on Polish migrants in parts of rural and urban Wales and questions about their integration with local communities and the developed of new or parallel support structures within the Polish community.

Work package 1.4 is entitled:
Spaces of New Localism: Stakeholder Engagement and Economic Development in Wales and England (October 2014 – September 2017) and is led by Martin Jones (University of Sheffield) and Ian Rees Jones (Cardiff University). It will investigate how local and regional civil society organizations have been engaged in new structures for the governance of economic development, including Local Enterprise Partnerships, City Deals, Enterprise Zones and City Regions, with a comparative analysis of south Wales, north east Wales, Greater Manchester and south Yorkshire allowing exploration of policy differences between Wales and England.

Individuals, Institutions and Governance

Dr Paul Chaney (Cardiff University)

Theme Two projects will use the prisms of multi-level governance; neo-institutional theory and sub-national public policy-making to examine devolution and the changing relations between individuals and institutions in civil society and the state. The four inter-disciplinary work packages will explore the socio-spatial and temporal processes associated with political engagement, trust, identity formation and service delivery by focusing on new institutional arrangements concerned with political representation, education and welfare. This will generate new knowledge about how institutional and functional changes in the state (as an administrative and political system) are leading to significant shifts in civil society (as part of a wider social system). Theme Two will therefore provide new data and contribute to theory-building on state restructuring, the changing role of civil society and the rise of meso-governance.

Work package 2.1 is entitled:
Higher Education and Civil Society
(January 2015 – December 2016) and is led by Gareth Rees and Chris Taylor (Cardiff University). Commencing in October 2014, this research analyses how higher education (HE) contributes to the structuring of social relations. It aims to explore the ways in which the expansion (or 'massification') of HE seen over recent decades has affected the location of graduates within (local) civil society and the role that graduates play in the structuring of local social relations. Whilst it is well recognised that the administrative system of HE has been transformed in recent decades, reflecting wider shifts in patterns of governance, notably devolution – there has not been sufficient attention to its impact on social relations in civil society, a knowledge-gap that this work package will address.

Work package 2.2 is entitled:
Territoriality and third sector engagement in policymaking and welfare provision
(April 2016 – March 2018) and is led by Paul Chaney and Daniel Wincott (Cardiff University). This study will explore how the territorial administration of the third sector in Wales has changed over the post-war period; and examine how this has affected the way third sector organisations' shape public policy and deliver welfare. This research focus addresses a key lacuna for notwithstanding the global trend of devolution and transfer of a broad range of welfare functions to 'regional' governments and legislatures - and the rise of 'welfare pluralism' (- whereby the third sector is allocated a key role in service delivery),

welfare state theory has struggled to come to terms with these processes. Accordingly, this study will explore the key historical and spatial patterns and processes associated with third sector (re-) configuration in relation to the changing nature of governance; and, third sector organisations' views and understanding of the inherent issues, progress and challenges of engaging government in welfare policy-making and service delivery.

Work package 2.3 is entitled:
Education, Language and Identity
(October 2015 – September 2018) and is led by Rhys Jones, Elin Royles (Aberystwyth University), and Lindsay Paterson, Fiona O'Hanlon (Edinburgh University). There has been little research on the impact of language use, notably minority use, on the formation of youth identities. To address this the project will focus on the Welsh and Gaelic languages and investigate the types of civic participation and conceptions of identity promoted within the statutory education system, as well as within civil society organisations working with young people, in both Wales and Scotland. The overall objective of the project is to investigate which educational institutions are involved in shaping the identities of young people in the context of devolved governance, what kind of civic identities, national identities and linguistic identities are promoted in these settings, and how these identities are promoted or problematized by other social factors as well as spatial considerations.

Work package 2.4 is entitled:
Building Trust? Institutions and interactions of multi-level governance in the UK, Germany and France
(April 2016 – March 2019) and is led by Alistair Cole and Ian Stafford (Cardiff University). Devolution and state restructuring raises key questions regarding the role of trust and transparency within increasingly complex systems of governance. This research will explore these issue by comparing regional and local level dynamics in the UK, France and Germany. In each of these EU states the project will examine trust, transparency and territorial governance in one strong identity region (Wales, Brittany, Saxony), and one 'instrumental' region (SW England, Ile-de-France, Hesse). The objectives are: to define new perspectives on territory, trust and transparency; to promote transnational engagement and cultural exchange between academic and practitioner groups within the UK, France and Germany; and to develop a new typology for the analysis of trust and transparency within and between states – as well as to identify lessons for policy-makers.

Economic Austerity, Social Enterprise and Inequality

Professor David Blackaby (Swansea University)

Theme Three addresses the inter-relationship between aspects of civil society and the economy in a time of austerity. We know that social enterprises take various forms, but while recent UK policy has aimed to encourage growth in social enterprises at regional levels, their geographic patterning is not well understood.

Evidence indicates the increased presence of 'third sector' firms that are not-for-profit organisations creates pressure across the board for ethical behaviour towards consumers and employees. Research has also demonstrated the importance of employee involvement in decision making for job enrichment and organisational commitment and for improved levels of wellbeing at the workplace.

The presence of trade unions may impact upon social capital at an individual level through the fostering of frequent interaction between members both inside and outside of work as a strategy to maintain membership and to support mobilisation. In addition there is already a growing body of evidence that suggests a positive relationship between membership in organizations and wellbeing

Similarly participants in volunteering have been shown to benefit from these activities in a variety of different ways. Recent work by Blackaby et al (2014) has shown that regional measures of subjective wellbeing show more variation at finer levels of spatial disaggregation and that two of the most important determinants of individual wellbeing relate to an individual's employment and health status. However, less is known about how neighbourhood measures of social cohesion and civil society are able to influence self-reported measures of wellbeing either directly or indirectly. Through five inter-related work packages this theme will examine how economic trends are related to key aspects of civil society including; levels of social enterprise, trade union membership and participation in associational life, access to community services, social cohesion and well-being at local scales.

Work package 3.1 is entitled: *Social Enterprise in Wales, The UK and Europe* (October 2014 – September 2016) and is led by Catherine Robinson (University of Kent) and Philip Murphy (Swansea University). This project will utilise a range of econometric approaches to carry out analysis into entrepreneurial activity within Wales. Research will focus on the early stages of entrepreneurial activity and also on the survival and performance of small businesses in Wales.

