WISERD End of Award Report
June 2012

Part 1: Executive summary

The Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD) was established to promote cross-institutional and multi-disciplinary research, in the context of wider developments in the social sciences across the UK and internationally. More specifically, it aimed to develop a more robust research infrastructure for the social sciences in Wales and to promote further research activity amongst social scientists in Welsh higher education institutions (HEIs). This was seen as especially significant in the context of the growing need for high-quality social science research, arising out of the increasing development of policy-making powers by the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government.

Since October 2008, WISERD has operated as a networked research institute, with the Director and an administrative and technical Hub at Cardiff University; and Co-Directors and research and administrative staff at Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Glamorgan and Swansea Universities (which since 1 March 2009 have collaborated as the St. David's Day Group). Initial funding of (up to) £1.462 million was allocated by ESRC and £3.42 million by HEFCW.

WISERD's activities have been delivered through two broad streams of work: a set of inter-related research projects; and the development of the social science research infrastructure. The former comprised: the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2 in the Proposal document); and the Policy Analysis and Evaluation programme (Programme 3). The latter comprised: the Data Integration and Management programme (Programme 1); and the Research-capacity Building, Training and Networking programme (Programme 4). Each of these programmes has involved cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional activities, consistent with the aims on which WISERD was established. Particular attention has been paid to the development of quantitative analysis. There has also been significant engagement with potential research-users, across all of WISERD's activities.

To a very large extent, WISERD has successfully delivered the wide range of activities that was envisaged at the outset. More specifically:

- WISERD has established effective structures for the organisation and management of a highly complex research institute, with the Director and the senior management team playing a central *co-ordinating* role here.
- Its research and related activities have been based on networks of researchers, comprised of WISERD staff, as well as associated academics from the partner universities.
- It has carried out an extensive set of research projects, resourced partly through the ESRC/HEFCW core grant, but also through substantial, additional grant funding. In total, WISERD has successfully attracted research projects whose funding totals some £4.15 million. Of particular importance here has been the capacity to attract large grants, based on multi-disciplinary teams.
- These research projects have generated significant new data on and analysis of Welsh economy and society, frequently locating Wales in a comparative context within the UK and internationally.
- In some areas, these projects have also contributed substantially to wider theoretical debates and methodological development; as, *for example*, in relation to work on 'new localities', accessibility to public services and ethnographic approaches to the understanding of 'local knowledges'.

- WISERD's research has also contributed materially to the analysis of the impacts of policies in the context of post-devolution Wales. Studies of economic development have been especially important here.
- WISERD's contribution to the development of the social science infrastructure in Wales has been as important to its impact as its research projects. It has attracted some £1.75 million in additional grant funding to support such 'infrastructural activities'.
- More specifically, it has carried out major work in relation to data management and access, especially through the development of the WISERD Geo-Portal, which provides a unique source of meta-data relating to both quantitative and qualitative sources in Wales.
- WISERD has also made an important contribution to the development of the Welsh Government's National Data Strategy, especially with respect to the linking of administrative data.
- Capacity building has been a central part of WISERD's activities, with an emphasis on quantitative research methods and the utilisation of secondary data sources, but also addressing qualitative research methods and mixed methods too.
- A key element of WISERD's activities has been the development of a robust system of knowledge exchange and transfer. Here, its close collaboration with the Welsh Government and its associated bodies has been most striking. It has also developed effective forms of engagement with 'research-users' at both European and more local levels within Wales.
- Through these activities, WISERD has brought about a step-change in the nature of collaboration between universities in the social sciences in Wales. This is reflected in greatly enhanced networking activities through seminars and conferences. It is also increasingly generating collaborative research projects and outputs.

WISERD has been in operation during a period of severe pressure on universities and on research funders generally. Nevertheless, it now has a viable strategy for sustainability for – at least – a further three-year period. This is based on: significant external grant funding; generous financial support from the five universities which are partners in WISERD; and from funds accumulated from research and related activities undertaken hitherto.

WISERD has also developed an academic strategy which will build on the most effective parts of its activities so far. It will continue to organise its work in terms of two broad streams: research projects; and development of the social science research infrastructure. The research project stream will be organised around a small number of academic themes, including: the distributional consequences of economic recession; devolved governance, state policy and civil society; and social mobility, spatial mobility and labour markets. It is envisaged that this will provide the basis for contributing to policy debates in key areas in Wales and elsewhere, such as improving regional and local economic development; ameliorating poverty and social disadvantage; and improving educational attainment. The research infrastructure stream will continue to comprise three principal elements: knowledge exchange and transfer; training and capacity building; and data assembly and access. However, given the complex, multi-level policy environment in which WISERD operates, the extent to which these research and strategic priorities can be delivered effectively in the coming period will be crucially determined by developments in the 'political economy of research', as much as by purely intellectual considerations.

Part 2: Introduction

The Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD) was established as a response to the widespread view (expressed, for example, in the report of the Rhind Commission on the state of the social sciences in Britain, *Great Expectations: the social sciences in Britain* (2002)) that many of the complex problems facing society in the twenty-first century required *multi-disciplinary* analysis. Moreover, such analysis necessitated the development of *collaborative* research teams, drawing on strengths from networks of HEIs. Accordingly, WISERD was expected to make a significant contribution to social science research across the UK and internationally.

More specifically, it was designed to develop a more robust research infrastructure for the social sciences in Wales and to promote further research activity amongst social scientists in Welsh higher education institutions (HEIs). Despite areas of substantial strength, the *overall* performance of Welsh HEIs in respect of both RAE-related and research council funding was viewed as capable of major improvement. This was seen as especially significant in the context of the growing need for high-quality social science research, arising out of the increasing development of policy-making powers by the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government, consequent upon parliamentary devolution after 1999. More generally too, it was recognised that university-based research – in the social sciences, as much as other disciplinary areas – was crucial to redressing significant imbalances between the UK nations and regions in research and development expenditure and consequent levels of innovation.

This diagnosis led to the formulation of a proposal – co-ordinated by Cardiff University – to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales's (HEFCW) Reconfiguration and Collaboration Fund to establish a Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research (WISER). WISER brought together researchers from Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Glamorgan Universities, with a view to building capacity in relation to the utilisation of secondary data sources in research about Wales and to carry out research on: the sociography of localities in Wales; economic and social regeneration; and the implications of devolved governance.

Following consultations with ESRC and HEFCW, this proposal was significantly re-worked. Firstly, it was recognised that there were particular capacity building needs in Wales in relation to quantitative research methods (that had been identified in the ESRC/HEFCW scoping study, *Social Science Quantitative Methods Capacity Building in Wales* (2007)). Accordingly, Swansea University, where there were significant quantitative research resources, was invited to join the collaboration. Secondly, to facilitate the greater integration of quantitative and qualitative research methods and the development of mixed methods approaches, the WISER proposal was extended to encompass the continuation of the methodological and capacity building work of the existing, Cardiff-based centre, QUALiti, funded between 2005 and 2008 as a Node of the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM).

On this re-worked basis, therefore, WISERD was funded by the ESRC and HEFCW to begin work in October 2008 for an initial, three-year period. In fact, owing to difficulties in recruiting research and administrative staff, a no-cost extension of six months was granted, resulting in an end-date of 31 March 2012. In September 2010, Professor Huw Beynon was succeeded by Professor Gareth Rees as Director of WISERD.

WISERD operates as a networked research institute, with the Director and an administrative and technical Hub at Cardiff University; and Co-Directors and research and administrative staff at Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Glamorgan and Swansea

Universities (which since 1 March 2009 have collaborated as the St. David's Day Group).

The overall aims of WISERD were summarised in the Proposal document as follows:

(a) To build upon and develop existing expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods and methodologies;
(b) To develop and integrate a coherent set of research data relating to Wales;
(c) To build networks of researchers and research capacity across Wales in the economic and social sciences, as well as contributing to UK-wide research capacity building;
(d) To explore the relationships between research data, research methods and the development and understanding of policy;
(e) To develop a sustainable increase in the quantitative research base across the social sciences in Wales through academic appointments and training;
(f) To increase collaborative, interdisciplinary research-grant applications and interaction with policy makers and the private sector through consultancy.

In terms of WISERD's activities, these aims have been delivered through what can now be described as two broad streams of work: a set of inter-related research projects; and the development of the social science research infrastructure. The former comprised: the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2 in the Proposal document); and the Policy Analysis and Evaluation programme (Programme 3). The latter comprised: the Data Integration and Management programme (Programme 1); and the Research-capacity Building, Training and Networking programme (Programme 4).

Each of these programmes has involved – to varying degrees – cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional activities, consistent with the aims on which WISERD was established. Particular attention has been paid to the development of quantitative analysis. There has also been significant engagement with potential research-users, across all of WISERD's activities. In these regards, WISERD can be seen to have brought about a step-change in social science research in Wales; and arguably provides an instructive model which could be applied in other parts of the UK.

WISERD has attracted significant income from external sources, additional to its initial core funding. Also, in March 2012, the St. David's Day Group of universities undertook to provide financial and infrastructural support for WISERD. On these bases, WISERD has now entered a new three-year period of activity that will build upon its achievements to date. (These points are elaborated in Part 8 of this Report.)

Part 3: Investment objectives

Research Projects

As planned in the Proposal document, WISERD has undertaken a wide range of research projects, focused especially around the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2 in the Proposal document) and the Policy Analysis and Evaluation programme (Programme 3). These have been designed: to generate new data and understanding about Welsh economy and society (Aims 2 and 4 above); to provide a substantive context for methodological development and, in particular, application (Aims 1, 4 and 5 above); and to provide a 'live' basis for capacity building (Aims 1, 3, and 5 above); as well as for knowledge exchange and transfer (Aims 4 and 6). Significant external funding (additional to the initial core grant) has also been secured (Aim 6 above).

New Data (Aims 2 and 4)

The research projects have been highly successful in developing new understandings of economic and social relations in Wales and more widely. This work has generated new data and analysis (Aim 2 above) by exploring Welsh economy and society at different conceptual levels. Some projects have aimed to establish how Wales *compares* with other parts of the UK and internationally. For example, a major project here is the Wales boost to the Employment and Skills Survey, enabling the systematic analysis of the level and distribution of skills requirements of jobs and of key aspects of workers' experiences of their jobs in Wales. Initially, it was intended to carry out local surveys of employers and households (Programme 2 in the Proposal document). However, given the limited resources available, it was decided (and approved through the Troika) that boosting the Welsh sample of a survey across Britain would provide much better analytical outcomes. Initial results confirm the benefits of this approach and the extent to which this project will contribute to economic and social analysis in Wales and across the UK (an Initial Report is attached). Adopting this strategy has, however, delayed this aspect of WISERD's work programme; and analysis here is continuing.

Important studies have also been conducted at a wider comparative level. For example, analyses of international labour migration – especially in the context of the wider European Union – have been carried out under the auspices of the New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe (NORFACE) partnership. However, comparative policy analysis in the European context has been somewhat less significant than was planned, especially in relation to the coherent agenda that was envisaged (see Programme 3). It has proved difficult to attract funding for European policy analysis (although applications are currently pending to the ORA scheme and the European Commission's FP7 programme).

A substantial proportion of WISERD's research projects has focused on the Welsh *national* level. Here, whilst there are wider theoretical implications, empirical analysis is confined to Wales. The major example here, from the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2 in the Proposal document), is a study of a set of representative localities across Wales, focusing on how different social groups construct their 'locality'; how these constructions relate to public policy; and the nature and extent of citizen participation in local civil society. For reasons of time and resources, it was decided to include three localities, rather than the four that were originally envisaged. The data generated here include 138 extended interviews with 'urban managers and gate-keepers' (local authority officials, key professionals, trade union and employer representatives, third-sector workers) across the localities (rather than the 200 shorter interviews envisaged in the Proposal document). These interviews, in turn, were followed up through a series of small-scale studies, which

focused on how different groups of 'ordinary citizens' understand their 'localities', especially in comparison with the constructions of the 'urban managers'.

New data and understandings have also been generated through studies at the *local* level. Perhaps the major contribution here has been a suite of three ethnographic projects, embedded within the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2), which have adopted common theoretical and methodological concerns. These comprise: a study of the street-level management of problem populations in public space, taking the city-centre and abutting residential streets as a field site; a study of how a neighbourhood understands, experiences and performs the safeguarding of children in its midst; and a study of young people's understanding and use of local public and private spaces in a community experiencing regeneration and the implications for lifestyle choice and policy concerns.

The research projects that have been undertaken have each contributed to the generation of new data and understanding of Welsh economy and society at one or more of the three conceptual levels (Aim 2 above). However, further work is required to explore the new theoretical insights that could be generated by a more systematic integration across the different levels. Such integration provides the focus for planned future research; for example, bringing together the elements of the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2) in a more thorough-going way (applications are pending with the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust to support this work).

Methodological Development (Aims 1, 4 and 5)
The Research Projects have also provided a substantive context for methodological development. In particular, many have provided a context for the *application* of cutting-edge methodologies (Aims 1, 4 and 5 above).

For example, the ethnographic projects within the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2) have exemplified how multi-modal and multi-sensory methods can be used to generate significant new insights into the structuring of local knowledges. Within the Policy Analysis and Evaluation programme (Programme 3), advanced GIS techniques have been applied in innovative ways to examine spatial and temporal trends in access to public services, such as (to date) post offices and libraries, and to public amenities, such as green spaces in urban environments.

Advanced quantitative methods have been widely applied, especially – as one would expect - in relation to the analysis of the performance of the Welsh economy. In particular, the Welsh Government's Economic Research Advisory Panel has commissioned a number of projects that have sought to understand better how the performance of the Welsh economy relates to that of other parts of the UK. Some of these applications have been in novel areas, however; as, for example, in the use of logistic regression to delineate the impacts of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification on the progress and outcomes of students in a Welsh university.

Policy evaluation has been a particular focus for advanced methodological applications (see Programme 3). In this context, collaboration between WISERD and DECIPHer (a Public Health Research Centre of Excellence, based at Cardiff, Bristol and Swansea and funded by the UK Clinical Research Collaboration) has proved especially fruitful. Most notable here is a very large study (just under £1 million over the period 2011 to 2014) to evaluate the Welsh Government's Foundation Phase (provision for all three- to seven-year-olds in Wales), adopting a complex and sophisticated research design. In addition, after initial difficulties over funding arrangements, effective collaborations have been developing in this context with the Health Information Research Unit (HIRU) at Swansea University and its Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) database. For example, HIRU has undertaken important data integration activities on behalf of WISERD, as in the

integration of data from the National Pupil Database with that for Welsh respondents in the Millennium Cohort Study (in the context of an ESRC Research Fellowship held at WISERD). In addition, WISERD is currently collaborating in a research project with HIRU and others (funded by the National Institute for Health Research), which is analysing the relationships between changes in the density of alcohol outlets and alcohol-related harm to population health (including alcohol-related violence).

Capacity Building (Aims 1, 3, and 5)
The Research Projects have provided a 'live' basis for capacity building and knowledge exchange activities (Aims 1, 3, and 5 above). In a literal sense, they have provided the focus for the recruitment of highly-qualified social science researchers. A substantial proportion of these are now employed on continuing contracts, resourced by their respective universities (four in Cardiff, three in Swansea and one in Bangor) or on extensions of their initial appointments (one in Cardiff and one in Aberystwyth). Of these, four relate specifically to quantitative methodologies; and Cardiff University has recently made an additional professorial appointment to WISERD, with special responsibilities for quantitative and mixed research methods (Aim 5 above).

These WISERD researchers have also extended their expertise significantly, both through the experience they have gained in working – often collaboratively – on projects, as well as through more formal training and development (Aims 1 and 5). More generally too, WISERD's formal capacity building provision (see below) has drawn upon its research projects to provide substantive materials to illustrate methodological developments and applications.

Knowledge Exchange and Transfer (Aims 4 and 6)
Many of WISERD's research projects have involved extensive knowledge exchange and transfer activities (Aims 4 and 6 above). A substantial proportion has been funded by external organisations – including the Welsh Government and quasi-governmental bodies (such as the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the HEFCW, the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCR)) – with the express purpose of informing the development of state policy. Some projects have involved a more thorough-going engagement with policy-related organisations, especially in the third sector. For example, a substantial project (funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation) on the implications for young people of changes in the housing market up until 2020 involved joint research with Shelter Cymru.

Research Grants (Aim 6)
WISERD has been extremely active in generating grant applications, many of which involve collaborations across disciplines and institutions (Aim 6 above). To date, these applications have successfully attracted research projects whose funding totals some £4.15 million (in addition to initial, core funding).

Development of the Social Science Research Infrastructure
A substantial element of WISERD's activities has been concerned with the development of the social science research infrastructure in Wales (and more widely). This work has focused on three principal areas: improving the availability of and access to already existing data (Programme 1 in the Proposal document); developing a robust set of mechanisms for knowledge exchange and transfer (Programmes 3 and 4); and capacity building initiatives (Programme 4). These activities have been integral to fulfilling all of the aims set for WISERD at its inception (Aims 1 to 6 above).

Data Availability and Access (Aims 2 and 4)
The major initiative here has been the development of the WISERD Geo-Portal (Aims 2 and 4). As proposed initially (Programme 1), this provides enhanced meta-data for

a comprehensive range of quantitative and qualitative data sources relating to Wales (but with the potential for wider application). It enables researchers to access detailed information about the nature of the data available and allows searches by key-word, analytical theme or spatial location. It has been designed to standards which ensure that it is complementary to other sources of such meta-data, such as the UK Data Archive, the Economic and Social Data Service, EDINA and the Welsh Government. Collaborative relationships have been established with each of the latter and these will form an important part of further development of the Geo-Portal, for which ESRC Follow-On funding has recently been obtained.

A second important strand of work in this context relates to the integration of quantitative data (Programme 1). WISERD's approach here has departed somewhat from that originally envisaged, owing to the Welsh Government's development of a Welsh Data Strategy that will integrate with the UK-wide Strategy for Data Resources for Social and Economic Research. Given this, WISERD has delivered this part of its programme on the basis of close collaboration with the Welsh Government (and in consultation with other key organisations, such as the Office for National Statistics). For example, an ESRC/Welsh Government Placement Fellowship held in WISERD is resourcing a feasibility study to examine what mechanisms would need to be put in place to construct a 100 per cent Sample Welsh Longitudinal Study (WLS), against which other survey and administrative data sources can be linked (and is due to report in November).