Work package 3.2 is entitled: *Implications of Spatial and Temporal Variation in Service Provision for Inequalities in Social Outcomes* (April 2016 – March 2018) and is led by Gary Higgs, Mitch Langford (University of South Wales) and Scott Orford (Cardiff University). The proposed study will carry out analysis of existing secondary sources of quantitative data in order to investigate levels of social capital within communities in relation to changing levels of provision of key public services.

Work package 3.3 is entitled: *Trade Union Membership, Associational Life and Wellbeing* (April 2015 – March 2018) and is led by Rhys Davies, Steve Davies (Cardiff University) and Alex Bryson (National Institute of Economic & Social Research). This project builds on previous WISERD research into trade union membership in Wales. It will utilise a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data analysis and a series of qualitative interviews, to undertake the most comprehensive analysis of trade union membership in the UK to date, with the aim of investigating the reasons behind geographical variations in trade union membership.

Work package 3.4 is entitled: *Equality, Diversity and Third Sector Welfare Provision* (April 2016 – March 2018) and is led by Nick Johns (Cardiff University), Stephen Drinkwater (University of Roehampton) and Alison Green (Glyndwr University). This project builds on previous research undertaken by the team. It will utilise a mixed methods approach, combining secondary analysis of existing datasets, development of case studies, documentary analysis and a series of interviews to investigate the impact of Faith-Based welfare provision on social cohesion.

Work package 3.5 is entitled: *Wellbeing, Deprivation and Social Cohesion* (October 2015 – September 2017) and is led by David Blackaby, Philip Murphy (Swansea University) and Melanie Jones (University of Sheffield). This project will utilise a range of econometric techniques to investigate the nature of the relationship between the domains of individual subjective wellbeing, individual and household characteristics, work/life circumstances, and a range of indicators related to the measurement of social cohesion and civil society.

Generation, Life Course and Social Participation

Professor Sally Power (Cardiff University)

Theme Four focuses on the role of generations within civil society. Over recent decades, Welsh civil society has undergone significant social and cultural transformation. However, the nature of this transformation is uncertain and contested. On the one hand, a number of analysts have argued that Wales as a nation is strengthening its distinctive cultural and social identity as a result of the self-determination associated with democratic devolution.

On the other hand, it has been argued that processes of globalisation have weakened the constituent components of nationhood. For example, 2011 census data suggest that three of the traditional pillars of Welsh civil society - the Welsh language, non-conformism and community cohesion – are being eroded.

This theme explores these changes through focusing on the role of generations within civil society. Understanding the nature and direction of change in civil society requires us to think about intergenerational relationships, because the attributes and dispositions which strengthen or weaken social participation may be transmitted across generational groups and reinforced by family and kinship ties. However this intergenerational transmission is complex as the process and substance of these relationships vary over time and place and between different social groups.

The significance of generations in reproducing, reshaping or diminishing civil society is not only sociologically important, it is also the subject of significant public debate. We know that in Wales, as elsewhere, an 'ageing' population has raised concerns about an alleged decline in filial responsibilities, leading to concerns about the quality of welfare provision and fears of social isolation of the elderly, particularly in rural areas. We know that later child-rearing is creating additional family pressures as households are increasingly 'squeezed' between ageing parents and growing children. 'Fragmenting' families also contribute to generations of 'lost' grandparents and grandchildren. And while relations between generations have often been characterised in terms of reciprocity and trust, it is claimed that relations are now less sympathetic. While older generations look at young people with fear, young

people apparently worry that their parents and grandparents have 'robbed' them of their welfare inheritance.

The five projects being undertaken within this Theme draw together academics from five universities (Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Calgary and Manchester) including sociologists of health and education, geographers and criminologists. The projects all involve the sophisticated analysis of quantitative and qualitative data as they look across, within and between generations to explore the social dimensions of 'generativity' and related concepts such as legacy and inheritance. Brief vignettes are outlined below:

Work package 4.1 is entitled:
Generativity, Social Participation and Later Life (October 2014 – September 2016) and is led by Martin Hyde (University of Manchester) and Ian Rees Jones (Cardiff University)
This project will undertake a programme of quantitative data analysis, using the prism of ageing, to address the effects of and responses to nascent globalization for civil society and social participation at national and local levels.

Work package 4.2 is entitled:
The Transmission of Intergenerational Capital in Wales: Language, Religion and Community (October 2016 – September 2018) and is led Chris Taylor, Sally Power and Kate Moles (Cardiff University)
This project will utilise a mixed methods approach, combining analysis of existing secondary data with a series of qualitative interviews, surveys and scrapbooks to explore the distribution and determinants of the intergenerational transmission of language, religion and community cohesion in Wales.

Work package 4.3 is entitled:
Ageing, Serious Leisure and the Contribution of the Grey Economy (April 2016 – March 2018) and is led by Jesse Heley, Laura Jones (Aberystwyth University) and Paul Milbourne (Cardiff University). This project will utilise a mixed methods approach, combining a strategic review of existing survey data with ethnographic observation and interviews to make a timely and original contribution to understanding the benefits of 'serious leisure' in retirement for the individual and for the wider communities of which they are part.

Work package 4.4 is entitled:
Social and Cultural Capital in Later Life (October 2016 – September 2018) and is led by Ian Rees Jones (Cardiff University) and Martina Feilzer (Bangor University). This project will undertake analysis of existing secondary datasets to investigate fear of crime and the impact of ageing on participation in civil society and intergenerational relations.

Work package 4.5 is entitled:
The Involvement of Grandparents in the Early Years: a Geographical Comparison (October 2015 – September 2016) and is led by Chris Traylor (Cardiff University). This project will utilise two key large-scale secondary data sets in order to undertake detailed analysis of what impact grandparents can have on their grandchildren's cognitive, social and emotional development.

WISERD Civil Society: Work-Package 1.1

Researching Civil Participation in Wales in Place and over Time

Dr Robin Mann & Professor Howard Davis

The objective of this work-package is to examine ordinary people's experiences and narratives of participation within particular places across Wales. We will take into account how places have altered in character over time with changes in population, economic activities, social organization and culture. The term 'participation' is increasingly deployed within policy and political contexts in order to indicate the different kinds of civic activity in which people take part.

For example, it is possible to distinguish between political participation (voting, membership of political parties, involvement in decision making); social participation (membership of voluntary associations, clubs and societies). Formal and informal forms of participation can also be distinguished, such as between participation in formal voluntary organisations and the more informal, locally based groups and societies. In this project, we adopt a particularly broad definition of participation, in order to capture a diverse range of individual experiences of both formal and informal participation within local and wider contexts. Previous research shows that the nature and extent of participation can vary significantly across social divisions and identities. Some studies have found that middle class people are more likely to participate in formal organisations; whereas working class people's participation is more associated with informality. At the same time there is very little previous qualitative research which links participation to place, space and time and with reference to social and spatial particularities. In these ways this project complements the other WISERD Civil Society projects, forming part of the wider theme of "Locality, Community and Landscapes of Civil Society".

Having started the project in October 2014, we are in the process of finalising our programme of empirical fieldwork. This will take place at two research sites in North and South Wales, thus allowing us to make comparisons as well as affording access to different local contexts of participation. The fieldwork itself will consist of three phases: Phase One. Initial data collection will involve mapping local level civil society groups. Detailed information will be compiled on organisations, groups and societies, as well as on the various spaces and meeting places in which activities take place. This will be undertaken through desktop research (internet searches); meetings with key informants, and use of available national databases. Phase Two. Life history interviews will capture experiences and biographies of key individuals who run local associations and groups and who work to mobilise the involvement of others. Data on their relations to other actors and groups will also be gathered. Phase Three. Participant observation of group and organisational settings will also be undertaken at each site, based on attending events involving our key informants and documenting how individual actors relate to others at specific times and places.

The research will provide insight into continuity and change in participation in Wales which will be helpful and relevant to the academic and community spheres alike. Outputs will include an accessible book, open access journal articles and a range of materials designed to engage with the non-academic community. We hope to convey to a wide audience the reasons why patterns of participation are changing and the impact this is having on individuals and communities'.

Spaces of New Localism: Stakeholder Engagement and Economic Development in Wales and England

Professor Martin Jones & Professor Ian Rees Jones

This three-year project, being led by Professor Martin Jones at the University of Sheffield, will probe on the missing socially and spatially disembedded sphere of these competitive relationships, equilibrating tendencies, and critically the vacuum around the policies and politics of assembling City-Regions.
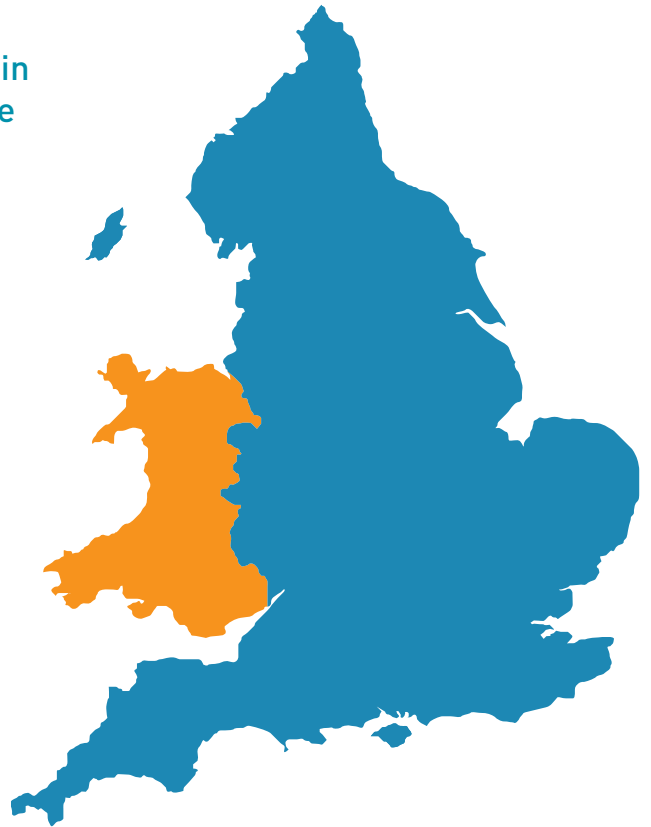
City-Region based agglomerations are currently riding high on the political and policy agenda across the world. Their emergence is not accidental; they are being built in direct response to the deep ideological and thinking exposed in key documents such as the World Bank's Word Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography. This set in train a series of 'new economic geography' influenced arguments closely following the work of policy-advisors such as Paul Krugman and Ed Glaeser. These collectively claim that, firstly, urbanization is a global phenomenon to be embraced at all costs and within this, city-regions are the principal scale at which this happens and people experience lived reality. Secondly, somewhat provocatively, the economic basis of city-regions rests on concentration and specialization, which allows spatial agglomeration to take place.

Thirdly, cosmopolitan policy management is required with a bold and confident voice, working with the grain of market logistics and new 'spatial orderings' (such as governance frameworks) to lubricate agglomeration and provide efficiency by lowering transaction costs and promoting proximity, and thereby liberating growth and allowing it to spread geographically. In the UK, this motif is clearly evident in reports such as RSA City Growth Commission, which argued in October 2014 for the unleashing of metro growth, through a series of city-regions, or 'metros'—defined as the "larger constellation of cities and towns that constitute a functional economy within build up areas" —as the main drivers of economic growth in an increasingly knowledge-driven, global economy.

In short, there is little research being undertaken on City-Region building, i.e. which civil society stakeholders are involved and what the motives are for engagement or a lack of engagement, and within this, there is no critical assessment of whether and how marginalisation (by interest groups and by geographical location) and uneven development (the relationship between regions, cities and places) operates, and in turn whether this fuels, sustains, or destroys economic agglomeration, development, and growth.

Deploying case study research—based on two sites in Wales (Cardiff Capital Region and Swansea Bay City Region) and two sites in England (Sheffield City Region and Manchester City Region), and involving interviews with around twenty - twenty five stakeholders in each location—this porject will undertake a comparative study of stakeholder and civil society organizational involvement in the City-Region Building agenda. The project will specifically look at the City-Region Builders involved in Local Enterprise Partnerships, City Deals, Enterprise Zones and City-Region governance and development in general.