A third area of work relates to the integration of qualitative data (Programme 1). In addition to developments deriving directly from research projects, WISERD researchers have contributed significantly to the development of a research infrastructure for Qualitative GIS. This involves the incorporation of non-numerical data into GIS, including digital images, video, sound, sketches and text. In this emergent field, WISERD has played a key role in creating a research network, involving collaborators from a variety of UK organisations (including, for example, EDINA, Qualidata, Digital Humanities at Lancaster University and Cardiff On-line Social Media Observatory), as well as with international scholars in the US and elsewhere. This network will provide the basis for further developmental work, especially relating to on-line software, mapping and textual metrics, as well as ethical issues, relating to privacy, anonymity and disclosure.

Finally, considerable effort has been directed at integrating quantitative and qualitative data. Significant advances have been made here, not least through the development of the Geo-Portal. In addition, the localities studies within the Knowing Localities programme critically examined the relationships between secondary quantitative data about the areas, their designations in terms of government policies and the ways that the localities were constructed by 'urban managers' and other social groups (Programme 1). However, it should be acknowledged that further work – not least of a conceptual kind - is required to develop a more systematic basis for quantitative and qualitative data integration. Initial work of this kind has been undertaken through, for example, collaborative research with the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) and the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) that has combined data from semi-structured interviews with quantitative data from the National Child Development Study (NCDS) surveys for samples of NCDS respondents in England, Scotland and Wales.

Knowledge Exchange and Transfer (Aims 4 and 6)
Knowledge exchange and transfer activities (Aims 4 and 6 above) have constituted a much more significant element in WISERD's work than was envisaged in the Proposal document (Programme 4). In part, this reflects the increasing priority that has been accorded to 'social and economic impact' generally. More specifically,

however, it reflects the widespread recognition of the need for high-quality research to support policy development in post-devolution Wales, not only within the 'policy community', but also across civil society more generally. It has been much more difficult to engage effectively with private-sector organisations, whether through consultancy or other means (Aim 6).

In addition to the knowledge exchange activities associated with research projects, WISERD has developed more generic initiatives. Collaborations with the Welsh Government have proved especially rewarding, although linkages with local government, as well as the third sector, have also been developed. Moreover, ESRC funding has provided key resources here, as, for example, in the recently funded series of Evidence Symposia, which will bring together researchers and policy-makers to review the nature of evidence in relation to major policy issues (as determined in consultation with the Welsh Government).

At the European level, WISERD hosts the Network of Experts on Social Aspects of Education and Training (NESET), which provides advice and support to the European Commission's Directorate General on Education and Culture, at the latter's request. This 'service contract' arrangement may provide an interesting model that could be replicated within the UK and Wales, more specifically.

WISERD has also sought to widen the scope of knowledge exchange. For example, in conjunction with the Wales Governance Centre, a seminar series is to be held during the next academic session, which will be focused on engaging *politicians* (Assembly Members, their advisors, etc.) with the research relating to policy issues in Wales. More widely too, WISERD has contributed to debates about public policy issues within civil society, through its engagements with Think Tanks, the print and broadcast media and, increasingly, through social media (Twitter and Facebook).

Capacity Building (Aims 1 and 3)
WISERD has undertaken a very substantial programme of research-capacity building (Aims 1 and 3), as outlined in the Proposal document (Programme 4). More of this than was originally envisaged has focused on the provision of formal training opportunities, based especially on face-to-face seminars and workshops, supported by – limited – e-learning resources. A total of 138 workshops and seminars were organised and/or hosted by WISERD during the funding period. In part, this emphasis reflected the need to establish WISERD's 'presence' in the social science research community as expeditiously as possible. WISERD was also very keen to respond to opportunities for collaboration with other capacity building providers, such as the NCRM, AQMeN and EDINA.

A substantial proportion of these activities grew out of WISERD research projects (see above). For other sessions, the content reflected particular methodological priorities, especially relating to quantitative techniques (Aim 5 above). Whilst the majority of attendees were academic researchers, there was a consistent minority from public-sector organisations and even some from private companies. Indeed, more latterly, there has been a significant growth in demand from external organisations for WISERD to provide capacity building for professional groupings other than (academic) researchers. This sort of 'translational' provision will form a significant part of WISERD's future activities in this context.

WISERD has also collaborated with the Graduate Schools and, more latterly, the Wales Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) to support PhD researchers. Some 15 doctoral researchers have been affiliated formally with WISERD; and this level of engagement is expected to continue in the future. It is planned that WISERD will continue to contribute significantly to doctoral-level capacity building, especially through the development of e-learning resources. This involvement has also

extended to undergraduate teaching, through WISERD's hosting of two ESRC-funded projects in this field.

Grant Income (Aim 6)
WISERD has successfully attracted funding for activities to develop the research infrastructure totalling some £1.75 million.

Strategic Priorities
Overall, therefore, WISERD can be seen to have made a significant contribution to both the quantity and quality of social science research in Wales, in ways which follow rather closely the outline set out in the Proposal document. Where there have been significant departures from the aims and objectives established at the outset (as, for example, in relation to comparative policy analysis (Programme 3)), these continue to be the object of current and future work (subject to funding).

WISERD has also made a significant contribution to the fulfilment of ESRC's Strategic Priorities. (HEFCW's Strategic Priorities are discussed in the next section.) In terms of the *current* Strategic Priorities (which have been up-dated since WISERD's inception), its research projects and associated activities can be seen to relate closely to *all three* Strategic Priorities. Hence, WISERD research has made an input in relation to *Economic Performance and Sustainable Growth*, especially through its work on the comparative state of the Welsh economy in the context of economic crisis and recession. It has also made important contributions to *Influencing Behaviour and Informing Interventions*, particularly in its work jointly with the Welsh Government on individual behaviour change. Finally, it has contributed to *A Vibrant and Fair Society*, especially in its research on the impacts of parliamentary devolution on the configuration of public policy and on the nature of civil society.

More generally too, WISERD's work in relation to the utilisation of existing data-sets, and its emphasis on greater clarity in the application of diverse research methodologies, has contributed to ESRC's wider methodological remit. WISERD has also achieved significant developments in relation to knowledge exchange and transfer, especially in developing close collaborations with the Welsh Government.

Part 4: HEFCW Strategic Outcomes

The internal organisation of WISERD was designed from the outset to promote inter-institutional collaboration. For example, each participating university had a Co-Director, with responsibility for promoting WISERD's activities institutionally. Each of the areas of work within WISERD's programmes (Programmes 1 to 4 in the Proposal document) was led by a Co-Director or senior academic and involved researchers from across the universities. Considerable investment was also made in ensuring regular face-to-face meetings and seminars that involved all WISERD researchers, as well as associated staff. More latterly, a greater emphasis has been placed on the use of video-conferencing for these purposes. Certainly, WISERD researchers themselves, as well as associated staff, testify that they have learned a great deal about collaborative research through their participation here.

WISERD also established mechanisms through which external researchers (and others) could become engaged with its work. Hence, *Associate Members* of WISERD ranged in their involvement from simply receiving information about its activities to being actively engaged in research projects, publications, etc. To date, there are over 160 Associate Members, drawn from across Welsh organisations, the UK more widely and even internationally. Their continuing contribution will be essential to WISERD's future work, especially in relation to grant capture.

In addition, WISERD set up eight *Thematic Networks*, each of which was focused on a particular policy theme; and which were intended to bring together researchers

from academic and non-academic settings, policy-makers and practitioners from the public, private and third sectors. An internal review conducted in 2011 identified the following positive outcomes deriving from the Networks overall: collaborative research projects (not all of which are attributed to WISERD); peer review of emergent findings; review of data availability and securing the release of data; publicising funding opportunities; and the organisation of conferences and seminars. However, whilst it is clear that some of the Networks function very effectively, others are now scarcely active. Given that further WISERD funding will not be available in the future, Networks will need to develop resourcing strategies to ensure their continued work.

WISERD organised a large number of events that brought together researchers from across the Welsh universities (and more widely). For example, a total of 84 *seminars* were organised during the funding period. Many of these involved collaboration with other organisations and were held in venues across the WISERD HEIs. There have also been three WISERD *Annual Conferences*, held in Cardiff in 2010; Swansea in 2011; and Bangor in 2012. The 2013 Conference will be held in Glamorgan. These have provided a show-case for Welsh-based social science, albeit in wider theoretical and comparative frameworks. They have attracted a wide range of speakers and other participants not only from within Wales, but also from across the UK and more widely. Attendances have been: 100 in 2010; 140 in 2011; and just over 100 in 2012. They have developed into one of the major events of the Welsh social science calendar. It is to be hoped that a viable funding model can be developed that will enable them to continue beyond 2013.

Even at this relatively early stage, there is some robust evidence that suggests that these activities have begun to bear fruit in terms of *research funding* (although it should be acknowledged that it is difficult to know exactly what would have happened without WISERD's activities). It seems clear that there has been a significant increase in applications for research grants; and many of these have involved inter-institutional collaboration. Hence, WISERD has been part of some 110 research applications, of which nearly 50 have been successful, totalling some £5.9 million. Of the latter, almost all have involved some form of inter-institutional collaboration: between WISERD researchers in different institutions; between WISERD researchers and associated staff in the Welsh universities; between WISERD researchers and associated staff at universities outside of Wales; or between WISERD and a non-academic organisation.

In particular, WISERD has provided an effective 'umbrella' for Welsh social scientists in relation to research projects sponsored by the Welsh Government and associated governmental bodies. The most important example here is the evaluation study of the Welsh Government's Foundation Phase (almost £1 million over the period 2011 to 2014). Further work is required, however, to achieve comparable success with funders outside of Wales, especially the ESRC and the European funding bodies (although a substantial number of applications are currently pending here). This is a major target for the next phase of WISERD's work (2012 to 2015).

There is also evidence to suggest that WISERD's activities have produced significant shifts in terms of *research outputs*. Hence, for example, WISERD researchers have made almost 150 conference-type presentations during the funding period, with almost half of these involving colleagues from two or more universities. Even more strikingly, more than 120 journal articles have been published (or accepted for publication) by WISERD researchers, of which over half involved colleagues from two or more institutions. Moreover, it is planned that joint publication of this kind will continue to be a feature of WISERD's future activity.

Accordingly, it can be argued that WISERD has brought about a step-change in the nature of inter-institutional collaboration in the social sciences in Wales. Not only has the volume of collaboration increased, but also new forms of collaborative activity have been introduced. However, it is salutary to remember that significant elements of higher education policy remain organised in ways that encourage *competition* between HEIs (for example, the REF 2014, the associated allocations of grant income and of research outputs, etc.), rather than the sort of *collaboration* that WISERD was established to promote. Accordingly, despite the marked progress that has been achieved, there remain significant tensions between competition and collaboration at the institutional level. This, in turn, implies that significant transaction costs are incurred in trying to bring about more collaboration than there would otherwise be. Certainly, WISERD's experience to date has been that significant investment of resources (mostly in the form of staff time) has to be devoted *on a continuing basis* to supporting collaborative development.

Part 5: Investment activities, outputs and impacts

Activities

WISERD functions as a cross-institutional research institute, with academic and administrative staff distributed across the five most research-active universities in Wales: Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Glamorgan and Swansea (the St. David's Day Group). Its activities are co-ordinated through a Hub of academic, technical and administrative staff, based at Cardiff University. Accordingly – and as elaborated in Part 4 (above) – institutional collaboration is at the heart of WISERD's contribution and substantial resources have been devoted to this end over the funding period. Indeed, such collaboration is seen as a *necessary* mechanism for delivering on WISERD's central rationale of raising the quality and quantity of social science research in Wales. WISERD is also designed to be cross-disciplinary, drawing together core researchers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, including economics, human geography, politics and sociology.

WISERD's activities are currently organised in terms of two broad streams of work: a set of inter-related research projects; and the development of the social science research infrastructure. During the funding period, the former comprised: the Knowing Localities programme (Programme 2 in the Proposal document); and the Policy Analysis and Evaluation programme (Programme 3). The latter comprised: the Data Integration and Management programme (Programme 1); and the Research-capacity Building, Training and Networking programme (Programme 4). Within each Programme area, a wide range of activities has been supported on the basis of funding from the initial core grant from ESRC and HEFCW. However, substantial further work has been undertaken, supported by further grants secured by WISERD researchers.

The principal elements of these streams to date include the following (further details are provided in Annex A; and, more comprehensively, on the WISERD web-site: http://www.wiserd.ac.uk):

Research Projects
Knowing Localities Programme
- A study of three localities, exploring the articulations between the *institutional geographies* embodied in official data and policy documents and the *day-to-day geographies* of 'urban managers and gatekeepers' and of selected groups of 'ordinary citizens'.
- Three ethnographic studies of micro-locales, which explored the articulations between place, 'local knowledges' and their representation, and the wider context of economic disadvantage, regeneration and changing policy structures.

Policy Analysis and Evaluation Programme
- A series of studies of the impacts of parliamentary devolution in Wales, including analyses of political processes (for example, of the changing roles of senior civil servants) and of policy areas, such as transport, housing and higher education.
- A substantial series of studies that have compared post-devolution Wales with other parts of the UK, especially with respect to the performance of the Welsh economy and the distributional consequences of economic recession. (This includes the Wales boost to the Employment and Skills Survey, having been moved out of the *Knowing Localities Programme* for the reasons outlined in Part 3 above).
- A smaller number of studies which have explored aspects of Welsh economy and society in a wider, comparative framework (especially in the European context).

- A number of studies which have evaluated the effectiveness of specific policy initiatives (especially with respect to education, economic development and regeneration).

Research Infrastructure

Data Integration and Management

- The creation, testing and implementation of the WISERD Geo-Portal.
- Applications relating to quantitative data integration, especially through contributions to the Welsh Government's Data Strategy.
- Applications relating to qualitative data integration, especially through the elaboration of Qualitative GIS.
- The development of mixed methods applications, partly through the Geo-Portal, but also through a small number of methodological projects (such as the NCDS project with CLS and CRESC: see Part 3 above).
- A small number of projects aimed at methodological innovation (such as the Bio-mapping Project, which uses state-of-the-art galvanic skin response units alongside geographical positioning technology to map (bio-)physical records of individuals' interactions with their environment).

Knowledge Exchange and Transfer

- Engagement with the Welsh Government and associated bodies, as well as local government and the third sector (through, for example, Evidence Symposia).
- The hosting of the Network of Experts on Social Aspects of Education and Training (NESET), which provides advice and support to the European Commission's Directorate General on Education and Culture, at the latter's request.
- Contributions to the debates about public policy in Wales (and more widely) within civil society.

Research-Capacity Building Activities

- A substantial programme of workshops and seminars, aimed at enhancing the skills of academic researchers (especially in relation to quantitative methods).
- Collaboration with the Graduate Schools and, more latterly, the Wales DTC to support PhD researchers.
- Increasingly, workshops and seminars to enhance the understandings and skills of professional groups other than academic researchers.

Given the range and extent of the activities undertaken by WISERD, generating synergies between the diverse elements has been a matter of some concern. Hence, it has been emphasised to all WISERD researchers that the research projects were intended not simply to generate new data, but also to provide a 'live' context for developing methodological applications and for generating materials for capacity building (see Part 3 above). For example, *all* researchers have been expected to contribute to the capacity building programme, whether through *Methods Briefings* or workshop sessions. Similarly, WISERD's strategy has been to build knowledge exchange and transfer into each research project from the outset.

Clearly, the principal focus of WISERD's activities has been to improve the social science research infrastructure within Wales and thereby to enhance the quantity and quality of social science research about Welsh economy and society. Not surprisingly, therefore, productive relationships have been established with other research organisations within Wales, a number of which are funded through HEFCW and/or the St. David's Day Group: including, for example, the Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales (CREW), the Wales Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) and the Wales Governance Centre (WGC).

However, another important rationale has been to contribute to UK-wide and international developments in social science research, both in terms of generating theoretical insights on the basis of empirical research on Wales and also playing a full part in infrastructural initiatives. In this context, WISERD has developed fruitful collaborations, on research, with the CLS, CRESC, DECIPHer and the Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance Research Centre (SKOPE) (all funded by the ESRC and other Research Councils), as well as the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR); and, on capacity building, with the NCRM (with which WISERD has a formal Memorandum of Understanding), AQMeN and the Wales DTC (again all funded by the ESRC). Internationally too, WISERD has supported scholarly exchange, enabling WISERD researchers to present papers at international conferences (see Annex B) and arranging visits from international scholars, both to conferences and seminars, but also for more extended periods (see Appendix A).

Whilst it is relatively straightforward to *describe* the range of activities undertaken by WISERD, it is more difficult to provide definitive evidence of the *impacts* that have been achieved. In part, this is simply a matter of timing; it is rather early in WISERD's development, with major research programmes only very recently having been completed. Nevertheless, it is possible to *suggest* some examples of both scientific and societal and economic impacts arising from WISERD's work to date.

Scientific Impacts
'New Localities'
The Knowing Localities programme has made notable contributions to the development of new theoretical frameworks for understanding 'localities' (with implications in human geography, city and regional planning, sociology and political science). In particular, WISERD's approach recognises that 'localities' do not exist only in absolute space as bounded territories, but also have expression in relational space, where boundaries are at best 'fuzzy' and permeable. Constructing 'localities' as frames for the analysis of economic, political or social phenomena therefore requires investigation of both their material and *imagined* coherence; and these *taken together* make a locality meaningful and provide a capacity for social action.

Accordingly, WISERD's empirical work (in the localities studies) demonstrates how locality *is* a meaningful concept in social and economic research. The concept can be employed as a window on the territories, places, scales and networks to which people refer in their everyday lives, in order to make sense of their practices and relations in space. Hence, the 'new localities' approach focuses attention on processes of 'locality-making': the ways in which semi-stabilised and popularly-recognised representations of locality are brought into being through the moulding, manipulation and sedimentation of space within ongoing social, economic and political struggles. Through 'acts of locality-making', localities are transformed from mere points of location - a description of where research was conducted - to socio-economic-political 'intersections' that provide an analytical framework for research.

This work has already produced a number of major publications, for example: Heley (2012 forthcoming); Jones (2009); Jones and Jessop (2010); Jones and Woods (2012 forthcoming). It also underpins a forthcoming edited monograph (Jones and Orford, forthcoming). (See Annex B.)