The following research questions will be asked: what policy, strategy, and institutional changes have taken place, and are currently taking place, in the landscape of economic development since 2010 in England and Wales? How do these changes affect and involve civil society organizations? What are the narratives of devolution and community engagement in the LEPs, EZs, City Deals and City Regions? How are these being worked into policies and procedures for stakeholder engagement? Who is involved in the new localism and how does this relate to forms of associational life and political engagement? What are the compositions of LEP, EZ, City Deal and City-Region boards, and their sub-groups and other structures of engagement? And, how successful are the City-Region Builders and the new localism in realizing the objectives of agglomeration, economic development and growth, and social empowerment?

Higher Education and Civil Society

Professor Gareth Rees & Professor Chris Taylor

The expansion of higher education has been one of the most profound institutional changes in the UK of the past few decades. The bulk of research hitherto into the effects of this transition has focussed on:

- the extent to which 'massification' has shifted the terms of entry to HE; and
- the effects on the employment of graduates and economic development more generally.

This project will shift the focus of analysis to how higher education contributes to the structuring of specifically social relations. In particular, it aims to explore the ways in which the 'massification' of HE has affected the location of graduates within local civil society and the role that graduates play in the structuring of local social relations.

Graduates of the 'elite' system of higher education have been described by the social historian, Harold Perkin, as providing an essential element in the shift in Britain to what he terms the 'professional ideal'. This national (British) transformation implied an induction of graduates into professional roles that entailed the adoption of 'universalistic' principles.

At the same time, these graduate professionals were integral to the social relations of particular localities and, thereby, what Lindsay Paterson has called 'the networks of civil society which constituted the very identities of Scotland, Wales and the regions of England.' Higher education was simultaneously a generative mechanism of local civil society and its politics; and a route through which individuals could be removed from 'their' localities.

This project will explore these aspects of the 'elite' system of higher education in greater detail than has been possible hitherto. The research will also explore the effects of the 'massification' of higher education on these patterns of engagement by graduates in local civil society. These effects are likely to be highly complex, as the form of 'professional ideal' described by Perkin has largely disappeared in the face of the institutional changes brought about by the advent of neo-liberalism.

The question remains, however, of the nature of graduates' roles within local civil society during an era in which the very meaning of 'being a graduate' has shifted significantly from that which characterised the 'elite' system of higher education.

The project will adopt a comparative, longitudinal design. It will involve comparing the character of participation in local civil society for participants and non-participants in higher education. It will carry out this comparison for the 'elite' system of HE (up to the mid 1970s) and again for the 'mass' system (1990s). The first stage of the analysis will involve deriving 4 samples from the British Household Panel Survey/Understanding Society. Samples 1 and 2 and Samples 3 and 4 will be matched in terms of their social characteristics.

	Elite System	Mass System
HE Participants	Sample 1	Sample 2
HE Non -Participants	Sample 3	Sample 4

This will permit descriptive analyses of changes in patterns of participation in local civil society between the two time periods. It will also permit the development of various forms of models (logistic regression, multinomial logit, etc.) which will be used to explore the relationships between patterns of participation in civil society and a set of covariates (as permitted by the data available from the BHPS). Previous studies suggest that it will be helpful to distinguish between different categories of participation in civil society. This stage of the analysis will yield interesting results in its own right. In addition, it will provide an analytical framework for stage 2 of the analysis.

The second stage of the analysis will involve the collection of new data. The aim here is to explore the social processes underpinning the statistical associations revealed in stage 1 of the analysis. In-depth, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with two groups (25 respondents in each group) of graduates, one from the 'elite' system, and the other from the 'mass' system. Respondents will be identified from the records of the alumni offices in two contrasting universities (one Russell Group university has provisionally agreed to participate). Supplementary analysis will include re-analysis of the data generated by the major official reports on higher education (such as the Robbins Report 1963 and the Dearing Report 1997).

The project will contribute to a wider programme of research, not only within the WISERD-Civil Society research centre, but also research on higher education that WISERD researchers have carried out previously. Methodological contributions – especially in the development of mixed methods approaches – are a significant element here.

Social Enterprise in Wales, the UK and Europe

Dr Catherine Robinson

Social enterprises have seen a dramatic rise in visibility in recent years. There is some debate about the definition of a social enterprise (SE) and whether this growth is as marked as often reported, or whether the definition has changed to address policy needs over time (Teasdale et al 2013). This workpackage seeks to present existing data on social enterprises as distinct from for-profit organisations and the third sector (which is primarily comprised of charitable organisations). Whilst there is a general perception of considerable growth in this sector, data on SEs is scant, relying primarily on the Small Business Survey and a self-declared definition of social enterprise status by SMEs. In this workpackage, we consider a range of key questions that relate to the emergence of this sector in recent years and its implications for how firms do business at the national and regional level.

What is a Social Enterprise?

BIS define social enterprises as fulfilling most (if not all) of the following criteria (BMG, 2013):

1. **An enterprise that does not pay more than 50 per cent of profit or surplus to owners or shareholders**
2. **Not generating more than 75 per cent of income from grants and donations**
3. **Not generating less than 25 per cent of income from trading**
4. **It should agree that it is 'a business with primarily social/ environmental objectives, whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or community rather than mainly being paid to shareholders and owners'.**

BMG, 2013

However, Teasdale et al (2013) highlights that estimates have changed dramatically over time, rising from around 5,300 over the 1999-2003 period to 70,000 in 2007, although they do point out that much of this variation is likely to be due to a shift in the definition of a SE. The questions then arise, how much of the increase is real, and what has driven the increase in SEs?

Why set up a social enterprise rather than a for-profit organization?

Glaeser and Shleifer (2001) unpick the theoretical drivers of not-for-profit entrepreneurship, providing a theoretical framework for the rationale for third sector (charitable status firm) growth, elaborating on the market conditions that are likely to create a stronger preference for not-for-profit start-up. They cite conditions in which quality after the purchase of a good is essential and difficult to monitor and measure (for example, care homes). Under such circumstances, not-for-profit entrepreneurs are more likely to win trust and gain market share, as long as they can compensate themselves sufficiently with alternatives to profits such as work-based quality improvements. Further exploration of this theoretical view may shed light on growth in SEs, which offers a compromise between third sector and market sector provision. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor tracks nascent entrepreneurial activity across all the home nations, including Wales and offers a way to consider why entrepreneurs may consider a Social Enterprise start-up and what characteristics they display.

How might we measure 'success'?