GIS-based Accessibility Research
A major research stream within the Policy Analysis and Evaluation Programme has involved the development and application of novel accessibility models to public services in Wales. Firstly, GIS has been used to calculate 'traditional' accessibility metrics to service level data held as (point) feature data-bases (in a commercial GIS

package). This has been used to evaluate the effects of changes in the provision of public services, as, for example, in a study of the implications of the Post Office Network Change Programme. Secondly, research has compared trends in access to services – to date, primary health-care, access to green spaces, public transport and post office provision – in relation to socio-economic data, such as deprivation measures and geo-demographic classifications. This has highlighted the importance of integrating attribute data on service provision and potential population demand with GIS-based network models. Thirdly, methodological research has enhanced existing approaches to measuring accessibility based on so-called 'floating catchment' techniques to include a measure of access to public transport opportunities and service frequency. Future research will integrate qualitative data on actual experiences of and preferences for services into these models of potential accessibility.

In addition to major conference presentations, some of the significant publications that have emerged from this work include, for example: Higgs *et al.* (2012); Langford *et al.* (2012); and Langford and Higgs (2010).

Local Knowledge, Spatial Practice and Urban Patrol
This example is a single study, one of the local, ethnographic projects undertaken within the Knowing Localities programme. It was a field study, based in the centre of Cardiff. The research analysed local people's knowledge of place. The empirical focus of the project was on various activities of patrol – police patrol, street cleaning and street-outreach work with the homeless, for example – each of which has to operate according to its own specific and expert knowledge of place.

Sustained observational work over a period of two years enabled the team to build up a detailed understanding of the ways in which these different patrols operate and the particular geographies they entail. The research also made use of GPS route mapping to chart the different paths along which these patrols operate, in order to visualise and understand better the ways in which these routes relate to the specific requirements of different professional practices (police patrols know the city one way, according to the job they are trying to do; street cleaners know it another way, again according to their work priorities, and so on). This mapping exercise, combined with the observational data, allowed the team to contribute to: ideas about local knowledge – what it is and how it is arrived at, particularly ideas about the relationships between place-knowledge and movement; social science methods for the capturing and representing (for research purposes) knowledge of place and local mobility; arguments about the politics of public space, urban regeneration and social exclusion.

The project has led to a number of major conference presentations and journal articles. See, for example: Hall and Smith (2011) and (2012); Smith (2012).

WISERD Geo-Portal
The GeoPortal provides internationally recognised, standards-based enhanced meta-data for a comprehensive range of quantitative and qualitative data sources relating to, but not restricted to, Wales. The tools developed allow researchers to search by keyword, theme or spatial location. The portal enables access to detailed question level and response metadata on a variety of different socio-economic datasets. It enables users to pool data sources and examine the geographies of response data. Moreover, the standards-based approach to metadata creation allows inter-operability with other data holders such as the UKDA, ESDS, EDINA and the Welsh Government.

The metadata data-base has the potential to be published via a number of different mechanisms, allowing stakeholders and data repositories to consume and mash-up the metadata as required, thus complementing the current UK data infrastructure. The WISERD Geo-Portal also has the ability to consume data feeds and outputs, thereby negating the need for replication of metadata held within other repositories (for example, Welsh Government, UKDA, and ESDS) and allowing the discovery and analysis of comparative data at the UK level. The WISERD approach to data inter-operability firmly aligns the GeoPortal with UK Government and the ESRC's objectives regarding Open Data and data re-use. The GeoPortal also has a strong resonance with other geospatial data initiatives in the UK. For instance, the UK Data Archive's current U.Geo Project, which aims to enhance the geospatial potential of national survey data and JISC's current GeoSpatial programme of funded work. Such is the interest in the GeoPortal outside of Wales that WISERD was invited to demonstrate its capabilities to a recent UKDA / EDINA workshop and JISC convened meeting. The GeoPortal has the potential to become an invaluable resource for social science research in and on Wales, and will demonstrate significant impacts at economic, social policy and practice levels. ESRC Follow On funding has recently been awarded to support further developmental work.

This research has been presented at a number of conferences, in the UK and the US. It has also generated a number of publications, for example: Berry *et al.* (2010) and (2011); Fry *et al.* (2012).

Societal and Economic Impacts
As its remit makes clear, an important part of WISERD's work has been to develop an effective infrastructure for knowledge exchange and transfer. Indeed, it can be argued that the progress made in this context is one of WISERD's most significant contributions to date. Of particular note here is the development of an extremely effective relationship with the Welsh Government, not only in relation to specific research projects, but much more generally with respect to the creation of a Wales Data Strategy and, especially, policy development with respect to economic development, regeneration, and education and training. Indeed, it now seems certain that WISERD will shortly be signing a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Welsh Government to provide analytical and capacity building services on a continuing basis.

WISERD has also sought to extend its knowledge exchange activities beyond the civil service parts of the Welsh Government, to include politicians (especially within the National Assembly, but also the UK Parliament), as well as professional groups working in other parts of the public service and the third sector. It also recognises that there is an obligation on social science researchers to contribute to wider debates within civil society more generally.

The brief examples which follow are intended to convey a sense of the *diversity* of WISERD's activities here. It should be acknowledged at the outset, however, that it is difficult at this stage to demonstrate actual impacts, in terms of policy outputs and so forth; the emphasis here is on the 'pathways to impact' rather than impacts themselves.

Surveys of European Social Fund (ESF) Leavers
These projects were concerned to assess some of the impact of the interventions supported by the two ESF Operational Programmes that are running in Wales between 2007 and 2013. In particular, the aim was to analyse the extent to which participation in ESF projects increased the likelihood of those participants who were previously out of work gaining employment. This involved using statistical matching

techniques (propensity score matching) to identify suitable comparators for the ESF participants from the Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey.

The projects were commissioned by the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO), part of the Welsh Government. Numerous presentations have been made to senior officials from WEFO and the European Commission to discuss the results of the analyses. In addition, WISERD researchers presented their methodological innovations to an Expert Hearing at the European Commission, with a view to their being adopted in ESF evaluations across the European Union.

Young People and Housing: identifying policy challenges and solutions for 2020
This study was carried out jointly with Shelter Cymru and was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It aimed to analyse the challenges faced by young people in accessing housing, given the likely changes in the housing market up to 2020; and to propose solutions to address these challenges.

Initial findings were discussed with a wide variety of stake-holders, including the UK Department for Communities and Local Government and the housing teams within the Scottish and Welsh Governments. The results of these discussions were subsequently incorporated into the final analyses and report. The Final Report was published recently and attracted very widespread coverage in the UK print and broadcast media, not least because of the networks available to the JRF. Currently, efforts are being made to take forward discussions with the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments.

An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales
This study followed up the UK National Equality Panel's 2010 report on economic inequalities with a more detailed analysis of inequalities within Wales and how these relate to those in other parts of the UK (*An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales*, 2011). The study was commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales and involved a number of collaborations, not only across universities, but also with external bodies, such as the think tank, the Bevan Foundation.

Detailed discussions were held with the Welsh Government prior to publication. There was a formal launch event in Cardiff and this generated significant discussion not only amongst the policy community, but also more widely through the print and broadcast media. Subsequently, the findings have been widely quoted, including during a plenary debate in the Senedd of the National Assembly for Wales (http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org?ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=366). The results have also provided the basis for a policy development seminar with the key officials responsible for the development of the Welsh Government's policies on social inequalities (funded by the EHRC).

Sounding the Way Audio Walks
This local project was funded by Beacon for Wales. It involved the application of some of the methodological approaches developed in the ethnographic studies within the Knowing Localities programme to develop two 'audio walks' relating to the history and sporting activities in Grangetown, an ethnically diverse inner area of Cardiff. The 'audio walks' were based on close collaboration with teenage boys from the area, giving expression to the latter's 'local knowledges'. The team produced two short films relating to the walks and an audio walk guide (which are available at www.soundingtheway.com).

There was a launch event, at which the young men spoke very strikingly to newspaper reporters about their pride in their finished work.
(See http://yourcardiff.walesonline.co.uk/2012/05/16/history-and-sport-explored-in-grangetowns-new-audio-walks/).

A presentation of the project's work was also made at the 2011 National Eisteddfod at Ebbw Vale. There has been considerable interest from the local print and broadcast media, which has led to discussions about the project with other voluntary community groups in Cardiff.

Main Publications and Outputs

WISERD's publications strategy has two principal elements. Firstly, it has developed a suite of internal publications (all subject to peer review), mostly produced in electronic form and available via the WISERD web-site. These publications are intended to provide either accessible resources (such as the *Policy Briefings* and the *Methods Briefings*) and/or relatively quick access to research findings (as in the *Research Reports* and *Working Papers*). A substantial set of these publications has now been produced and some have generated significant demand. However, the restricted approach to previous publication that has increasingly been adopted by some of the major journals has necessitated a more cautious approach to the publication of Working Papers (most of which would be expected to be developed into more formal publications).

Secondly, WISERD researchers have been supported in developing individual publication plans, targeted on peer-reviewed journals and chapters in high-quality collections. This has been identified as an essential element in supporting their professional development; and all WISERD researchers on continuing contracts are currently returnable to REF 2014. Again, there is now a significant quantity of such publications, arising from all of WISERD's programmes; and a proportion of these (some by less experienced researchers) are of the highest quality. Moreover, it is expected that publications on the basis of research conducted during this phase of WISERD's work will continue into the future. Indeed, it is planned that more extended analysis, especially involving the integration of data from different projects, will generate significant book length publications during WISERD's coming phase of activity.

WISERD has also produced a number of other outputs. Hence, the Geo-Portal embodies a number of novel software applications. In addition, a number of projects have produced films and other visual materials, which are – to varying degrees, for reasons of confidentiality – available to other researchers and groups. It has also produced a number of major data-sets (including, for example, the Employment and Skills survey data; the interview transcripts from the localities studies; and the NCDS interview transcripts), all which have or will be deposited in the ESDS.

Outcomes and Next Steps

It can be argued that, in a relatively short period of time, WISERD has already made important contributions to social science research. It has generated a substantial volume of cross-disciplinary research that has not only enhanced understanding of Welsh economy and society in major ways, but also – at least in some areas – made important interventions in wider theoretical debates (see, for example, 'Academic Impacts' above). In methodological terms, WISERD has contributed significantly through high-quality application of advanced methodologies across a range of areas, some of which – especially in policy analysis and evaluation – have been innovative, with implications beyond the immediate area of application.

WISERD has also brought about a step-change in the organisation of social science research in Wales. Collaboration between the St. David's Day Group of universities has been enhanced in a major way. Not only has the volume of collaboration increased, but also new forms of collaborative activity have been introduced. This is reflected in the substantial number of grant applications involving researchers from more than one university, a substantial proportion of which have led to the funding of

cross-institutional research projects. Similarly, WISERD has generated a large volume of joint publications during the first phase of its work.

More generally too, WISERD has significantly enhanced the social science research infrastructure in Wales. In particular, it has created a much more robust system of knowledge exchange and transfer, especially in relation to the Welsh Government and its associated bodies; but also more widely with respect to the third sector and civil society generally. This has created the basis not only for increased collaboration on research projects, but also in relation to strategies for data assembly, integration and access too. There are also growing opportunities for collaboration between WISERD and other organisations in developing new forms of capacity building, extending beyond WISERD's principal focus hitherto on academic researchers.

These outcomes have been increasingly recognised both inside Wales and more widely (see for example, the recent report from the Higher Education Policy Institute on *Universities and Constitutional Change in the UK*, p.94). In tangible terms, this recognition has been expressed not only in substantial new research grants, but also in continuing support for WISERD's core functions. Of particular significance here is the agreement of the St. David's Day Group universities to provide substantial staffing and financial support for the period 2012 to 2015 (see Part 8 for details). In addition, the Welsh Government has recognised WISERD as one of its National Research Centres; and it has also recently indicated that it would like to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with WISERD for the provision of analytical services.

During the next phase of WISERD's work, it is planned to build on what has been achieved so far. Given that WISERD's first phase was for only three years, it is clear that much remains to be done to exploit fully the research that has been carried out to date. Moreover, the developments that have been achieved in relation to the social science research infrastructure need to be consolidated. However, it is recognised the new research grant funding will also be essential and strategic priorities here are set out in Part 8.

Part 6: The Director's role and Investment management

WISERD's inaugural Director, Professor Huw Beynon, retired at the end of August 2010 and was replaced by the current Director, Professor Gareth Rees.

Management Targets

The management targets in the investment contract have all been very substantially achieved. A number of these related to the establishment of WISERD in its initial period. Hence, *staff appointments* proved a time-consuming task during the early months. Following confirmation of funding in 2008, research staff were recruited via a UK-wide (and, indeed, international) process. However, this proved to be more protracted than was envisaged. Whilst the bulk of researchers were in post by January 2009, some did not start until September of that year. Similarly, there was not a full complement of administrative and technical staff – whose recruitment was especially difficult – until September 2009. Since these initial appointments, there has been remarkably little staff turn-over. Where individuals have left, they have either been replaced directly or by alternative means (as, for example, where the loss of a researcher was compensated by arranging 'teaching buy-out' for WISERD associated staff).

All WISERD staff have been *accommodated* in dedicated offices. In Aberystwyth, Bangor, Glamorgan and Swansea, these have been within their 'home' academic schools. In Cardiff, both the Hub and the Cardiff staff are housed in a stand-alone building (which is shared with the Wales Governance Centre) within the main university campus.

The Director was also made responsible for establishing effective *management and administrative structures*. From the outset, WISERD has adopted a transparent internal management structure. The Executive Group is comprised of the WISERD Co-Directors, chaired by the Director and supported by senior administrative staff. It has met monthly during the funding period and, more latterly, alternate meetings have been via video conference. The Executive Group has also held annual Away Days. It has been responsible for supporting the Director in the day-to-day management of WISERD and for developing its strategic direction. The Executive Group reports to the WISERD Steering Group, which comprises the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Research) (or their equivalents) of the participating universities and the Heads of the academic schools which are affiliated to WISERD. The Steering Group has met almost bi-monthly during the funding period. It has been responsible for institutional oversight of WISERD's activities and has made an important input into the development of its strategic priorities. The Advisory Group is comprised of senior social scientists and representatives of 'user' organisations, mostly drawn from outside Wales; it has been chaired by Professor Ray Hudson of Durham University (see Annex D). It has met annually during the funding period. It has proved a valuable source of intelligence about wider developments in social science research and a sounding-board in relation to WISERD's strategic development.

WISERD has also participated in regular Troika meetings, with representatives from the ESRC and HEFCW. These have ensured that WISERD's activities have been monitored carefully, through a system of regular, formal reporting.

Each of the major areas of work within WISERD's four Programmes has been managed by a Co-Director (in addition to their responsibilities to embed WISERD within their institutions) or by a senior academic associated with WISERD. Each Programme has had a complement of core researchers, although the boundaries here have been highly permeable (especially in relation to Programme 4). Whilst they operated in somewhat different ways, each was required to produce a schedule of research meetings and an annual programme of work (which meshed, in turn, with

WISERD's overall programme). The Co-Directors reported progress to the monthly meetings of the Executive Group. Since the beginning of 2011, individual researchers have been required to complete short reports of progress on a quarterly basis. They have also participated in appraisal and have been mentored by Co-Directors (or other senior academics).

WISERD's activities have also been supported by administrative staff in each university; and by an administrative and technical Hub based at Cardiff University. Support staff have been co-ordinated by a WISERD Director of Operations.

Perhaps the most amorphous of the Director's targets was '*to establish WISERD as a working partnership*'. The concrete steps taken to meet this objective have been described elsewhere in this Report (see, especially, Part 4). However, it is worth re-iterating here the importance of the bi-monthly, face-to-face meetings of all WISERD researchers, especially during the early stages of WISERD's work. Whilst these meetings were costly (both in terms of time and financially), they were invaluable in creating the sorts of high-trust relationships between teams of researchers that were necessary to carry out the Programmes of work. Much less effective, however, was the creation of a dedicated, virtual research environment, the WISERD Collaborative Environment (WISCE), which was never adequately used and has recently been abandoned. More widely, it is also important that the Director - and the Director of Operations - have spent considerable time in visiting the partner universities, not only to discuss issues with WISERD researchers, but also to engage more widely with staff and senior institutional managers, thereby ensuring that WISERD's agenda is more generally understood; and that WISERD is increasingly embedded within institutional and school-level research strategies.

Value Added
Clearly, the Director plays a crucial part in WISERD's strategic management and the effective implementation of its overall programme of work. These, in turn, have created the essential environment for the successful implementation of the wide range of activities undertaken by WISERD during its first phase. In this sense, then, it is difficult to see how any of WISERD's positive outcomes could have been achieved in the absence of an effective Director, able to convey a clear sense of WISERD's priorities both inside and outside the organisation.

In particular, to a much greater extent than other ESRC research centres, WISERD has a complex institutional structure, involving five universities and many academic schools; and it has developed a diverse programme of activities. Accordingly, the Director's *co-ordinating* role has been especially significant, as this is the only managerial position with an unambiguously WISERD-wide remit. Certainly, an important part of the Director's contribution (and of the Executive Group more widely) has been to absorb the transaction costs that inevitably arise in undertaking larger-scale projects and in the construction of more complex research teams to undertake them.

However, it is more difficult to establish a robust evidential basis to warrant *specific* claims about the impact of the Director on the quality of research. It is difficult to separate the role of the Director from the wider management team. However, to the extent that the Director has been instrumental to generating the outcomes of WISERD's activities, then a significant positive impact can be argued.

This can be illustrated, for example, by reference to the significant increase that has occurred in collaborative forms of research activity. Here, it is arguable that the Director has played a crucial role in 'brokering' relationships between researchers that have provided the basis for conducting research projects of a scale that was not previously possible; and which have brought together researchers from different

disciplinary backgrounds (including economics, human geography, politics and sociology) and methodological traditions (in this latter regard, it has, perhaps, been helpful that the Director has expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methods). This is well illustrated, for example, in the Localities programme, which has been successful in producing data and published outputs that contribute to debates across a range of social sciences, as well as engaging with major policy issues. What has been crucial here is not only the scale of the research undertaken, but also the mix of analytical perspectives applied.

Equivalent arguments can be made in respect of securing research grants, which would not have been secured by individual researchers; nor, in all probability, even by institutions working alone. A clear example here is the evaluation of the Welsh Government's Foundation Phase, where a consortium of WISERD researchers successfully won a very large grant (almost £1 million over three years), in the face of significant competition from across the UK; the first time that a grant of this kind has been awarded to researchers within Wales. Similarly, a more recent award from HEFCW (again of almost £1 million over three years) to conduct a major programme of research and capacity building in relation to education policies came about as a result the capacity to 'broker' collaborative arrangements between WISERD researchers and educational researchers in the universities. A third example is provided by another grant (of close to £800,000 over three years) made recently by the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCR) (led from WISERD in Bangor University) for a major programme of capacity building in relation to social care research in Wales, where again the capacity to 'broker' relationships between researchers in different universities through WISERD has been crucial.

It can also be argued that the Director has provided a clear 'focal point' for WISERD as far as external organisations are concerned. Here, the Director's capacity to present a clear and articulate 'public face' has been important to the effective communication of WISERD's capacities and resources. This has had positive impacts on the development of WISERD's relationships with external bodies. For example, it is clear that the Welsh Government, as well as other bodies, very much welcome not only WISERD's ability to act as a 'one-stop-shop', but also that there is a single, recognisable voice within WISERD too. The complaint is frequently heard that, prior to WISERD's establishment, social science researchers were perceived to be widely distributed across a complexity of institutions. Moreover, information about research expertise and activity was seen to be difficult to come by. And the result was that relationships between researchers and research 'users' was *ad hoc*, rather than systematic. WISERD's advent has transformed this situation; and this, in turn, has greatly improved the quality of relationships between WISERD and external organisations, both with respect to research projects, as well as data management and knowledge exchange activities.

In short, therefore, the Director – and the management team more widely - has provided the 'glue' that holds WISERD together. This co-ordinating role has been essential to the brokering of relationships not only between institutions and academic schools, but also between individual researchers, inside and outside of WISERD. It has also been essential to the development of WISERD's relationships with organisations outside of higher education, and with the Welsh Government, in particular. It would not have been possible for WISERD to achieve its strategic priorities without the management framework that the Director's role has made possible.

Challenges
A major challenge for WISERD in its initial period was that the start-up costs of an initiative of this kind were significantly under-estimated in the planning stages.

Hence, for example, it was much more difficult to recruit staff than had been envisaged. Indeed, even the appointment of the first Director was difficult and was only achieved at the expense of the incumbent combining the Director's role with being the Head of a major academic school in Cardiff University. Similarly, providing appropriate accommodation took much longer than expected. More generally too, it required more time and resources than had been planned to embed WISERD institutionally across the participating institutions and academic schools. All in all, then, a much greater part of WISERD's managerial capacities had to be devoted to addressing these sorts of issues than had been envisaged when the Proposal was being developed, at the inevitable expense of other activities.

A second – and closely related – set of issues relates to the transaction costs discussed in the previous section. There is widespread agreement that inter-institutional and cross-disciplinary collaborations are a necessary condition of effective social science research, especially where substantial empirical work is required. Indeed, this is the sort of rationale on which WISERD was established. However, there is much less recognition that achieving effective collaborations is not an *automatic* process; but rather requires continuing processes of development and negotiation.

This is true not only at the formal, institutional level, but also in terms of the everyday social practices of the researchers directly engaged in the collaborative projects. Hence, at the institutional level, there remain significant policy pressures, as well as cultural orientations (inter-institutional rivalries, for example), that militate *against* inter-institutional collaboration and which require resources (mostly managerial time) to overcome. In terms of the everyday practices of social science research, doctoral researchers continue to be trained within single disciplines, but are then often expected to move into post-doctoral positions in cross-disciplinary research programmes (as is the case with WISERD). Moreover, there are clearly practical issues (of communication, data handling, joint writing and so forth) to be addressed – mostly by the researchers themselves - when conducting research across institutions, which social scientists have relatively experience of addressing (less so than physical scientists, for example). To a very significant extent, WISERD has been successful in absorbing these sorts of transaction costs. However, again, it is probably fair to say that the extent of the resources required to address these issues was under-estimated at the Proposal stage (reflecting the situation across the social sciences more generally).

The principal challenge for WISERD has arisen out of the economic crisis that erupted towards the end of 2008, exactly when WISERD was being established. In particular, this has had major implications for WISERD's aim of becoming sustainable on the basis of external grant income and institutional support. Quite simply, it has become much more difficult to secure external funding, as the budgets of the research councils, charitable foundations and public and third sector organisations have increasingly come under pressure.

For WISERD, the implication of these shifts has been that more of its resources than was initially planned have been devoted to trying to generate external income, especially during the earlier part of the funding period. In particular, more of the time of relatively inexperienced researchers has been given to income generation (rather than conducting research and other activities) than was envisaged at WISERD's planning stage, as the contributions of senior associated staff became increasingly restricted (as universities too felt the financial pinch). Certainly, the original projections of future income streams look, in retrospect, to be overly optimistic and even wholly unrealistic.

Nevertheless, as is outlined elsewhere (see Part 8), WISERD has been able to secure its sustainability, at least for the next phase of its operation (2012 to 2015). Here, the ongoing support of the St. David's Day Group universities has been crucial. In addition, despite wider circumstances, significant external grants have been secured over the coming period. However, it is recognised that there remains an ongoing challenge to secure significant external funding.

Part 7: Reflections on the Investment and the Director's role

WISERD is unusual in that its joint funding implied an *element* of compromise between the aims of ESRC and those of HEFCW: the former with a prime interest in the quality of scientific development and its impact; and the latter prioritising inter-institutional collaboration and its role in growing the volume of high-quality research in Wales. Whilst certainly not incompatible, these different emphases have meant that WISERD has had a very wide set of aims. In more specific terms, WISERD drew together a number of rather disparate elements: the WISER proposal to HEFCW; the continuation of the work on qualitative methodology initiated by QUALiti; and development and capacity building in quantitative methods in Wales (see Part 2). Accordingly, probably more so than is the case for most investments, WISERD has been required to undertake a wide range of activities.

As is shown elsewhere in this Report, WISERD has been largely successful in drawing these elements together into a coherent whole. However, it should be acknowledged that further work is required to reap the full benefits from the integration of the research and of the associated activities that have been undertaken hitherto. This forms an important element in WISERD's plans for its next phase. In addition, having established WISERD as a viable and recognised research centre during its first phase of operation, there is an excellent basis upon which to build a more integrated programme of new work from now on. This more integrated programme is sketched out in Part 8 (below).

WISERD is also unusual in organisational terms. It is based upon a 'hub-and-spoke' model, with Cardiff University providing the home for the Hub and with 'spokes' to each of the five partner universities (including Cardiff), where academic and support staff are located. Accordingly, the organisational model is based on the *collective* delivery of research and associated activities. However, it is not so clear, within this relatively complex structure, where *ultimate responsibility* for this collective delivery of WISERD's overall programme of work lies. More specifically, although funding from HEFCW is distributed across each of the HEIs, this is not related to the achievement of specific targets on an institution-by-institution basis. In the case of ESRC funding, the contract is with Cardiff University alone, despite the collective responsibility for programme delivery. In effect, it would appear that, in practical terms, the ultimate responsibility for the delivery of the overall work programme lies with the Hub.

This is not to suggest for one moment that this set of arrangements has created any major problems during the first phase of WISERD's operation. The Executive Group has worked - to an extraordinary extent - consensually and has adopted an approach based on collective responsibility. Nevertheless, it is possible that problems could arise in other settings. Certainly, for other 'hub-and-spoke' investments, the distribution of responsibilities is much clearer; for example, the Nodes of the NCRM are contractually obligated to ESRC on an individual basis; and the expectations of the Node directors are unambiguous. Certainly, this provides a more transparent and, perhaps, effective model than the WISERD one. However, it should also be acknowledged that the nature of the inter-institutional collaboration required by WISERD is much more intense than is the case in most other investments (including the NCRM). For the future, individual projects within WISERD's overall programme will be contracted on an individual basis (as has been the case hitherto with grants outside of the initial core). Nevertheless, the tensions between institutional and collective responsibilities for programme delivery will still not be wholly removed, albeit occurring in a somewhat different form.

It is also unusual that a relatively short-term investment (three years initially) should change Directors in mid-stream. In part, this reflects the difficulties experienced at the outset in recruiting a Director. This meant that the first Director was required to combine his WISERD role with that of being Head of a major academic school at Cardiff University. Clearly, this placed significant pressures not only on the inaugural Director, but also on other WISERD staff. Moreover, even though the current Director was very familiar with WISERD's activities when he took over, inevitably there has been a small amount of disruption. At a personal level too, there have been some frustrations in having to accommodate to organisational patterns which were already well established when the current Director took over. It remains to be seen how far effective succession planning – both for Co-Directors and the Director - can be instituted as WISERD develops in the future.

The Committee and, in particular, staff at ESRC and HEFCW have been enormously supportive. Despite a very high turn-over, ESRC staff have been an invaluable source of information about wider developments in the social sciences, as well as an invaluable link into the ESRC itself (especially, for example, on matters of funding). This is also true of the two Committee links who have worked with WISERD. Staff from HEFCW have also been unfailingly supportive of WISERD's work. Perhaps most crucially, their advice was instrumental in negotiating the support of the St. David's Day Group universities, which is a key underpinning of the next phase of WISERD's operation.

Finally, it is important to recognise that WISERD operates in a wider context that reflects developments in social science research internationally and across the UK. However, its context is also shaped to an increasing extent by policies for higher education and for research more widely that are set by the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales. Indeed, there is a sense in which WISERD's activities cannot be understood fully unless the implications of this Welsh context are understood properly. Not surprisingly, inside Wales, the importance of parliamentary devolution are increasingly keenly appreciated. However, the same cannot be said of the social science research community across the rest of the UK (and in England, in particular), not least within the ESRC itself. This sometimes creates difficulties for the WISERD Director and management more generally. Certainly, it is to be hoped that the ESRC and other UK-wide organisations integrate the implications of devolution into their strategies on a more systematic basis than hitherto. Moreover, it is important to interpret the role of investments such as WISERD in ways that are sensitive to its particular, devolved context.

Part 8: Forward look

The most basic requirement in sustaining WISERD's activities into the future is to ensure financial viability over a reasonable time-frame. As discussed elsewhere in this Report (see Part 6 above), economic circumstances have changed significantly since WISERD's inception. Most research funders have reduced their programmes in real terms, increasing the difficulty of winning research grants and contracts. Nevertheless, WISERD has been able to attract some £5.9 million in total external income (including funding relating to the research infrastructure) to date. A substantial proportion of this (some £2.75 million) comprises funding for projects that will continue into the next planning period for WISERD (July 2012 to 2015). In addition, a substantial number of grant applications are currently pending.

It is recognised, however, that in order to sustain WISERD's activities for the coming period, it will be necessary to secure very significant *external grant funding*. Hence, it is planned that during the coming planning period, WISERD's annual expenditure from research grants should rise to some £1 million per annum. Central to this will be an application to the ESRC Large Grants/Research Centres competition in 2012-2013.

A second key element in ensuring future sustainability will be *institutional support*. In March 2012, the St. David's Day Group of vice-chancellors agreed that:

(a) All of the SDDG universities will adopt a policy of returning a proportion (50 per cent after the central administration's 'top-slice') of indirect costs from research grants directly to WISERD;
(b) A *minimum* of 40 per cent of the time of WISERD staff on continuing contracts (five in Cardiff; three in Swansea; and one each in Aberystwyth and Bangor) will be allocated to WISERD research through the work-load models of their academic schools;
(c) Through internal allocation of resources, Cardiff University will support the costs of the WISERD Director;
(d) Through the internal allocation of resources, each SDDG University will support the costs of a Co-Director, based on 20 per cent of his or her time;
(e) The SDDG universities will underwrite up to K£50 *per annum* to support WISERD's support for research grant capture and project delivery, with the actual amounts to be adjusted in the light of actual research grant income.

In addition, Cardiff University has recently made a professorial appointment to WISERD, with special responsibilities for quantitative and mixed research methods

Clearly, given appropriate levels of external income, this model has the potential to sustain WISERD's activities indefinitely. For example, a system of return of a proportion of indirect costs has operated at Cardiff University since WISERD's inception and has resulted in the accumulation to date of over £350,000 in reserves. It does imply, however, that a key element of WISERD's future role will be supporting and facilitating grant capture. Indeed, it is envisaged that this will constitute a principal activity of the WISERD Hub, based at Cardiff, in conjunction with the Co-Directors.

These arrangements will ensure that there are significant continuities in terms of staffing, for researchers, directors and senior associated staff. This is important, as it will greatly facilitate further analysis and publication, on the basis of the research that has been carried out during WISERD's first phase of operation. Formal Follow-On funding has recently been obtained from the ESRC to support further work in relation to the WISERD Geo-Portal. Applications are also pending with the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust to support further integrative analysis of the data

generated through the Localities Programme. It is planned to hold a seminar jointly with CRESC and the CLS in Spring 2013, to explore further some of the key analytical issues arising out of the Localities programme. It is also the case that a substantial number of further publications are in progress, deriving from the research carried out during the first phase of operation.

More generally too, there are major continuities between the programme of research and associated activities carried out to date and what is planned for the next period of WISERD's operation (2012 to 2015). Accordingly, it is intended that WISERD will continue to organise its activities in terms of two broad streams: a set of inter-related research projects; and the development of the social science research infrastructure.

Research Projects
The research projects will continue to embrace a 'mixed portfolio' of activities, ranging from basic science to applied research projects. They will continue to have a focus on the Welsh economy and society, but in an essentially comparative context, across the UK and more widely. In substantive, academic terms, it is intended that there will be a clearer focus on a set of inter-related, substantive themes, building on the work that has been carried out most successfully by WISERD researchers hitherto. These themes will include:

- The distributional consequences of economic recession;
- Devolved governance, state policy and civil society;
- Social mobility, spatial mobility and labour markets.

It is also intended that these academic priorities will map closely on to the key policy concerns that are likely to dominate the coming period in Wales (as set out in the *Programme for Government 2011-2016*) and more widely across the UK and internationally. Close engagement with the Welsh Government and the wider policy community in Wales (and elsewhere) will remain a cornerstone of WISERD's work in the future. These policy concerns include:

- Improving regional and local economic development;
- Ameliorating poverty and social disadvantage;
- Improving educational attainment.

In the longer term, and in conjunction with DECIPHer, it may also be possible to develop new research opportunities in relation to social care, where it is recognised that there is currently a significant dearth both of research and research capacity. Initial work is already underway here through a major research-capacity building project funded by NISCHR. Of particular interest here will be the exploration of the interfaces between social care and educational provision; as well as the implications for social care of an ageing population.

In methodological terms too, WISERD will continue its development of analysis based on secondary data sources in general and on individually-based, longitudinal analysis, in particular. The emphasis here will be on high-quality application, rather than major methodological innovation per se. This sort of methodological approach provides very powerful means for the analysis of the substantive themes outlined earlier; it also picks up on a number of ESRC priorities. There will also be further exploration of the application of mixed methods methodologies, combining quantitative and qualitative methods (especially in the context of longitudinal analysis).

Research Infrastructure

The research infrastructure stream will continue to comprise three principal elements:

- Knowledge exchange and transfer;
- Training and capacity building;
- Data assembly and access.

Knowledge exchange and transfer activities will continue to be a major element of successful social science research, reflected in the importance of social and economic 'impact' for REF 2014 and for the Research Councils. Accordingly, WISERD will extend its close collaborations with the Welsh Government in this context; and seek to strengthen its relationships with other parts of central government and local government, as well as the private and third sectors. A specific target will be to develop a viable model of 'interactive social science' with these 'research users'. ESRC funding has recently been obtained to fund, in collaboration with the Welsh Government (with the Welsh Local Government Association and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action), a series of Evidence Symposia, which will explore the light that research can cast on selected policy priority areas.

Training and capacity building has been a major element of WISERD's activities hitherto. It is envisaged that this will continue. However, the central priority of this activity will shift from the provision of training through workshops, seminars, and so on, to the development of e-learning and support materials. It is anticipated too that WISERD may be able to provide an important co-ordinating function, ensuring that duplication in the numerous capacity building initiatives currently being developed – even within Wales - is kept to a minimum. Clearly, this will require the further development of collaborations with other bodies, such as the Wales DTC and the NCRM.

It is also planned to develop further capacity building activities that engage with professional groups which are not academic researchers. At the moment, WISERD's work of this 'translational' kind is focused on social care professionals (through a NISCHR contract) and with widening access professionals in HEIs and with other educationalists (through HEFCW contracts). Further opportunities are being explored with the Welsh Government.

It is anticipated that WISERD will continue to contribute towards the development of a national data strategy for Wales, especially with regard to linking data sets. In this context, collaboration with the Health Information Research Unit at Swansea University will be developed further. In addition, the WISERD Geo-Portal, providing researchers with meta-data for sources of existing data of various kinds, will be further tested and refined.

The development of the social science research infrastructure through activities of this type can be regarded as broadly equivalent to the creation of a 'well-founded research laboratory'. The research infrastructure is necessary to carry out high-quality social science research. Unfortunately, the Welsh universities have not kept pace with UK – let alone international – competitors in this regard. WISERD is attempting to remedy this situation. However, whilst such activities may be regarded as desirable, securing funding for them is difficult. The ESRC has made increasing funds available (on a competitive basis) over recent years for knowledge exchange and transfer activities and for some aspects of training and capacity building. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that the future funding basis for infrastructural initiatives of this kind is precarious.

Finally, it is important to recognise that the extent to which these research and strategic priorities can be delivered effectively in the coming period will be crucially

determined by developments in the 'political economy of research', as much as by purely intellectual considerations. Hence, as sketched out earlier (in Part 7), WISERD necessarily functions in a complex and multi-level policy context. It is extremely difficult to predict the extent to which this context will generate opportunities to pursue the strategic priorities that have been outlined here. Responding creatively to the opportunities that *do* arise will remain a significant part of WISERD's agenda during the next phase of its operation.

Annexes

Annex A: Research projects/ individual work strands.

In what follows, a brief account is provided of the activities undertaken within each of WISERD's four Programmes. The focus is on work that has been funded directly funded from the ESRC/HEFCW core grants. However, in all areas, WISERD researchers have been successful in securing further external grant funding. These latter projects are listed and are subject to separate reporting to their funders.