Traditional measures such as employment growth and profitability may not be as relevant in the context of SEs but if they operate in industrial sectors with competitive for-profit organisations, productivity (as a measure of efficiency) may still be valid. We propose to explore the hypothesis that SEs operate similarly to for-profit organisations in this respect. Data on firms are available from administrative sources (the Annual Business Survey) but Social Enterprise status is not recorded in this survey since SE status is not a legal entity. The Small Business Survey, which is thought to capture the majority of SE activity, but offers only SME coverage (where the majority of SEs are thought to be). Constructing a panel of these firms over time is likely to be difficult and to be limited to only a handful of variables, using the Business Structure Database.

Regional variations in social enterprise?

This workpackage aims also to draw out differences between entrepreneurial activity and social enterprises across the home nations. This may in part be characterized by different industrial structures and different social needs. Existing evidence at the aggregate suggests only minor differences but this warrants further investigation if social enterprises are to be feature as a distinct group of organisations within a policy framework.

Expected outputs

This study is largely desk-based, using data from the Secure Data Service, University of Essex and the GEM data for the UK, held by Aston University. It is anticipated that a number of discussion papers will be the primary outputs, as well as a workshop in Spring 2015.

References

Glaeser, E. L. and A. Shleifer (2001) 'Not-for-profit entrepreneurs', Journal of Public Economics, 81, 99-115.

Teasdale, S., F. Lyon and R. Baldock (2013) 'Playing with numbers: a methodological critique of the Social Enterprise Growth Myth', Journal of Social Entrepreneurship, 4, 113-131.

Generativity, Social Participation and Later Life

Professor Ian Rees Jones & Dr Martin Hyde

We know that the demographic changes brought about by population ageing are having a profound impact on societies across economic, social and political spheres. However, the ways in which ageing is affecting social participation, civil society organisations, social cohesion and inter-generational relations is not fully understood.

One way of looking at this is by interrogating the concept of generativity. The term 'generativity' has been particularly associated with the work of Erik Erikson, who saw it as part of a stage of social development associated with later life where there was a heightened sense of responsibility for succeeding generations. In gerontology this idea has been associated, with notions of active ageing, productive ageing and successful ageing. Here it is possible to discern attempts to relate generativity in later life with civic engagement through looking at patterns of volunteering in older people, and relationships with younger people, as well as their participation in third sector organisations. However, while policy programmes to encourage civic engagement among older people have been promoted in Europe and North America for some time, these ideas are not without their critics and the empirical research on civic engagement is limited.

Some work, for example, has highlighted variations in volunteering levels between countries and age groups, as well as differences in types of civic engagement. In addition, researchers have identified associations between health and well-being and levels of civic participation. But evidence remains patchy and there are important criticisms of some of these approaches particularly in terms of the ways in which they can potentially hold unintended harms for older people who are, for a variety of reasons, unable or unwilling to participate/volunteer.

Civic engagement policies are also criticised for their potential association with austerity policies that attempt to shift the burden of responsibility for care and welfare from the state on to individuals.

Our work package will attempt to develop provide a critical contribution to these theoretical and policy debates on the basis of empirical work on existing data sets. We will focus specifically on identifying relationships between forms of generativity and patterns of social participation and how these are associated with individual social location and social structures.

We will do so by undertaking a range of secondary analyses of comparative and longitudinal data sets at national, European and Global levels. Specifically we will utilise a unique Swedish Data set (SLOSH) to examine patterns of reflexivity and generativity among older workers. We will also compare patterns of social participation, class and age identity among older people cross-nationally using Global, European and UK data and we will extend our analysis to examine factors associated with levels of social participation. Drawing on insights from cross national studies we will analyse survey data from Wales to examine patterns of social participation, social capital and well-being among older people in Wales. Our aim is to make our findings available to third sector organisations, government and policy actors to provide evidence for decision making and provide insights into possible ways of maintaining and improving well-being in later life.

New WISERD
Publications

New Research into Institutional Ableism reveals longstanding inequality in the Representation of Disabled People at Westminster 1940-2012

Published on 28 October 2014, a new study by WISERD Co-Director, Paul Chaney, Cardiff University, reveals long-standing institutional ableism on the part of law-makers at Westminster. This is the situation whereby systemic practices disadvantage individuals based on their abilities. Mixed-methods analysis of post-1940 Acts of the UK Parliament; backbench MPs' use of early day motions (EDMs); and written parliamentary questions (WPQs) show that although – over recent years - there has been limited progress, there remain significant party differences in the prioritisation of disabled people's representation. Gains have largely dependent on the parties of the Left, with a pivotal role played by 'critical actors'. These are parliamentarians (disabled and non-disabled) who, compared with their peers, are disproportionately influential in promoting the substantive representation of disabled people in legislative settings.
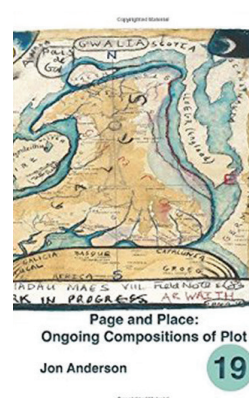
New Research into Minority Nationalist Parties' Electoral Discourse on the European Union in UK meso-elections 1998-2011

Published in December 2014, a new study by WISERD Co-Director, Paul Chaney, Cardiff University, reveals minority nationalist parties' (MNPs) repositioning on the European Union (EU). Discourse analysis of manifestos in UK meso-elections confirm a significant shift in MNPs' framing of EU policy at the 'devolved' level. The EU is no longer advanced as a principal route to autonomy, instead voters are latterly invited to view the EU more as a fiscal-support mechanism. The wider significance of the findings is in pointing to post-devolution instrumentalism and an ideologically fluid phase in MNP attitudes to the European project. In the wake of state restructuring, meso-elections present new discursive opportunities for MNPs to seek a mandate to build on the degree of self-government already attained through the (re)creation of 'regional' polities without principal reliance on the goal of 'independence in Europe'.

Page and Place: Ongoing Compositions of Plot (Spatial Practices: An Interdisciplinary Series in Cultural History, Geography and Literature) - Jon Anderson

Published in September 2014, this book explores how literature can help us understand the nature and relationship of people and place.

As the author argues, the relations between fiction and localism are so imperative it's difficult to distinguish between reality and fiction.