Programme 1: Data Integration and Management
Co-Directors: Professor David Blackaby (Swansea); Professor Gary Higgs (Glamorgan).

Aims and objectives
The initial purpose of the programme was to bring together, integrate and make more usable the wide range of existing data and data sets that relate to Wales. Key research objectives included:

- To create a data-rich, searchable meta-database of quantitative and qualitative data sources, based on a GIS framework;
- To investigate issues relating to ethics, data disclosure, sensitivity and robustness with regard to using the data in substantive social science research;
- To provide a substantial framework for the investigation, development and promotion of mixed methods research, teaching and learning.
- To construct a qualitative GIS framework and explore methods of integrating and managing qualitative data across different dimensions (location, time, theme etc);
- To develop research-capacity related to the use of these data and engage and be sympathetic to the requirements of stakeholders interested in evidence based policy.

The programme was developed to include a bespoke quantitative methods element. This recognised the need to enhance the quantitative research base of the social science community in Wales (as set out in the ESRC/HEFCW *Scoping Study*, 2007). The principal objectives here included:

- To develop a sustainable increase in the quantitative research base across the social sciences in Wales.

Major Project Results and impacts achieved and/or potential for impact

WISERD Geo-portal

Co-ordinators: Professor Gary Higgs (Glamorgan); Dr Scott Orford (Cardiff)

Principal Researchers: Dr Robert Berry (Glamorgan); Dr Richard Fry (Glamorgan); Sam Jones (Cardiff).

The Geo-Portal provides internationally recognised standards-based enhanced meta-data for a comprehensive range of quantitative and qualitative data sources relating to, but not restricted to, Wales. The tools developed allow researchers to search by keyword, theme or spatial location. The portal enables access to detailed question level and response meta-data on a variety of different socio-economic datasets. It enables users to pool data sources and examine the geographies of response data.

Moreover, the standards based approach to metadata creation allows interoperability with other data holders such as the UKDA, ESDS, Welsh Government and EDINA.

The metadata database has the potential to be published via a number of different mechanisms, allowing stakeholders and data repositories to consume and mash-up the metadata as required, thus complementing the current UK data infrastructure. Further to this, the WISERD Geo-Portal has the ability to consume data feeds and outputs, thereby negating the need for replication of metadata held within other repositories (for example, Welsh Government, UKDA, and ESDS) and allowing the discovery and analysis of comparative data at UK level. The WISERD approach to data inter-operability firmly aligns the Geo-Portal with UK Government and the ESRC's objectives regarding Open Data and data re-use. The Geo-Portal also has a strong resonance with other geospatial data initiatives in the UK. For instance, the UK Data Archive's current U.Geo Project, which aims to enhance the geospatial potential of national survey data and JISC's current GeoSpatial programme of funded work. Such is the interest in the Geo-Portal outside of Wales that WISERD was invited to demonstrate its capabilities in a recent UKDA/EDINA workshop and JISC-convened meeting.

The Geo-Portal has the potential to become an invaluable resource for social science research in and on Wales, and will demonstrate significant impacts at economic, social policy and practice levels, as well as being an important tool for capacity building. WISERD has presented the Geo-Portal at various events such as the WG; AGI Cymru; JISC geospatial un-conference; FOSS4G Denver 2011; Wales Statistical Liaison Committee.

Future plans involve continued technical development of the WISERD Geo-Portal to improve and develop functionality and usability. This development process will be driven by engaging with the user communities and experts within the field to realise its potential as a user-friendly data catalogue and analysis tool, providing enhanced meta-data for socio-economic data. Follow On funding has recently been obtained from ESRC to support these developments.

Additional Funding

- *Developing a Data Discovery and Sharing Infrastructure for Quantitative and Qualitative Socio-economic Data via the WISERD GeoPortal*; £79,948; ESRC.

Qualitative Methods Research

Significant methodological work in this area has been carried out through the ethnographic studies that are reported in Programme 2 Knowing Localities. In particular, these have provided vehicles for the application and development of approaches to combining multi-modal data. In addition, they have explored novel approaches to participatory research, especially with social groups which are regarded as very difficult to engage in social research. Another important area of work here has been the development of Qualitative GIS.

Qualitative GIS

Co-ordinator: Dr Scott Orford (Cardiff)

Principal Researchers: Dr. Stephen Burgess (Cardiff); Dr Robert Berry (Glamorgan); Dr Richard Fry (Glamorgan).

The project addresses the potentially innovative integration of qualitative methodological approaches, data types and analytical strategies. It has included work on developing, evaluating and disseminating mobile approaches to qualitative research practice and generating new approaches for the recording, display and dissemination of complex qualitative datasets both through Qualitative GIS (QGIS). QGIS is an emerging field and the nascent literature points to ways of using GIS technology to capture local knowledge and provide a better understanding of people's everyday lives. QGIS accomplishes this by incorporating non-numerical data into GIS, which may include digital images, video, sound, sketches and text.

QGIS is inherently a mixed methods approach and the analysis of these types of data within a spatial framework can provide insights into people's perceptions, preferences and values and how these play out and interact locally. WISERD has developed a QGIS community in the UK and has established important collaborative links with key US researchers, such as Mei-Po Kwan, Matthew W. Wilson and Marianna Pavlovskaya. In August 2010, WISERD organised the UK's first International Qualitative GIS conference, to explore some of the theoretical and methodological challenges in moving Qualitative GIS forward; to consider the possibility of an international and collaborative research agenda and working group for Qualitative GIS; and to work towards new and shared outputs related to this research agenda. This was followed up by a Qualitative GIS session at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in Seattle in 2011 and a one and a half day symposium at the AAG in New York in 2012.

Work is currently ongoing on developing theoretical, methodological and technical aspects to mapping and undertaking spatial analysis of interview transcripts. This involves work on privacy, anonymity and geographical disclosure in relation to the content of transcripts; work on semi-automated geo-parsing and geo-tagging transcripts; work on 'visual gisting' including geo-visualization of transcripts in terms of maps, word clouds and descriptive summaries; and software developed based on repurposing Geo-Portal components. Key organisations such as EDINA; UKDA QUALIDATA; Cardiff On-line Social Media Observatory; and Digital Humanities at Lancaster are engaged with this programme. Future plans, for which funding is currently being sought, will involve infrastructure development (for example on-line software) and the creation of exemplars and training materials in relation to QGIS and textual data as well as further methodological developments around developing mapping and textual metrics as well as issues of ethics and anonymity.

Mixed Methods Research

In addition to the development of the Geo-Portal, WISERD researchers have undertaken a number of smaller projects aimed at contributing to the development of mixed methods approaches. Clearly, work that is reported in Programme 2 Knowing Localities has been significant here. In particular, the Localities studies critically examined the relationships between secondary quantitative data about the areas, their designations in terms of government policies and the ways that the localities were constructed by 'urban managers' and other social groups. However, there have been a few projects which have focused directly on methodological issues. For example:

Bio-Mapping Project

Researchers: Dr. Jon Anderson (Cardiff); Dr. Chris Taylor (Cardiff)

This project uses state-of-the-art galvanic skin response units alongside geographical positioning technology to map (bio)-physical records of individuals' interactions with their environment. Successful trialling work has been carried out; and results have been presented at a number of conferences, including the annual meeting of the RGS/IBG in 2011, not least in the form of a video.

However, it should be acknowledged that further work – not least of a conceptual kind - is required to develop a more systematic basis for quantitative and qualitative data integration. Initial work of this kind has been undertaken through, for example, collaborative research with the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) and the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) that has combined data from semi-structured interviews with quantitative data from the National Child Development Study (NCDS) surveys for samples of NCDS respondents in England, Scotland and Wales.

- *NCDS Social Participation Project*; £34,000; Welsh Government; Professor Huw Beynon (Cardiff).

WISERD Education (ongoing)

Co-ordinator: Professor Sally Power

Researchers: Rhys Davies; Sam Jones; Professor Gareth Rees; Dr. Chris Taylor (all Cardiff).

This major new initiative will contribute significantly to the development of mixed methods approaches, as well as to the analysis of issues related to educational opportunities and provision. WISERD Education will involve data integration in relation to administrative data and with the Millennium Cohort Study. It will also involve the collection of longitudinal data relating to cohorts of pupils, as well as schools. This will involve a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data. The intention is to create a rich resource for researchers concerned with educational issues in Wales. The project begins on 1 July 2012.

Funding

- *WISERD Education*; £934,904; HEFCW.

Quantitative Research

Co-ordinator: Professor David Blackaby (Swansea)

Principal Researchers*:* Rhys Davies (Cardiff); Dr Stephen Drinkwater (Swansea); Mamata Parhi (Swansea); Professor Gareth Rees (Hub); Dr. Kate Robinson (Swansea); Dr. Dr. Chris Taylor (Cardiff); Dr. Yvonne Tommis (Bangor).

Research in this area has focused on both methodological developments, especially related to data management and integration, and also the *application* of advanced quantitative techniques in substantive research projects. In terms of data

management, the focus has been on contributing materially to the Welsh Government's development of a national data strategy for Wales, which has involved significant collaborative work (not least with the HIRU at Swansea University, where the potential applications associated with its SAIL data-base have been central).

Each of the research projects carried out under this theme was externally funded, from grants secured by WISERD researchers (additional to core funding from ESRC and HEFCW). Accordingly, a list of the projects relating to data management is given below. Details of substantive projects, with significant quantitative applications, are given in Programme 3 Policy Analysis and Evaluation.

Additional Funding

- *ESRC/Welsh Government Placement Fellowship: feasibility study for the establishment of a 100 per cent Sample Welsh Longitudinal Study* (ongoing); £30,000; ESRC.
- *Research Fellowship: Growing Up in 21st. Century Britain: spatial analysis of the MCS* (ongoing); £108,713; ESRC.
- *Evaluation of the 2006-2011 Census Programme*; £39,706; ESRC.

Programme 2: Knowing Localities

Co-Directors: Professor Amanda Coffey (Cardiff); Professor Martin Jones (Aberystwyth)

The research activities under this theme were organised under two, related strands, divided into projects: locality studies; and local knowledge in context.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the Localities studies strand was to conduct in-depth qualitative research in contrasting localities ('laboratories'), chosen as exemplars of different types of setting in Wales (related to the Wales Spatial Plan Sub-Regions and micro-localities therein). The programme aimed to bring together and integrate these with available quantitative and GIS data for the localities in question. Additionally the intention was to experiment with and evaluate innovative qualitative methods in the context of locality research and establish a 'public policy forum' in each locality. Key research objectives were to:

- gain insights into how stakeholders come to 'know' locality;
- develop understandings of the complex links between varying levels of economic activity, prospects for economic growth, education, community participation, health, social care, safety, mobility and the transformation of social capital and the local environment;
- assess the social and economic potential for positive community-led developments, opportunities for participation and regeneration in the contexts of continued economic vulnerability, uneven development and risk; and
- build transferable models of these relationships that begin to bridge the gaps between the current state of residential environments and the actions and policies that are designed to promote citizenship and encourage community sustainability, focusing especially on how the social capital of the locality provides

a base resource both for promoting local change and for achieving effective input into national political life.

The Local knowledge in context strand had the following key research objectives:

- to explore the articulations between place, 'local knowledges' and their representation;
- to explore relationships between these 'local knowledges' and the wider context of economic disadvantage, regeneration and changing policy structures;
- To exemplify how multi-modal and multi-sensory methods can be used to generate significant new insights into the structuring of local knowledges.

Results and impacts achieved and/or potential for impact

Locality Studies

Co-ordinators: Professor Martin Jones (Aberystwyth); Dr. Bella Dicks (Cardiff)

Principal Researchers: Dr Stephen Burgess (Cardiff); Dr Jesse Heley (Aberystwyth); Dr Laura Jones (Aberystwyth); Dr Robin Mann (Bangor); Dr Kate Moles (Cardiff); Dr Alex Plows (Bangor); Dr Suzie Watkin (Aberystwyth).

Firstly, the team collated and interrogated published secondary data relevant to each of the three case study areas: 'Central and West Coast' (loosely based on the 'Central Wales' region); the 'North Wales' (the A55 transport corridor); and the 'Heads of the Valleys' (territorially defined in terms of a regeneration initiative), producing baseline audits. These three baseline audits investigated the material coherence of the three localities, which included information on the scale, remit and boundaries of local authorities and other governmental agencies; the territories and provisions of economic development designations; the pattern and focus of strategic and policy delivery partnerships; and the fit of statistical units used to approximate socio-economic dynamics, such as travel-to-work areas.

Next, 138 semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders working in a variety of public and private organizations, and across the eight broader policy areas of: health, wellbeing and social care; education and young people; language, citizenship and identity; employment and training; economic development and regeneration; crime, public space and policing; housing and transport; and environment, tourism and leisure. The interview programme examined the significance of institutional geographies in shaping practice and explored perceptions of imagined coherence; and brought attention to the varied narratives of engagement and day-to-day geographies employed by service providers working in each of the three case study areas.

WISERD's work on 'new localities' represents a significant academic contribution. The research demonstrates how locality is a meaningful concept in social and economic research, and how this concept can be employed as a window on the territories, places, scales and networks to which people refer in their everyday lives in order to make sense of their practices and relations in space. The 'new localities' approach focused attention on processes of 'locality-making': the ways in which semi-stabilized and popularly-recognized representations of locality are brought into being through the moulding, manipulation and sedimentation of space within ongoing social, economic and political struggles. Through 'acts of locality-making', localities are transformed from mere points of location (a description of where research was

conducted) to socio-economic-political 'intersections' that provide an analytical framework for research. In addition to its academic contribution, it was also recognised that the project had the potential to have significant impact at a policy level, with a number of meetings organised with the Welsh Government to ensure policy engagement.

On the basis of these interviews, researchers identified a number of more specific topics, through which the 'everyday geographies' of different social groups were expressed. The emphasis here was on 'ordinary citizens' in their local contexts. Studies here included: Older People's Connected Rural Lives; The British Military in the South Wales Valleys; Heads of the Valleys Boundaries; and Responses to Redundancy at Anglesey Aluminium: Narratives of Transition.

Additional Funding

- *An Evaluation of the Women's Turnaround Project*; £15,000; National Offender Management Service Wales; Dr. Alex Plows (Bangor)
- *Evaluation of the Accommodation needs of Rough Sleepers on Anglesey*; £500; Anglesey Council: Dr. Alex Plows (Bangor)
- *NCDS Social Participation Project*; £34,000; Welsh Government; Professor Huw Beynon (Cardiff).

Local Knowledge in Context

Co-ordinator: Professor Amanda Coffey (Cardiff)

Principal Researchers: Dr Heike Doring; Dr Rebecca Edwards; Dr Tom Hall; Dr Sally Holland; Dr Gabrielle Ivinson; Dr Marianne Martsin; Dr Emma Renold; Dr Robin Smith; Dr Stuart Tannock (all Cardiff).

This project involved a series of three ethnographic studies of micro-locales which explored the articulations between place, 'local knowledges' and their representation, and the wider context of economic disadvantage, regeneration and changing policy structures. In addition to their substantive results, they have also exemplified how multi-modal and multi-sensory methods can be used to generate significant new insights into the structuring of local knowledges. They have also developed approaches to working collaboratively with research respondents, who have hitherto been seen as difficult to engage in research projects.

Safeguarding Children and Young People in Local Communities: This project was set within the context of the safeguarding children policy agenda, particularly the notion that child protection is 'everybody's business'. The research aimed to explore everyday safeguarding of children at neighbourhood level, including how safeguarding is seen, experienced and carried out by residents, community leaders and professionals. The project took place in two neighbourhoods in the South Wales valleys. The researchers were interested in how parents made decisions about their own children's safety, how children and young people experienced risks and safety in their area and how residents of all ages cared for or about other people's children in their neighbourhood. The methodology involved interviews with residents, community and youth workers, police officers, social workers and teachers. Some participants also took researchers on walking or driving tours of their neighbourhood and a few took photographs or kept diaries about safeguarding children in their area.

In terms of findings, other residents, community sector workers and teachers were the most important sources of advice and help with keeping children safe. Local authority children's services were seen as distant and unpredictable, but ultimately important for extreme cases. The more economically marginalised neighbourhood studied was seen by some outsiders and a few of its own residents as presenting risks to children, but it had three important advantages that were seen as missing in the more affluent neighbourhood. These were: the strength of its community provision (much of it initiated by residents); the open layout of the estate which encouraged children to play outdoors in shared spaces; and the levels of communication between neighbours which led to a willingness to look out for and intervene with other people's children. The project has led to the publication of a number of papers in high-quality peer reviewed journals and a number of conference presentations. In addition, the project was of significant policy relevance, with presentations given to local and national organisations including the NSPCC.

Young People and Place: The aims of this project were: to explore the ways in which young people understand the different places within their locality, and the ways in which these define their pasts, presents and futures; to generate innovative mobile and participatory methodological approaches to research everyday use and negotiations of their localities; to produce new multi-modal longitudinal data *with* young people living in localities experiencing transitions due to de-industrialization in the representation of their everyday lives, cultures, identities practices and fantasies; to disseminate methodological, theoretical and empirical knowledge to inform children's policy and practice in areas such as education, youth work, social health, community development, public planning and children's rights; and to contribute to new theoretical synergies in conceptualising the relationship between locality, space and young classed and gendered subjectivities.

The team worked with individuals and groups of young people in a small town setting in the South Wales Valleys. Over 60 young people were accessed via local secondary schools and youth work settings. A range of ethnographic methods were employed to generate multi-modal data representing the various geographies of young people's appropriation and negotiation of local spaces. An iterative research design was used that allowed appropriate and innovative research instruments to be designed as the ethnography took place. The fieldwork produced a range of data forms (visual, material, aural, oral, digital and textual) and types (diaries, photographs/films, interviews, field-notes, collages, mental maps).

Findings from the project were extensive. Overall it was found that young people (aged 13-16) in the area do not lack aspirations and want to achieve and find jobs. They recognised and valued practices and roles, some of which were gendered, relating to the industrial past, yet carried them forward in transformed ways. There were few and a declining number of public spaces dedicated to young people. Some, especially boys, made strong use of the countryside and developed a range of skills relating to bikes and animal husbandry. By the age of 13 girls were less involved in physical, outdoor activities than boys. Many expressed a strong sense of being connected to the place and being embedded in family networks. While this creates a sense of security and belonging, it also creates challenges for young people who have to find new ways to imagine themselves forward. There were few opportunities to explore alternative, non-traditional ways of being other than through virtual media.

In terms of outputs, the project has produced a number of publications for high-quality peer reviewed journals and conference presentations. In addition, the project

had significant impact at local and policy level, leading to the establishment of long-term research relationships and also the development of a National Assembly cross-party group on 'Childhood, Sexuality, Sexualisation and Equalities'.

Local Knowledge, Spatial Practice and Urban Patrol: This project was a field study, based in the centre of Cardiff. The research analysed local people's knowledge of place. The empirical focus of the project was on various activities of patrol – police patrol, street cleaning and street-outreach work with the homeless, for example – each of which has to operate according to its own specific and expert knowledge of place. Sustained observational work over a period of two years enabled the team to build up a detailed understanding of the ways in which these different patrols operate and the particular geographies they entail. The research also made use of GPS route mapping to chart the different paths along which these patrols operate, in order to better understand and visualise the ways in which these routes relate to the specific requirements of different professional practices (police patrols know the city one way, according to the job they are trying to do; street cleaners know it another way, again according to their work priorities, and so on). This mapping exercise, combined with the observational data, allowed the team to contribute to: ideas about local knowledge – what it is and how it is arrived at, particularly ideas about the relationships between place-knowledge and movement; social sciences methods for the capturing and representing (for research purposes) of knowledge of place and local mobility; arguments about the politics of public space, urban regeneration and social exclusion.

In terms of outputs, the project has led to the publication of a number of journal articles and conference presentations as well as a forthcoming monograph.

Additional Funding

- *By us, With us, About us: A children and young people's festival of participation in research*; £2000; ESRC Festival of Social Science
- *Sounding the Way: Audio Walking in Cardiff's Urban Neighbourhoods*; £8000; Beacon for Wales

Programme 3: Policy Analysis and Evaluation

Co-Directors: Professor David Blackaby (Swansea); Professor Amanda Coffey and subsequently Professor Sally Power (both Cardiff).

Aims and objectives

The aim of this theme was to provide leadership in maximising the relevance and impact of WISERD's research activities on public policy in Wales and elsewhere. There were two distinct strands of work within the theme:

- Developing and implementing mixed research methods for the rigorous evaluation of complex policy interventions;
- Comparative policy analysis.

Major Project Results and impacts achieved and/or potential for impact

The strong relevance of all of WISERD's research for the development of policy means that almost all of its activities and outputs are significant for policy analysis and evaluation. There are strong links, in particular, with Programme 1: Data Integration and Management. In what follows, the focus will be on those activities which have led to the development of methodological 'tools' for policy analysis and evaluation; and those which involve substantive comparative policy analysis.

The development of methodological 'tools' for policy analysis

Because of its inter-institutional structure, WISERD has been able to draw upon and integrate a wide range of disciplinary and methodological expertise to develop approaches to policy analysis and evaluation. These are not only of benefit to the academic research community, but are also of potential benefit to policy-makers and other key stakeholders.

GIS-based Accessibility Research

Co-ordinator: Professor Gary Higgs (Glamorgan)

Principal Researchers: Dr. Richard Fry; Dr. Mitch Langford (both Glamorgan)

A major area of methodological innovation has involved the development and application of novel accessibility models to public services in Wales. Firstly, GIS has been used to calculate 'traditional' accessibility metrics to service level data held as (point) feature data-bases (in a commercial GIS package). This has been used to evaluate the effects of changes in the provision of public services, as, for example, in a study of the implications of the Post Office Network Change Programme. Secondly, research has compared trends in access to services – to date, primary health-care, access to green spaces, public transport and post office provision – in relation to socio-economic data, such as deprivation measures and geo-demographic classifications. This has highlighted the importance of integrating attribute data on service provision and potential population demand with GIS-based network models. Thirdly, methodological research has enhanced existing approaches to measuring accessibility based on so-called 'floating catchment' techniques to include a measure of access to public transport opportunities and service frequency. Future research

will integrate qualitative data on actual experiences of and preferences for services into these models of potential accessibility.

Policy Evaluation Studies

Principal Researchers: Professor David Blackaby (Swansea); Rhys Davies (Cardiff); Professor Phil Murphy (Swansea); Professor Sally Power (Cardiff); Professor Gareth Rees (Hub); Dr. Chris Taylor (Cardiff); Dr. Sam Waldron (Cardiff); Dr. Clair Wilkins (Cardiff).

Policy evaluation has been a particular focus for advanced methodological applications. In this context, collaboration between WISERD and DECIPHer (a Public Health Research Centre of Excellence, based at Cardiff, Bristol and Swansea and funded by the UK Clinical Research Collaboration) has proved especially fruitful. Of particular interest here has been the development of highly sophisticated approaches to mixed methods research design, drawing on the experience of applications in relation to health and applying them to other areas of social policy provision. The most notable example here is provided by a very major evaluation study of the Welsh Government's Foundation Phase.

- *Evaluation of the Welsh Government's Foundation Phase*; £986,497; Welsh Government (ongoing).

Other evaluation studies have also produced significant methodological innovations. A notable example here is provided by the evaluation of ESF Leavers, especially in relation to the application of statistical matching techniques to generate comparator samples.

- *2009 ESF Leavers Survey*; £250,000; Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).
- *2010 ESF Leavers Survey*; £224,010; Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).
- *ESF Leavers Survey: Extension of Analysis;* £14,353; Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) (ongoing).

A number of other policy evaluation studies have also been conducted. These all involve the *application* of sophisticated methodological approaches, sometimes in novel contexts.

- *Analysis of the Correlates of Self Reported Work Related Illness in the Labour Force Survey*; £25,000; Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- *Change in Alcohol Outlet Density and Alcohol-related Harm to Population Health*; £416,136; National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (ongoing).
- *Student Progression and Outcomes at Cardiff University: The Effects of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification and Residence in Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods*; £3500; Cardiff University
- *The Relationship between the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma and Higher Education*; £24,828; Welsh Government (ongoing).

Comparative policy analysis

Co-ordinators: Professor David Blackaby (Swansea); Professor Paul Furlong (Cardiff)

Principal Researchers: Professor Huw Beynon (Hub); Professor Alasdair Cole (Cardiff); Rhys Davies (Cardiff); Dr Stephen Drinkwater (Swansea); Dr. Melanie

Jones (Swansea); Professor Phil Murphy (Swansea); Dr. Robin Mann (Bangor); Dr Mamata Parhi (Swansea); Professor Sally Power (Cardiff); Dr Kate Robinson (Swansea); Dr. Ian Stafford (Cardiff); Dr. Yvonne Tommis (Bangor); Professor Dan Wincott (Cardiff); Professor Richard Wyn Jones (Cardiff).

WISERD has undertaken comparative policy analysis along a number of dimensions. Some work here has focussed on impacts on the policy process itself. For example:

Devolution and the Welsh Civil Service

Researchers: Professor Alistair Cole (Cardiff); Dr. Ian Stafford (Cardiff).

This important study is the first to investigate the ways in which senior civil servants within the (then) Welsh Assembly Government have responded to parliamentary devolution since 1999. This work has also explored the relationships between changes in European Union policy and Welsh governance.

There has also been research on the impacts of devolution on particular 'policy communities'; most notably here in the fields of transport (Dr. Ian Stafford (Cardiff)) and education (and higher education, in particular) (Professor Sally Power (Cardiff); Professor Gareth Rees (Hub); Dr. Chris Taylor (Cardiff)).

Other studies have sought to understand how parliamentary devolution has altered the economic and social landscape of Wales. Of particular significance here has been a series of projects that have sought to examine the impacts of changed economic circumstances on Wales, within the context of devolved governance. Research undertaken within this theme has focused on both the secondary analysis of existing large national data sets, and on new data produced by WISERD. Intra-national comparisons within Wales have been an important element of this work. More generally, there has been a focus on equality issues, which have assumed a special significance in the light of recent legislative changes in Wales. These projects have been externally funded, including:

- *A Living Wage in Wales*; £87,000; Welsh Government.
- *Unlocking the Potential of the Welsh Labour Force Survey: An Investigation into Labour Market Transitions in Wales*; £19,700; Welsh Government.
- *Exporting Activity and Productivity in Wales: A Micro-economic Analysis*; £19,650; Welsh Government.
- *Gender Pay Gap in Wales*; £9,950; Equality and Human Rights Commission
- *Understanding the Role of ICT Use in Connectivity of Minority Communities in Wales*; £32,420; Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

WISERD has also undertaken analyses across the four 'home nations' to illuminate the complex ways in which political change impacts on economic and social dynamics within and between different contexts. Of particular importance here has been the Wales boost to the Employment and Skills Survey.

Employment and Skills Survey (ongoing)

Researchers: Rhys Davies; Professor Alan Felstead (both Cardiff)

This study enabled the boosting of the Skills and Employment Survey 2012, yielding a sample of 589 interviews. These results are placed alongside those from the Skills

Survey 2006 which also contained a Welsh boost and produced interviews with 407 respondents. Initial reporting from the survey explains how several different aspects of skills and the quality of employment can be measured using surveys which ask workers to report on their experiences of work. The study also examines how these experiences differ between particular groups of worker and how they have changed over the last six years. This provides a unique insight into the impact that the prolonged economic downturn is having on the working lives of the people of Wales. Preliminary results have recently become available; and analysis is continuing.

Studies have been completed on other aspects of regional economic inequality too, examining widening regional economic inequality in the UK, based on time series analysis of employment, earnings, productivity and income data. Joint research projects with the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) have also been developed, including projects on spillovers from intangible assets in the UK and contributions to productivity growth in the UK. Projects here have included:

- *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales*; £20,000; Equality & Human Rights Commission.
- *Building Evidence on High Growth Firms, Firm Dynamics and Productivity Growth*; £78,000; NESTA.
- *Economic Performance*; £46,000; UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES).

Other work of this kind has examined further dimensions of comparison across the UK. Of particular note here has been innovative mixed methods research on:

Sources of Variation in Trade Union Membership Across the UK

Researchers: Professor Huw Beynon; Rhys Davies; Steve Davies (all Cardiff).

This study has produced an innovative analysis which has developed new ideas on the determinants of trade union membership that focus on the influence of family and community social relations, in addition to the more familiar factors, such industry structure and so forth.

There have also been studies of:

- *Young People and Housing: Identifying Policy Challenges for 2020*; £119,137; Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- *Public Sentiments towards Immigrants and Minorities: the Difference that Wales Makes?*; £16,483; Welsh Government New Ideas Fund.
- *Stay, Leave or Return? Understanding Welsh Graduate Mobility,* joint project funded through SKOPE.

It has been seen as important to place the issues facing Wales into an international context, so as to be able to judge the relative severity of problems, and to learn and benefit from policies implemented elsewhere. Clearly, the European Union has provided an important framework here. A key element in this work has involved evaluating the effects of European funding on Wales and considering how Wales may optimise the benefits from such funding. The ESF Leavers Surveys have been important here (see above). In addition, the following projects have been completed:

- *ERDF Business Survey*; £92,976; Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).

- *Mid Programme Evaluation of the Customer Engagement EU project*; £3,390; Old Bell 3 Ltd.

Very important work has also been carried out on labour migration within the expanded European Union. In the context of a wider Europe-wide study, WISERD's contribution has focused on patterns of Polish migration within England and Wales, focusing on the economic impacts of labour migration. This has complemented more local studies of this phenomenon.

- *TEMPO - Migration amongst Polish Migrants in England and Wales*; £103,063; New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe (NORFACE).
- *Migrant Workers in the East Midlands Labour Market in 2009*; £4,220; East Midlands Development Agency.

Other studies that have focused on the wider, international context include:

- *Quality of Life in Ethnic Neighbourhoods in Europe*; £35,000; European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.
- *Analysis of the Correlates of Self Reported Work Related Illness in the Labour Force Survey;* £25,000; Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- *Intangibles: a Literature Review*; £17,500; Department for Trade and Industry.

Programme 4: Capacity Building, Training and Networking

Co-ordinators: Professor Amanda Coffey (Cardiff) and subsequently Professor Howard Davis (Bangor).

Aims and objectives

This programme aimed to implement a range of research-capacity building, ranging across qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research. It has emphasized quantitative skills development, in response to the ESRC/HEFCW scoping study, *Quantitative Methods Capacity Building in Wales*. The latter was taken to involve the provision of training on utilising existing large micro-data sets, as well as the statistical techniques relevant to the analysis of these data. The research projects undertaken by WISERD were intended to provide a 'live' context for the development of these capacity building activities. It was also recognised that it was important to establish close working relationships with other providers of capacity building across the UK, including, *inter alia*, the NCRM and AQMeN.

This Programme also aimed to develop a robust system of knowledge exchange and transfer that could facilitate networking between social science researchers and a range of potential research 'users', particularly within Wales, but also across the UK and more widely.

Results and impacts achieved and/or potential for impact

Capacity Building

Researchers: All WISERD researchers have been required to contribute to capacity building activities.

WISERD's training programme has combined a number of different approaches to further its aim of building capacity within the social sciences in Wales. During the funding period, WISERD has organised a total of 138 seminars, training courses and conferences. In addition, WISERD has also developed an e-learning infrastructure.

In terms of the scope of its training programme, WISERD has developed training courses in statistical techniques, ranging from the foundational level (for example, Quantitative Techniques for Qualitative Researchers) to more advanced levels (for example, Introduction to structural equation modelling, using MPlus; Multi-level modelling, using MWin; Social network analysis via UCINET and NETDRAW; Multi-dimensional Scaling). Most recently ESRC funding has been made available to fund workshops on the development of the teaching of quantitative methods to undergraduate students.

A substantial number of courses have also dealt with GIS applications, including Qualitative GIS. There has also been significant investment in training provision relating to the nature and use of secondary data sources, with special reference to those relating to Wales.

Finally, a large number of workshops have explored the uses of qualitative research methods, covering topics such as: grounded theory; multi-modal methods; narrative

and mixed methods; research with children and young people; mobile methods; using visual media to communicate research.

In total, WISERD delivered 41 training workshops across Wales during the funding period, attracting in excess of 350 participants. A review of the WISERD capacity building programme was commissioned during 2012. The review concluded that the overwhelming majority of those participants in the training and development activities that were interviewed reported attitudinal change, increased skill level and behavioural change. The review recommended that WISERD continue building upon the success achieved so far with regards to capacity building, by focusing on what has worked well to date and building on that. A copy of the review can be downloaded from the WISERD website.

In addition to the training workshops, WISERD organised a large number of seminars across Wales, to stimulate inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional discussion and collaboration on addressing key research themes. A total of 84 seminars were organised during the funding period. The programme included Wales-focused events, such as *Regional Inequalities in Wales and the Recession*; UK wide events, such as *How Diverse is the UK?*; and events pitched at the European level, such as *Legal Guardianship in Continental Europe - A Comparative Approach*. Seminars were well attended and the decision to hold them across Wales, often organised in collaboration with university schools and centres, ensured that WISERD was able to reach and engage a wider range of colleagues than participated in other WISERD activities.

Building on the success of the seminar programme, WISERD organised a series of two-day conferences in June 2010; June 2011 and March 2012. In keeping with WISERD's all-Wales remit, the conferences were held across Wales in the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University; Sketty Hall, Swansea; and the Management Centre, Bangor University. The conferences were focused around themes relevant to social science research and policy concerns in Wales and further afield. The titles of the conferences were: *Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy* (2010); *Changing Wales: Social, Economic and Political Perspectives* (2011); and *WISERD 2012: Devolution, Place and Change* (2012). Attendance was good with 99 attendees in 2010; 142 attendees in 2011 and 101 attendees in 2012. Feedback from the conferences was also overwhelmingly positive and further events are planned in the future.

In developing both the training programme and the seminar programme, WISERD has carried out significant work on developing collaborations with cognate organisations. It has developed especially strong links with a number of organisations, including the National Centre for Research Methods, with which a formal Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed and joint activities undertaken. In addition, collaborative events have also been organised with the Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMEN); the Centre for Excellence in Regeneration Wales (CREW) and the Institute of Education at the University of London.

In addition to provision of training courses, conferences and seminars, WISERD also sought to establish an infrastructure in preparation for the development of e-learning activities during its second phase. This led to the establishment of the WISERD Learning Environment (WLE) (http://www.wiserd.glam.ac.uk/tcb/). The WLE was set up for use by course attendees and provided them with the opportunity to access materials relating to the course and also to discuss the course and its outcomes with

fellow participants and the trainer. Take up has been positive and since June 2011 the WLE has received over 770 visits from over 600 unique visitors from 10 countries. It is planned that this work will be extended during WISERD's next phase, in collaboration with the Wales DTC.

Future plans also include the development of capacity building groups other than academic researchers. Clearly, the development of such 'translational' activity overlaps with, but also poses separate issues from the sort of capacity building in which WISERD has engaged so far. Certainly, it is expected that this new work will embrace not simply technical issues relating to the conduct of research, but also the commissioning of research and the relationships between research and policy and, in particular, professional practice. Activities of this kind play a significant part in WISERD Education (see above) and also in a new project commissioned by NISCHR (led by WISERD at Bangor University and including major inputs from Cardiff and Swansea Universities too):

- *All Wales Academic Social Care Research Collaboration*; £792,311; Welsh Government.

Further work of this kind is also currently being planned, to work with professionals in higher education, who have responsibility for the implementation of widening access programmes (to be funded by HEFCW).

Knowledge exchange: maximising impact

A key part of WISERD's agenda has been to ensure that its research activities contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of Wales. To facilitate this, WISERD has developed a dedicated knowledge exchange and transfer programme. This has included the development of:

Thematic Networks: WISERD set up eight *Thematic Networks*, each of which was focused on a particular policy theme: health, wellbeing and social care; housing; transport; economic development and regeneration; environment, tourism and leisure; employment, skills and training; language, citizenship and identity; and crime, public space and policing. These networks brought together academic and non-academic researchers with colleagues from the public, private and third sectors. The networks provided informal forums for the development of inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary working and, where membership was drawn from other sectors, were also be an important mechanism for engaging with policy makers and practitioners.