Exploring the relations between people and place through fiction writing set in Wales, Page and Place garners poetic insight into how places are written into our stories, and how these stories take and make the places around us. The book introduces the notion of 'plot' to describe the complex entanglement between fiction and geography, and to help understand the role that places play in defining human identity.

Simple but not Simplistic

Developing Evidence Enriched Practice

Nick Andrews & Dr Martin O'Neill

'Simple but not Simplistic - Developing Evidence Enriched Practice (DEEP)' **is a collaborative action research and development project involving the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), the All Wales Academic Social Care Research Collaboration (Swansea and Cardiff Universities), the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) in Scotland and a number of social care agencies and local authorities in Wales and Scotland.**

Both IRISS and ASCC have a strong focus on the use of research evidence in social care service and workforce development. In Wales, this work is being led from Swansea University, where the Developing Evidence Enriched Practice (DEEP) project was established in 2013, to develop, pilot and evaluate a distinctive Welsh approach to the 'making research count' agenda with a particular focus on older people's services.

The *'Simple but not Simplistic - Developing Evidence Enriched Practice'* project is using a range of evidence in social care service and workforce development to promote
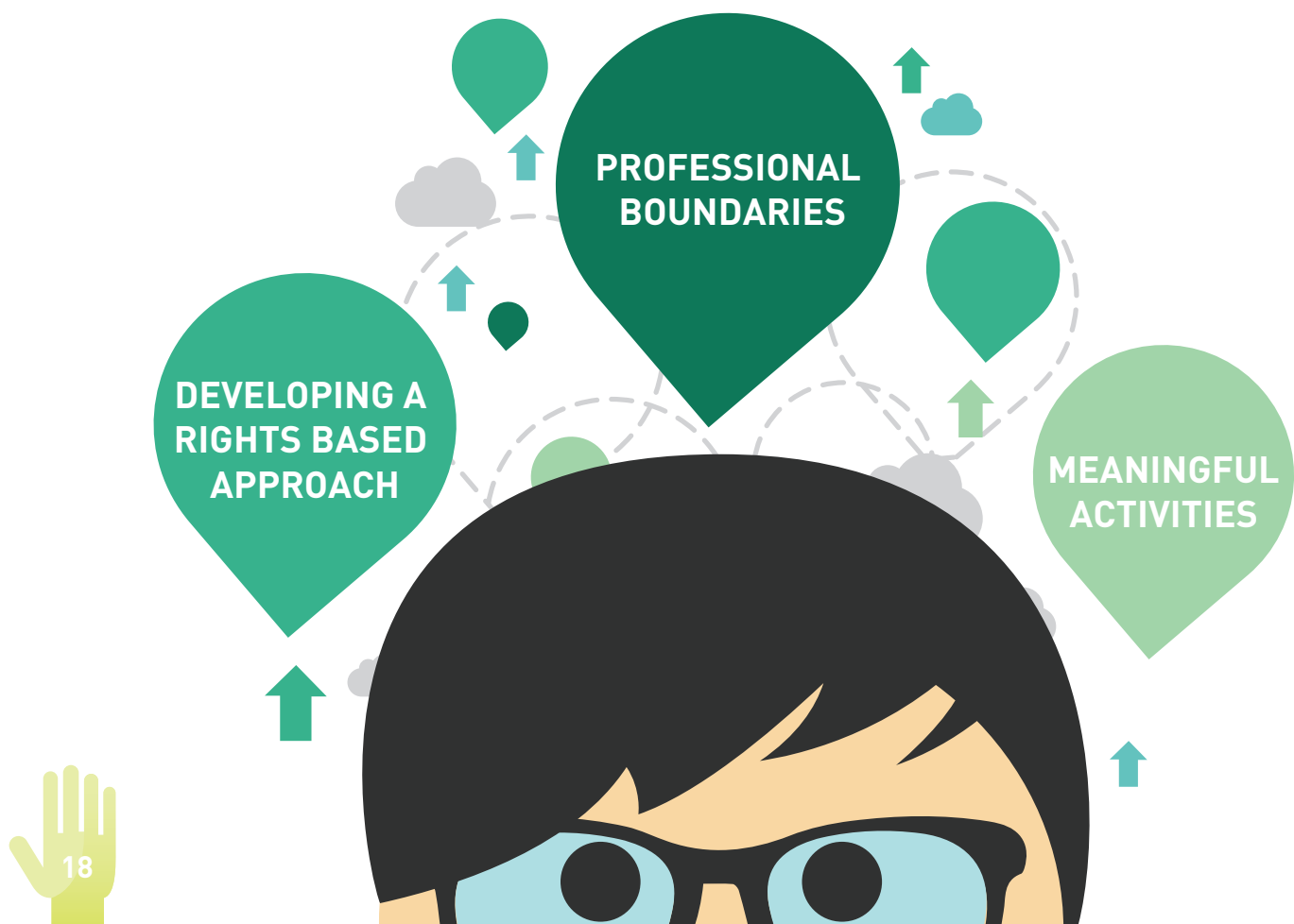
and support 'A Better Life' (www.jrf.org.uk/topics/betterlife) for older people with high support needs, with a strong focus on bringing together, older people, carers, frontline staff, agency managers and researchers in a co-productive and appreciative process.

There are five Welsh and one Scottish site, focusing on a range of activities, including:
- Redefining 'professional boundaries' to support relational practice
- Developing a rights based approach to life style choices and risk management with people who are living with dementia

- Developing meaningful activities in care homes and day services
- Rethinking the provision of short breaks for carers and the people they support to better support interdependent caring relationships
- Co-production with older people, carers and people living in local neighbourhoods, with an focus on addressing loneliness

For further information contact Nick Andrews - n.d.andrews@swansea.ac.uk or Martin O'Neill – oneillm2@cf.ac.uk

Strong Communities,
Healthier People
Dr Martin O'Neill

On 21 October five Flagship Engagement projects were launched by the Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University and the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, at the Senedd. One of these was Strong Communities, Healthier People (SCHeP) which is based in the Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Wellbeing – now part of WISERD.

The project builds on a legacy of social science-informed community-based research over the last ten years in two of the Welsh Government's Communities First (CF) clusters. On the basis of the relationships that have been established the project team will pilot and develop a sustainable model of collaborative research, education, engagement, knowledge exchange and impact between the University and local communities.