An internal review conducted in 2011 identified the following positive outcomes deriving from the Networks overall: collaborative research projects (not all of which are attributed to WISERD); peer review of emergent findings; review of data availability and securing the release of data; publicising funding opportunities; and the organisation of conferences and seminars.

Research Projects: There has been regular collaboration with, and consultation of, stakeholder groups and policy-makers in the design, development and delivery of the WISERD research projects. Many of WISERD's research projects have involved extensive knowledge exchange and transfer activities. A substantial proportion has been funded by external organisations – including the Welsh Government and quasi-governmental bodies (such as the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the HEFCW, the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCR)) – with

the express purpose of informing the development of state policy. Some projects have involved a more thorough-going engagement with policy-related organisations, especially in the third sector. For example, a substantial project (funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation) on the implications for young people of changes in the housing market up until 2020 involved joint research with Shelter Cymru.

Collaboration projects: In addition to the knowledge exchange activities associated with research projects, WISERD has developed more generic initiatives. Collaborations with the Welsh Government have proved especially rewarding, although linkages with local government, as well as the third sector, have also been developed. Moreover, ESRC funding has provided key resources here, as, for example, in the recently funded series of Evidence Symposia, which will bring together researchers and policy-makers to review the nature of evidence in relation to major policy issues (as determined in consultation with the Welsh Government).

- *Evidence Symposia: Exploring the Evidence Base on Key Policy Themes*; £15,330; ESRC (ongoing).
- *Seminars on the Devolution of Tax and Borrowing Powers to Wales - Funding devolved government in Wales: challenges for the future*; £2,372; Welsh Government.

At the European level, WISERD hosts the Network of Experts on Social Aspects of Education and Training (NESET), which provides advice and support to the European Commission's Directorate General on Education and Culture, at the latter's request. This 'service contract' arrangement may provide an interesting model that could be replicated within the UK and Wales, more specifically.

- *Network of Experts on Social Aspects of Education and Training (NESET)*; €235,000 (per annum for 5 years); European Commission

WISERD has also sought to widen the scope of knowledge exchange. For example, in conjunction with the Wales Governance Centre, a seminar series is to be held during the next academic session, which will be focused on engaging *politicians* (Assembly Members, their advisors, etc.) with the research relating to policy issues in Wales. WISERD has also provided evidence to governmental groups and committees. These include the National Assembly Enterprise and Learning Committee, on unemployment and the recent recession; the Holtham Commission, on a needs-based funding formula for Wales; and the Welsh Affairs Select Committee, on inward investment to Wales.

More widely too, WISERD has contributed to debates about public policy issues within civil society, through its engagements with Think Tanks, as well as the print and broadcast media. In this context, the WISERD web-site, the newsletter *WISERD News* and, increasingly, social media, such as Twitter and Face-book, have played a significant role.

Annex B: Investment outputs

This section contains information on all the communication activities carried out by the investment, including publications, conferences, workshops and advisory roles.

Publications

Below is a list of publications produced by WISERD staff over the course of the WISERD project. This list includes all the relevant Research Reports; Policy Briefings; Methods Briefings; Data Resources; Working Papers; Books; Book Chapters; Journal Articles; and Reports produced by staff working for the project. Other communication activities listed below include conference papers presented, issues of *Qualitative Researcher* and *WISERD News* published to date and all WISERD-hosted workshops, seminars and annual conferences.

Publications	
Research reports	**10**
Policy briefings	**7**
Methods briefings	**4**
Data resources	**7**
Working Papers	**17**
Edited Books	**5**
Books	**3**
Book Chapters	**57**
Journal Issues	**2**
Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles	**122**
Other Journal Articles	**8**
Book Reviews	**8**
Reports	**18**
Media	**23**
Conference Papers	**145**

Research reports

2010

- Berry R, Higgs G, (2010) 'An evaluation of online GIS-based landscape and visual impact assessment tools and their potential for enhancing public participation: the example of wind farm planning in Wales', WISERD Research Reports Series

2011

- Davies R. et al (2011) 'An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales' WISERD Research Reports Series
- Davies R. et al (2011) 'The 2009 European Social Fund Leavers Survey' WISERD Research Reports Series
- Holland S, Tannock S, Evans R, (2011) 'Safeguarding children and young people in local communities: A WISERD Local Knowledge in Context project' WISERD Research Reports Series
- Mann R, (2011) 'Welsh Speakers and Welsh Language Provision in the Public Sector' WISERD Research Reports Series

2012

- Feilzer M, Plows A, Williams K, Yates J, (2012) 'An evaluation of the woman's turnaround service in North Wales' WISERD Research Reports Series
- Mann R, and Tommis, Y. (2012) 'Public sentiments towards immigration in Wales' WISERD Research Reports Series
- Miles A, (2012) 'The social participation and identity project in Wales' WISERD Research Reports Series
- Plows A, Lloyd Williams H, (2012) 'Responses to redundancy at Anglesey Aluminum' WISERD Research Reports Series
- Felstead A, Davies R (2012) 'Skills and the Quality of Work in Wales 2006-2012', WISERD Research Reports Series

Policy Briefings

2011

- Drinkwater S, Blackaby D, Murphy P, (2011) 'The Welsh Labour Market Following the Great Recession' WISERD Policy Briefing Series
- Parhi M, Robinson C, (2011) 'Knowledge-based Entrepreneurship and Innovation for a Prosperous Wales' WISERD Policy Briefing Series

2012

- Rees G, (2012) 'Combating Ignorance: Education, Social Opportunity and Citizenship in Wales', WISERD Policy Briefings Series
- Rees G, (2012) 'Education and the New Welsh Government: Understanding the Challenges', WISERD Policy Briefings Series
- Rees G (2012) 'PISA and the Politics of Welsh Education', WISERD Policy Briefings Series
- Rees, G, (2011), 'Can there be a Welsh higher education system?', WISERD Policy Briefings Series.
- Rees G, (2012) 'A crisis in Welsh education? New approaches in Harsh Times', WISERD Policy Briefings Series

Methods Briefings

2011

- Drinkwater S, Garapich M, (2011) 'Using Survey Data to Identify Migration Patterns', WISERD Methods Briefing Series
- Moles K, Saunders A, (2011) 'Audio Walks: The Purpose, Practice and Politics of Production', WISERD Methods Briefing Series

2012

- Coffey A, et al (2012) 'Anonymisation in Social Research', WISERD Methods Briefing Series
- Dicks B, (2012) 'Construction of the stakeholder matrix, planning and conduct of the interviews and analysis of the transcripts', WISERD Methods Briefing Series

Data Resources

2009

- Felstead A, (2009) 'Getting fitter for the job: Improving the quality of labour market information using individual level surveys', WISERD Data Resources Series

2011

- Davies R, Jones S, (2011) 'Quantitative research resources within the social sciences', WISERD Data Resources Series
- Drinkwater S, Garapich M, (2011) 'The TEMPO Survey of Recent Polish Migrants in England and Wales', WISERD Data Resources Series
- Ritchie F, (2011) 'International Access to Restricted Data – A Principles-Based Standards Approach', WISERD Data Resources Series
- Ritchie F, (2011) 'Disclosure control for regression outputs', WISERD Data Resources Series
- Ritchie F, (2011) 'Statistical disclosure detection and control in a research environment', WISERD Data Resources Series

2012

- Ritchie F, (2012) 'Access to sensitive data: satisfying objectives rather than constraints', WISERD Data Resources Series

Working Papers

2009

- Mann R, Khan HTA, Leeson GW, (2009) 'Age and gender differences in grandchildren's relationships with maternal grandfathers and grandmothers' *Oxford Institute of Ageing Working Paper Series* 209
- Moles, K. (2009) 'Narrating a national space' *Cardiff University School of Social Sciences Working Paper* 124
- Rothwell H, Burgess S, Townsend N, Pimm C, Shepherd, M. and Murphy, S. (2009) 'Review of the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes 2007-2008, *Cardiff University School of Social Sciences Working Paper* 137

2010

- Forth J, Harris R, Rincon Aznar A, Robinson C, (2010) 'The impact of the National Minimum Wage on productivity and competitiveness in the UK' *Swansea University Economics Discussion Paper Series* SBE-E-01
- Higgs G, Langford M, Fry R, (2010) 'The use of GIS-derived accessibility measures in mixed methods research: A research agenda' *WISERD Working Paper Series*
- Plows A, (2010) 'What is public engagement with human genetics and what is it for? Differentiating between policy, practice and 'social movement'.' *The Menai Papers, Bangor University School of School of Social Sciences Working Paper* 2010(1)
- Smith RJ, (2010) 'Whose Method is it Anyway? Researching space, setting and practice' *Cardiff School of Social Sciences Working Paper* 135

2011

- Bristow G, et. al. (2011) 'Stay, Leave or Return? Understanding Welsh Graduate Mobility' *WISERD Working Paper Series*
- Drinkwater S, (2011) 'Informal Care and Labour Market Outcomes Within England and Wales' *WISERD Working Paper Series*
- Mackay R, Davies L, Davies R, (2011) 'Devolution and Supporting the Poorest He' *WISERD Working Paper Series*
- Moles K, Saunders A, (2011) 'Audio Walks: The purpose, practice and politics of production' *WISERD Working Paper Series*
- Parhi M, (2011) 'Innovation in the Welsh Automotive Industry: Challenges and Strategies', *WISERD Working Paper Series*
- Plows A, Mann R, (2011) 'East, west and the bit in the middle: Localities in North Wales', *The Menai Papers*, *Bangor University School of School of Social Sciences Working Paper 2011(1)*
- Riley R, Robinson C, (2011) 'Agglomeration Spillovers from Intangible Capital: An analysis of UK City Regions', *Innodrive Working Paper Series*
- Riley R, Robinson C, (2011) 'UK Economic Performance: How Far do Intangibles Count?', *Innodrive Working Paper Series*
- Stafford I, (2011) 'The regional governance of transport policy in Wales: towards institutional decongestion?' *WISERD Working Paper Series*

2012

- Robinson C, Carey J, Blackaby D, (2012) 'Firm performance in Wales – An analysis of productivity using company accounts', *WISERD Working Paper Series*

Books (Edited)
2010
- Ivinson G, Davies B, Fitz J, (editors) (2010) *Knowledge and Identity: Concepts and applications in Bernstein's sociology*, Routledge, London

2011
- Martsin M, Wagoner B, Aveling EL, Kadinanaki I, Whittaker L, (editors) (2011) *Dialogicality in focus: Challenges to theory, method and application*, Nova Press, New York

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- Jones M, Orford S, (editors) (forthcoming 2012) *People/Places/Policy: Knowing Contemporary Wales*, Routledge

2013
- Smith R, Hetherington K, (editors) (forthcoming 2013) *Urban Rhythms: the socio-temporal organisation of the contemporary city*, Wiley-Blackwell
- Woods M, McDonagh J, Nienaber B, (editors) (forthcoming 2013) *Globalization and Rural Development in Europe*, Ashgate

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- Plows A, (2010) *Debating human genetics: contemporary issues in public policy and ethics*, Routledge, London
- Woods M, (2010) *Rural*, Routledge, London

2012

- Goodwin M, Jones M, Jones R, (2012) *Rescaling the State: Devolution and the Geographies of Economic Governance,* Manchester University Press

Book Chapters
2009

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- Davis H, (2009), Revisiting the concept of the public intellectual in *Intellectuals and their Publics* Ed(s) C Fleck, A Hess, ES Lyon, Ashgate, London
- Drinkwater S, Levine P, Lotti E, (2009), The Labour Market and Investment Effects of Remittances in *Development macroeconomics* Ed(s) S Ghatak, P Levine, Routledge, London
- Fenton S, Mann R, (2009), Introducing the majority to ethnicity: Do they like what they see? in *Citizenship Acquisition and National Belonging: Migration, Membership and the Liberal Demo* Ed(s) G Calder, J Seglow, P Cole, Palgrave, Houndmills
- Mishra T, Parhi M, (2009), Age-structured Human Capital Dynamics and Economic Growth: A Note on Interdependence, Coordination and Welfare in *Human Development: Dimensions and Strategies* Ed(s) H Rout, P K Panda, New Century Publications, New Delhi
- Moles K, (2009), Landscape of Memories: Layers of Meaning in a Dublin Park in *Heritage and Identity: Engagement and Demission in the Contemporary World (Museum Mea* Ed(s) M Anico, E Peralta, Routledge, London
- Woods M, (2009), The political economies of place in the emergent global countryside: Stories from rural Wales in *The Next Rural Economies: Constructing Rural Place in a Global Economy* Ed(s) G Halseth, S Markey, D Bruce, CABI, Wallingford
- Woods M, (2009) Rural Geography, in *International Encyclopaedia of Human Geography* Ed(s) R Kitchin and N Thrift, Elsevier
- Woods M, (2009) Rural Protest, in *International Encyclopaedia of Human Geography* Ed(s) R Kitchin and N Thrift, Elsevier
- Cheshire L, Woods M, (2009) Rural Citizenship and Governmentality, in *International Encyclopaedia of Human Geography,* Ed(s) R Kitchin and N Thrift, Elsevier

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- Davis H, Day G, Drakakis-Smith A, (2010), Attitudes to language and culture among English immigrants to north Wales in *Welsh in the Twenty-first Century* Ed(s) D Morris, University of Wales Press, Cardiff
- Day G, (2010), Place and Belonging in *Understanding Contemporary Wales* Ed(s) H Mackay, University of Wales Press, Wales
- Drinkwater S, (2010), Self-employment amongst ethnic and migrant groups in the United Kingdom in *Open for Business - Migrant Entrepreneurship in OECD Countries,* OECD, Paris
- Drinkwater S, Eade J, Garapich M, (2010), What's behind the Figures? An Investigation into Recent Polish Migration to the UK in *A Continent Moving West? EU Enlargement and labour Migration from Central and Eastern Europe* Ed(s) R Black, M Engbersen, M Okolski, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam
- Hall T, (2010), Urban outreach and the polyrhythmic city in *Geographies of Rhythm* Ed(s) Edensor, T., Ashgate, Farnham

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- Jones M, MacLeod G, (2010), Territorial/relational: Conceptualizing spatial economic governance in *Handbook of Local and Regional Economic Development* Ed(s) A Pike, J Tomaney, A Rodrigues-Pose, Routledge, London
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- Watkin S, (2010), Rural welfare to work in wales: Young people's experiences in *Research in Rural Sociology and Development Welfare Reform in Rural Places: Comparative Perspectives* Ed(s) P Milbourne, Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Bingley, UK
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- Etherington D, Jones M, (2011), City regions: new geographies of uneven development and inequality in *The Futures of the City Region: Regions and Cities* Ed(s) M Neuman, A Hull, Routledge, London
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- Ivinson G, (2011), Bernstein, Codes and Social Class in *The Sage Handbook of Sociolinguistics* Ed(s) R Wodak, B Johnstone, P Kerswill, Sage, London
- Ivinson G, (2011), School curriculum as a developmental resource; gender and knowledge in *Children, Development and Education: Cultural, Historical, Anthropological Perspectives* Ed(s) M Kontopodis, C Wulf, B Fichtner, Springer, New York

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- Mann R, Fenton S, (2011), Our own people: Ethnic majority orientations to nation and country in *Migration and Citizenship: The UK Experience* Ed(s) T Modood, J Salt, Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave
- Martsin M, (2011), The business of unfinished business: Reflections on co-construction of meanings in research encounters in *Yearbook of Idiographic Science* Ed(s) S Salvatore, J Valsiner, A Gennaro, Firera & Liuzzo Publishing, Rome
- Moles K, Radcliffe J, (2011), Deep rural communities: Exploring service provision in rural Wales in *Rural Wales in the Twenty First Century: Society, economy and environment* Ed(s) P Milbourne, University of Wales Press, Cardiff
- Plows A, Reinsborough M, (2011), Encountering the 'politics of technology': social movement linkage and frame emergence in *Quantum Engagements: Social reflections of nanoscience and emerging technologies* Ed(s) B Zülsdorf, C Coenen, U Fiedeler, A Ferrari, C Milburn, M Wienroth, IOS Press, Heidleberg
- Rees G, (2011), Devolution, policy-making and lifelong learning: the case of Wales in *Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning across the United Kingdom* Ed(s) A Hodgson, K Spours, M Waring, IOE, London
- Woods M, (2011) Market towns in rural Wales: a differentiated geography, in *Rural Wales in the Twenty First Century: Society, Economy and Environment* Ed(s) P. Milbourne, University of Wales Press
- Woods M, (2011) Poles Apart? Migrant workers in Rural Wales, in *Rural Wales in the Twenty First Century: Society, Economy and Environment* Ed(s) P. Milbourne, University of Wales Press
- Woods M, (2011) Policing rural protest, in *Rural Policing and Policing the Rural,* Ed(s) R. Mawby and R. Yarwood, Ashgate: Aldershot

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- Blackaby D, Drinkwater S, Jones M and Murphy P. (2012) The Gender Pay Gap in Wales in 2011, *Contemporary Wales,* 25, 190-202.
- Davis H, Day G, Baker S, Eichsteller M, (2012) International Education in the Life Course in *The Evolution of European Identities: Biographical Approaches* Ed(s) R Miller with G Day, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke
- Heley J, Jones M, (2012), Devolution and Wales - fiddling with spatial governance while the economy burns in *Changing gear - is localism the new regionalism* Ed(s) M Ward, S Hardy, The Smith Institute, London
- Ivinson G, (2012), Boys, skills and class: educational failure or community survival? Insights from Vygotsky and Bernstein in *Vygotsky and Sociology* Ed(s) H Daniels, Routledge, London
- Lin W-C, Ivinson G, (2012), Ethnic cultural legacies and learning English as a foreign language: a social-cultural study in Taiwan in *Learning, social interaction and diversity - exploring school practices* Ed(s) E Hjorne, G van der Aalsvoort, G de Abreu, Sense Publishers, Rotterdam
- Martsin M, Mahmoud H, (2012), Never at home? Migrants between societies in *Oxford handbook of culture and psychology* Ed(s) J Valsiner, Oxford University Press, Oxford

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- Smith RJ, (2012), Landscapes of fiction and fictional landscapes: Dr Who, Torchwood, and the mundane interpretation of Cardiff Bay in *New Dimensions of 'Doctor Who': Exploring Space, Time and Television* Ed(s) D Mellor, B Earl, I. B. Tauris & Co Ltd, London
- Woods M, (2012) 'Rurality' in *The Encyclopaedia of Global Studies* Ed H. Anheier and M. Juergensmeyer Sage
- Woods M, Heley J, Richards C, Watkin S, (2012) Rural people and the land in *Making Sense of Place*. Ed(s) I. Convery, T. Dutson, P. Davis and G. Corsane, Boydell and Brewer