The benefits of working with the CF clusters are that they already have established connections to and relationships with, different groups and networks within the communities; they are connected to policy and practice partners and have delivery plans which include targets to improve health and wellbeing. The benefit for the CF clusters is that the university can help to support their delivery plans now and help their longer term goals for the health and wellbeing in the future.

Nationally, the project will work with Welsh Government (Communities, Health and Social Services Directorates in particular), the NHS in Wales (in the first instance Cwm Taf and Cardiff and Vale University Health Boards and Public Health Wales) as well as the Communities First network and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. In the first instance Strong Communities, Healthier People will pilot this partnership approach in Butetown, Riverside and Grangetown (BRG) in Cardiff and in North Merthyr Tydfil (NMT). Each of the two areas has its own distinct history, geography, economy and identity, but they share similar levels of poverty and social and economic exclusion. The pilot will be followed up by a period of evaluation and then rolled out to the remaining Communities First Clusters within the University Health Board areas.

The failure of a great deal of research in communities is that the model remains 'extractive' rather than 'reciprocal'. The problem with such research is not that the communities are 'over-researched' but that community members are treated within the research as if they are laboratory samples rather than conscious interpreters of their own situations. This project will be a flagship in terms of co-production values and processes which will benefit the communities who live there and the people who provide services that support health and wellbeing. In addition to a more engaged approach to research the project will utilise the full assets of communities and universities to improve the circumstances and opportunities for people living in Cardiff's City Region as well as for University staff and students.

We will focus on research and collaborative relationships which will create strong communities that are better able to participate in processes that shape their futures. This reflects the conclusions of the Marmot Report, Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010) that enabling "all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives" is a policy objective that could make an important contribution to the reduction of health inequalities. This engagement project can therefore be seen as beneficial to health and wellbeing in itself.

We also believe that students and staff in Cardiff University will benefit from these connections through: teaching that is better connected to an understanding of the city and its regions; work and volunteering experiences with local community organisations; and training and professional development for researchers who wish to work with communities in ways that are underpinned by the values and principles of co-production.

For further information please contact Eva Elliott (elliotte@cardiff.ac.uk) or Martin O'Neill (OneillM@Cardiff.ac.uk)

Giving, saving, spending:

What would Welsh children do with £1million?
Dr Sally Power

WISERD Education has been exploring children's responses to a single question: 'If someone gave you £1 million today, what would you do with it?' Although such an exploration might seem trivial, we argue that their responses provide important insights into children's values and priorities.

The data from which this paper draws derive from a self-completion survey undertaken in 2013 by three cohorts of school children (aged 10, 12 and 14) in the HEFCW-funded WISERDEducation research programme.. They attended 29 schools primary and secondary schools serving very different kinds of communities (advantaged/disadvantaged, rural/urban, Welsh-speaking/English-speaking) across Wales. The distribution of responses can be seen in the table below:

'If someone gave you £1 million today, what would you do with it?'

	No	%
Give it away	281	25.1
Give some away, spend or save the rest	277	24.8
Save all of it	154	13.8
Spend all or most, save some	407	36.4
Total	1119	100.0

We were really surprised at the large proportion who said they would give it away. Nearly one in ten would give it to charities - with Cancer Research being the most frequently mentions. More than one in ten would give it to family and friends – often to alleviate financial hardship and pay off debts. There were some very touching responses:

I would move my taid's grave to my nain's grave so my dad will be happy that his mum and dad are together.
Help my mum have a lung transplant spend it all on my grandad who's got cancer.

Even those who were planning to save or invest the money often had altruistic intentions.

I would invest so I could keep giving to people who need it. I would also make sure I have enough to be comfortable, but I wouldn't be greedy

The responses of those who were going to spend all or most of the money were perhaps the most predictable – revealing highly gendered spending ambitions (eg boys wanting fast cars) and a desire for celebrity status (eg spending the money on 'boy bands').

While these young people's responses are only fantasies and we have no way of knowing what they would actually do if someone gave them £1 million, we want to argue that their intentions are worthy of our attention on a number of grounds.

Money itself is the ultimate representation of social interdependence – and therefore what children want to do with it will embody the kind of social relations they would like to see fostered. The dominant theme of giving and sharing that runs through many of their responses is an expression of the preferred relationships between themselves, their family friends and the wider society. Relatedly, if we believe their intentions are statements of social preferences, it would appear that the discourse and values of neoliberalism are less hegemonic than is often suggested. The large proportion intending to give all or some of the money away suggests that these young people have not been socialised into celebrating individualism at the expense of broader collective obligations.

Finally, also noteworthy are the marked differences in response within this group of children. While altruistic intentions were surprisingly common, they were by no means universal and we should not ignore the large proportion of children who did intend to spend the £1 million on themselves. The fact that we have strongly contrasting intentions indicates that there are divergent social processes and circumstances which merit further investigation. What is it that leads some children to be predominantly 'givers', some to be 'savers' and others to be 'spenders'?

WISERD Education
Goes to Porto!
Dr Sally Power

WISERD Education had a very productive trip to Porto this September to attend ECER – the European Conference on Educational Research. ECER provides a really good forum to disseminate research findings internationally. It also offers good opportunities for finding out what's going on elsewhere.

Five WISERD colleagues from Cardiff travelled to Porto and presented seven papers on the following subjects:

- *A new curriculum for the early years in Wales; policy vs. implementation in the Foundation Phase*
  (Mirain Rhys, Sam Waldron and Chris Taylor)

- *Heroes and Villains in the Lives of Children and Young People*
  (Kevin Smith and Sally Power)

- *Succeeding Against the Odds: The Influence of Changes in Children's Early Years on Their Educational Outcomes*
  (Chris Taylor)

- *Associations Between Early Years Pedagogy And Children's Involvement And Wellbeing In The Classroom*
  (Sam Waldron, Mirain Rhys and Chris Taylor)

- *Evaluation of the Early Years Foundation Phase in Wales*
  (Chris Taylor, Sam Waldron, Mirain Rhys, Rhys Davies and Sally Power)

- *Devolution and Geographies of Education: The Sse of the Millennium Cohort Study for 'Home International' Comparisons Across the UK*
  (Chris Taylor, Gareth Rees and Rhys Davies)

- *Welsh pupils' aspirations and expectations*
  (Kimberley Horton)

WISERD Organises
Another Successful Annual Conference
Victoria Macfarlane

The WISERD Annual Conference 2014 was another great success with over 100 delegates in attendance from a wide variety of sectors. This 2014 conference travelled to sunny Aberystwyth, where academics and stakeholders from a diverse range of disciplines and areas of interest discuss and debated their research at the two-day event during July 2014.

The conference was opened by Professor Chris Thomas, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research for Aberystwyth University. This years event was the fifth annual WISERD conference, and follows on from four successful conferences, held in Cardiff, Swansea, Bangor and South Wales Universities. WISERD conferences attract colleagues from across the academic, policy, public, private, and third sectors in Wales; and have become established as one of the most important events in the social science calendar.

Conference themes focused on a range of topical issues of interest to the academic, policy and practitioner communities. These included:
• Culture, Values and Creative Industries
• Civil Society
• Economic Life
• Health, Environment and Wellbeing
• Transitions in Education, Childhood and the Labour Market
• Social Care across the Life-course

Sessions included a range of papers, panels and keynotes, there were also workshop sessions including a Writing for Publication workshop led by Prof David James, Director of the Wales DTC. There was also a roundtable session led by WISERD Education which provided an update on the first year of the project and introduced interim key findings from the longitudinal cohort study.

Keynote Speakers

We were delighted to once again welcome two fantastic Keynote Speakers:

Professor Bob Jessop, Lancaster University discussed management of crisis in a talk entitled: Crisis construals and crisis management: Interpretive power, interpretive authority, and learning in, through, and from crisis. This presentation was drawn from the ESRC research project on crises of crisis-management in the North Atlantic Financial Crisis and the Eurozone crisis.

Professor Karel Williams, University of Manchester discussed guerrilla economics and what needs to change to enable new economic thinking to gain traction and inform radical action, in a talk entitled: Devolution as Economic Experiment.

You can listen to podcasts from both speakers by visiting:
www.wiserd.ac.uk/news/podcasts/

PhD student Poster Competition
As part of the conference, WISERD, in collaboration with the Wales DTC and the Learned Society of Wales awarded prizes to PhD students entering poster and essay competitions.

Rhian Field from Aberystwyth University won the PhD student Poster Competition, with a prize of £200 being awarded by the Learned Society of Wales. The competition was part of a research poster exhibition at the event. Rhian's poster showcased her PhD research into art-science collaborations and their capacity to influence environment related behaviours. Heather Norris, a PhD student from Aberystwyth University, was delighted to win the PhD Student Essay Competition, with a prize of £200 being awarded by the Wales DTC. The competition invited

entrants to reflect on their experiences of working in collaboration with non-academic organisations. Heather Norris's winning entry is based on her collaboration with the Youth Justice Board and several schools to look at restorative justice interventions. Her entry, Collaboration, Compromise and Cultivation, is available to read at:
http://www.walesdtc.ac.uk/blog/2014/07/11/collaboration-compromise-and-cultivation/

Pre-Conference Event
As part of the conference WISERD also organised a pre-conference engagement event. The purpose of this event was to promote wider academic and public engagement with the Institute. The event, entitled: Aberystwyth's Literary Cartographers: exploring the relationship between literature & place, was held on Wednesday 2 July at Aberystwyth University Arts Centre and was a must-see for anyone with an interest in Welsh literature and local geography, exploring the relationship between literature and geography, focusing on some of Ceredigion's best contemporary writers. Dr Jon Anderson, Cardiff University, delivered a talk on the relationship between literature and geography, exploring how geographies of fiction co-produce the places in which we live our lives. Followed by an exclusive video from Richard Collins, author of 'The Land as Viewed from the Sea', who discussed his interests in local places and how they have played out in his writings, before giving some brief readings of sections from his novel. The event coincided with the publication of a WISERD affiliated book entitled 'Page and Place: On-going Compositions of Plot', authored by Jon Anderson (Cardiff University). For information, please visit:
http://www.rodopi.nl/ntalpha.

WISERD
2015 Annual Conference
Call for Papers

WISERD is delighted to announce the call for papers for the sixth annual WISERD Conference, taking place on 30 June - 2 July 2015 at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff.

30 June -
2 July 2015
at the
**Millennium Stadium,
Cardiff.**

The WISERD Annual Conference has become established as one of the most important events in the social science calendar, providing the opportunity for engagement, discussion, networking and debate with colleagues from across the academic, policy, public, private and third sectors. We are delighted to be able to confirm that Karl Wilding, Director of Public Policy at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and writer and political economist Will Hutton have agreed to deliver two of our keynote addresses at the 2015 event and we hope to announce further speakers soon.
We are inviting proposals which address the following broad research themes:

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

There will also be a series of Open Sessions consisting of collections of papers in the same thematic or methodological area.
WISERD conferences have an emphasis on fostering collaboration and inter-disciplinarity and we welcome contributions from colleagues from all academic disciplines and sectors. We also welcome presentations from PhD students and colleagues from the public, policy and practice communities.

We encourage participants to think creatively about the format of their presentation and welcome proposals for a variety of session types, including: single papers, colloquium, workshops, panels and poster/exhibition pieces.

**For further information and to submit a proposal,
please visit: http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/training-events/annual-conference-2015/
The deadline for all submissions is Friday 27 February 2015.**

Events & Activity

WISERD Blogs

There are now several WISERD blogs providing updates on the latest research activity, project developments, key findings, funding and events:

WISERD Blog
http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/wiserd/

WISERD Education Blog
http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/wiserdeducation/

WISERD DataPortal Blog
http://dataportal-development.blogspot.co.uk/

All Wales Academic Social Care Research Collaboration (ASCC) Blog
http://ascccyrmru.blogspot.co.uk/

WISERD Civil Society Launch Event

5 February 2015, The Gate Arts Centre, Cardiff with talks from Ruth Marks (WCVA) and Saskia Sassen

Book Launch, 'Good Times Bad Times

9 February 2015, The Pierhead, Cardiff Bay
the welfare myth of them and us' by John Hills, co-hosted with the Bevan Foundation, 9 February 2015, Pierhead, Cardiff Bay sponsored by Mick Antoniw AM

Researching the Foundational Economy

22 – 23 April 2015, Cardiff University
Workshop with Karel Williams

WISERD Annual Conference 2015

30 June – 2 July 2015, Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

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