Forthcoming

- Hall T, Smith RJ, (forthcoming), No time out: exploring the real twenty-four hour city in *Urban Rhythms: The socio-temporal organisation of the contemporary city* Ed(s) Smith, R.J. And Hetherington, K., Wiley, Chichester
- Heley J, Jones L, Watzin S, (forthcoming), Locating the Mid Wales Economy: Narratives of rurality and resilience in *People/Places/Policy: Knowing Contemporary Wales* Ed(s) Jones M, Orford S, Routledge, London
- Jones L, Heley J, Watkins S, (forthcoming), Rural West Wales in Europe in *Globalization and Europe's Rural Regions* Ed(s) McDonagh, Nienaber, B. And Woods, M., Ashgate, UK
- Mann R, Plows A, (2012), East, West and the Bit in the Middle: Localities in North Wales in *People/Places/Policy: Knowing Contemporary Wales* Ed(s) M Jones, S Orford, Routledge, London
- Woods M, (forthcoming) Regions engaging globalization: a typology of regional responses in rural Europe in *Rural Development: Theories and Applications* Ed(s) Ramsay D, Evans N, Rural Development Institute
- Woods M, (forthcoming) Economic entanglements and the reshaping of place in the global countryside in *Regional Resilience, Economy and Society*, Ed(s) Revilla Diez J, Tamasy C, Ashgate
- Woods M, (in press) The elite countryside: shifting rural geographies of the transnational super-rich in *Geographies of the Super-rich* Ed(s) Hay I, Edward Elgar

Journal Issues
- MacLeod G, Jones M, (eds) (2011) Renewing Urban Politics, special issue of *Urban Studies* 48(12)
- Jones M, Paasi A, (eds) (forthcoming) Renewing World(s), special issue of *Regional Studies*

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- Holland S, (2009), Listening to children in care: A review of methodological and theoretical approaches to understanding looked after children's perspectives, *Children and Society*, 23(3), 226-235
- Housley W, Moles K, Smith RJ, (2009), Identity, brand or citizenship: The case of post devolution Wales, *Contemporary Wales*, 22(1), 196-210
- Jones M, (2009), Phase space: Geography, relational thinking and beyond, *Progress in Human Geography*, 33(4), 487-506
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- Orton M, Davies R, (2009), Exploring neglected dimensions of social policy: The social division of welfare, fiscal welfare and the exemplar of local taxation in England, *Social Policy and Administration*, 43(1), 33-53
- Ross NJ, Renold E, Holland S, Hillman A, (2009), Moving stories: Using mobile methods to explore the everyday lives of young people in public care, *Qualitative Research*, 9(5), 605-623
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- Cox J, Collins A, Drinkwater S, (2010), Seeders, leechers and social norms: Evidence from the market for illicit digital downloading. *Information Economics and Policy*, 22(4), 299-305
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Media Coverage and Appearances

- Professor David Blackaby discusses growth prospects for cities in Wales on BBC Radio Wales, Good Morning Wales, 18.1.09
- Professor David Blackaby comments on unemployment in Wales on BBC Radio Wales, Good Morning Wales, 16.12.09
- Professor David Blackaby comments on unemployment forecasts on BBC Radio Wales, Good Morning Wales, 29.12.09
- Professor David Blackaby comments on the news of a new Japanese plant moving to Wales on BBC Wales and BBC News, 20.1.10
- Professor David Blackaby discusses Wales and work on BBC Radio Wales, 26.1.10
- Professor David Blackaby comments on public sector job losses in the Western Mail, 7.3.10
- Professor David Blackaby discusses public sector job cuts on BBC Radio 5 Live, 31.3.10
- Professor David Blackaby discusses cities and public sector jobs in Wales on BBC News 24, 9.4.10
- Professor David Blackaby discusses gender matters as the recession eases in an article published in the Western Mail, 24.4.10

- Professor David Blackaby comments on public sector job losses in the South Wales Evening Post, 26.4.10
- Professor David Blackaby considers how we sort out the national deficit in an article published in the South Wales Evening Post, 15.5.10
- Professor David Blackaby discusses the decline in manufacturing output in Wales on BBC Radio Wales, Good Evening Wales, 11.6.10
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- Dr Kate Moles presenting Audio Walks at the National Eisteddfod, available from Cardiff University website: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/eisteddfod/audio/, 1.7.10
- Professor David Blackaby discusses long-run regional unemployment forecasts on BBC Radio Wales, 16.7.10
- Dr Kate Moles talking on BBC Radio Wales (Roy Noble Show) about the audio walks at the July 2010 Eisteddfod, 10.08.10
- Professor David Blackaby comments on remarks made by the Bank of England on savings rates, BBC Radio Wales, Good Evening Wales, 28.9.10
- Professor David Blackaby comments on the effect of public sector cuts on the private sector on BBC Radio Wales, Good Morning Wales, 7.10.10
- Professor David Blackaby comments on spending cuts in Wales on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, 18.10.10
- Professor David Blackaby comments on the effect of the comprehensive spending review on Wales on BBC 1 Wales' Wales Today, 20.10.10
- Professor David Blackaby comments on the effect of public sector cuts on female employment on BBC 1, News at One and BBC Wales Evening News, 21.10.10
- Professor David Blackaby comments on public sector job losses in Wales in the Western Mail, 21.10.10
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- Professor David Blackaby discusses the double dip recession in an article published in the Western Mail, 27.10.10
- 'Professor Rees to lead institute of social and economic research' Western Mail (Education), 28.10.10, p.15.
- Professor David Blackaby comments on the comprehensive spending review and the Welsh Assembly Government budget on BBC Radio Wales, Good Morning Wales, 17.11.10
- 'Banks will not give first-time buyers mortgages until 2020' Dr Peter Mackie from WISERD Housing group comments on the report. Observer, 28.11.10, p.6.
- Professor David Blackaby on BBC Radio Wales discussing prospects for the Welsh Economy in 2011, 31.12.10
- Dr Alex Plows is quoted in an article published by Jenny Hope on payment for IVF donors, published in the Daily Mail: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1347801/IVF-egg-donors-paid-thousands-watchdog-wants-lift-250-limit-compensation.html 18.1.11
- Professor David Blackaby on BBC Radio Wales (Good Morning Wales) commenting on the outlook for inflation, 18.01.11
- Dr Stephen Drinkwater on BBC Radio Wales (Good Morning Wales) commenting on Centre for Cities 2011 (Newport and Swansea), 24.01.11

- Dr Gabrielle Ivinson comments on young people's TV and media involvement in an article for the Western Mail, 27.1.11
- Professor David Blackaby is quoted in the article 'There are no jobs for our people' by Claire Miller, published in the Western Mail, 28.1.11
- Professor David Blackaby is quoted in the article 'Pressure grows for Bank to raise interest rates as inflation hits 4%'', published in the Western Mail, 16.2.11
- Dr Alex Plows published an online article that provides an ethnographic review of the emerging field of politics and human genetic technologies: http://www.observa.it/view_page.aspx?menu=contributi&ID=1006&LAN=ENG , 22.2.11
- Professor David Blackaby is quoted in the article 'Jobs chasing in Wales' by Claire Miller, published in the Western Mail, 7.3.11
- Professor David Blackaby is quoted in the article 'Fuel price hike means further pain at the pumps' by Richard Youle, South Wales Evening Post, 11.3.11
- Dr Stephen Drinkwater on BBC Radio Wales (Good Morning Wales) discussing Economic Inequality in Wales report, 12.05.11.
- Professor David Blackaby interview with BBC Wales Breakfast News on public sector skills and employment, 18.05.11.
- Professor David Blackaby on BBC Radio Wales (Good Evening Wales) discussing public sector skills and employment, 18.05.11.
- Professor David Blackaby interview on BBC Radio Wales (Good Morning Wales) about unemployment trends, 18.05.11.
- Professor David Blackaby is quoted in the article 'Poorly-paid Job Centre variances make it hard to escape from poverty' by Claire Miller, published on Walesonline:http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2011/06/16/poorly-paid-jobcentre-vacancies-make-it-hard-to-escape-from-poverty-91466-28887485/, 16.6.11
- Professor David Blackaby is quoted in an article on devolved powers tax warning, published in the Western Mail, 18.6.11
- Cardiff University has commissioned research into why some departments accept the Welsh Baccalaureate as the equivalent of an A-level A grade and some don't. In a letter to Monmouth MP David Davies, the Vice-Chancellor Dr David Grant says the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD) has been asked to investigate, Western Mail, 12.07.11, p.5
- http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/welsh-politics/welsh-politics-news/2011/07/12/university-to-review-confusing-approach-to-the-welsh-bac-91466-29035128/
- Professor Gareth Rees, School of Social Sciences, questions a 'moral panic' over the recent PISA school performance results in Wales, IWA's Agenda magazine, Summer 2011
- Professor David Blackaby on BBC Radio Wales (Good Evening Wales) talking about the audit office public sector unemployment forecast, 14.10.11
- Professor David Blackaby is quoted in the article "Phone calls map reinforces the Wales North-South divide" by Claire Miller, published in the Western Mail, 11.12.11
- A report into graduate mobility compiled by Cardiff and Swansea universities found that Wales has lower retention rates with regards to the proportion of students studying and staying to find work in Wales, Western Mail, 05.01.12, lead story, p.4&5; Good Morning Wales, BBC Wales, 05.01.12

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- Professor Gareth Rees comments on the international PISA system of benchmarking different countries' education, Western Mail 07.01.12, p.16
- Professor Gareth Rees comments on the Welsh Government's schools banding data which shows deprivation to be one the biggest challenges for schools in Wales, Western Mail, 20.01.12, p.12; South Wales Echo, 20.01.12, p.16
- Professor Gareth Rees comments on difficulty in constructing meaningful school league tables using Pisa data - 10.03.12 http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education-news/2012/03/10/minister-doesn-t-expect-any-real-improvement-in-next-pisa-results-91466-30501101/
- Dr Madeline Pill discusses the Welsh Graduate Mobility project in an article published on Walesonline: http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2012/01/05/brain-drain-alarm-as-many-who-study-in-wales-leave-91466-30062589/, 1.5.12
- Launch of Audio Walks resources in Grangetown. Wales Online, 13.05.12 http://yourcardiff.walesonline.co.uk/2012/05/13/audio-walks-exploring-grangetown-launch-tomorrow/
- Professor Gareth Rees is interviewed for BBC Radio Wales' 'Eye on Wales' programme about the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification research, 13.05.12, http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007h3r2 also (BBC Wales News On-line, 14.05.12, www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-18045621)
- Dr Chris Taylor appeared on BBC Wales Today talking about the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification research, BBC1, 14.05.12, 6.30pm
- A series of audio walks exploring the history and sporting venues of Grangetown has been launched. The project is run between Cardiff University, the University of Glamorgan and the Beacon for Wales (South Wales Echo, 16.05.12, Pg 12
- Professor Gareth Rees interviewed on BBC Dragon's Eye programme about the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, BBC2 Wales, 17.05.12, 7.00pm.
- Dr Robin Mann is quoted in an article by BBC Wales on the findings of a report produced on Immigration in Wales, 12.6.12
- WISERD's research on graduate mobility is referenced in an article which looks at graduate migration, published on Walesonline: http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education-news/2012/06/29/wales-is-losing-a-quarter-of-its-brightest-students-to-jobs-in-england-alarming-new-figures-reveal-91466-31283373/, 29.6.12

Qualitative Researcher (ISSN 1748-7315)
- Qualitative Researcher, Issue 11, Winter 2009
- Qualitative Researcher, Issue 12, May 2010
- Qualitative Researcher, Issue 13, Spring 2011
- Qualitative Researcher, Issue 14, March 2012

WISERD News
- Issue 1 – August 2010
- Issue 2 – February 2011
- Issue 3 – July 2011
- Issue 4 – October 2011
- Issue 5 – March 2012

Conferences/Large Events

- Launch of the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods - National Assembly, Cardiff, 22nd Oct 2010
- WISERD Annual Conference 2010, 'Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy' - Cardiff University, 28th -29th June 2010
- WISERD Qualitative GIS Conference: Emerging Issues and Possible Futures, Cardiff University, 2nd-4th Aug 2010
- The Housing Research Conference for Wales: Foundations for the future, Cardiff University, 3rd Dec 2010 (in collaboration with Shelter Cymru)
- WISERD Annual Conference 2011, 'Changing Wales: Social, Economic and Political Perspectives' - Swansea, 28th -29th June 2011
- WISERD Annual Conference 2012, 'Devolution, Place and Change' - Bangor University, 28th -29th Mar 2012
- A Child's World - Working Together for a Better Future – Aberystwyth University, 27-29th June 2012
- Intersectionality and the spaces of belonging, an international conference - Bangor University, 28th -29th June 2012

Workshops

- Advanced approaches to grounded theory, June 2011
- Affective and affecting research: researching affect in the social sciences, March 2010
- Data management and analysis for social researchers using Excel, July 2010
- Downloading and exploring survey data from the UK Data Archive, July 2010
- Downloading and exploring survey data from the UK Data Archive, September 2010; Oct 2010
- Exploring institutional and organisational boundaries across Wales, December 2010
- Geospatial meta-data and spatial data workshop, September 2010
- Introduction to business micro-data using the Secure Data Service, March 2012
- Introduction to structural equation modelling using MPlus, April 2011
- Introductory quantitative methods for qualitative researchers, March 2010; May 2010
- Locating and using data resources on Wales, May 2010; September 2010; April 2011; September 2011
- Making use of the localities stakeholder interview data, March 2011
- Mapping your research data, September 2010, September 2011
- Multilevel modelling using MLwiN, Nov 2011
- Multimodal qualitative research, April 2011
- Narrative and mixed methods research, June 2010
- Open street mapping for social scientists: introductory mapping workshop, April 2010
- Participatory methods, July 2010
- Qualitative GIS - Emerging Issues and Possible Futures, August 2010
- Qualitative GIS: an introduction, August 2010; March 2011
- Quantitative methods: refreshing your skills, June 2010
- Research bid development workshops (held bi-monthly during 2010)

- Safe researcher training, in collaboration with the Administrative Data Liaison Service (ADLS), Oct 2010
- Social network analysis, September 2010; February 2011; April 2011
- Understanding Earnings Mobility and Measurement Error, February 2011
- Understanding Wales, opportunities for secondary data analysis, January 2012
- Undertaking research with children and young people, January 2011; March 2012
- Using business data, May 2011
- Walking workshop: methods gone mobile, November 2010; May 2011
- Walking workshop: walking as method and practice, June 2009

- **_Seminars_**
- ''The character of a happy warrior'': institutional socialisation, motivation and emotional response in British Army soldiers under training, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, April 2012
- A federal Europe in the making? Europe 2020, the European semester and the Euro Plus Pact, December 2011
- Against cosmopolitanism: theory, politics, rights, May 2010
- An earth scientists view of post-industrial south Wales, June 2010
- Analysing parliamentary debates on the abolition of slavery: The case of Richard Pennant, 1st Lord of Penrhyn, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, November 2011
- Banking Crisis in Europe: Systematic Risk and Financial Stability - A roundtable, February 2012
- Becoming somebody in post industrial locales: rethinking class, gender and resistance beyond the bounded, autonomous subject, April 2011
- Behaviour change in Wales, August 2011
- Calman and Holtham: The Public Finance of Devolution and the Fiscal Constitution, March 2010
- Carers@work: between work and care - risk or opportunity? WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, September 2011
- Cartographic spaces and fuzzy places: what can the mapping of socio-economic data tell us about Wales? WISERD/Cardiff University School of Social Sciences seminar series, June 2010
- Challenging DNA codes': public engagement with human genetics outside the policy process, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, September 2010
- Cities and movement, WISERD lunchtime seminar, June 2011
- Collective phenomena in biographical perspective - writing workshop, March 2011
- Community and Identity: Change and Development, November 2011
- Community, environment and sustainability in Wales networking event, June 2011
- Constrained choices: The impact of debts upon the early careers of graduates, WISERD/Cardiff University School of Social Sciences seminar series, December 2010
- Contrasting orientations towards nation, state and civic duty of French and British elite students, WISERD lunchtime seminar, October 2011
- Covert surveillance and the invisibilities of policing, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, January 2012

- Do neighbourhoods generate fear of crime?, WISERD/Swansea University School of Business & Economics seminar series, June 2011
- Environmental Health Officers and the Prevention of Food Crime, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, May 2011
- Experimental Designs in Policy Evaluation: Expensive and Futile? Or Feasible and Valuable? Some Evidence From Wales, October 2010
- Exploring behavior change in the Welsh context, June 2010
- Funding devolved government in Wales: challenges for the future, January 2010
- GDP and beyond: challenges and opportunities for measuring well-being, March 2011
- Harnessing 'activity' in regenerating communities; Critical reflections, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, May 2010
- How diverse is the UK?, November 2011
- How should society decide what to do about the environment and will economic growth save us?, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, November 2010
- ICT use and connectivity of minority communities in Wales, December 2011
- Introduction to the British Birth Cohort Study, March 2011
- Knowledge Work in ICT-Services - Health Effects as Threat to Innovation Capacities, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, May 2011
- Legal Guardianship in Continental Europe - A Comparative Approach, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, January 2011
- Local Knowledge and Spatial Practice: Urban Patrols(s) in Central Cardiff, WISERD/Cardiff School of Social Sciences seminar series, June 2010
- Making the connections Colloquium, May 2009
- Managing Sovereign Debt Crisis in Europe: A Roundtable, in collaboration with the European Commission, February 2012
- Mapping perceptions and Experiences of Urban Spaces through Qualitative Network Analysis, in collaboration with the Wales Doctoral Training Centre, March 2012
- Message in a bottle: deaths involving alcohol, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, June 2010
- Migration & mobility in Wales, September 2011
- Migratory Drift: Why Temporary Migrants Stay, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, October 2010
- Negotiating neoliberalism through stakeholder engagements with ecosystem service governance in Wales, WISERD Aberystwyth seminar series, February 2011
- New Localities: Economic and Social Geographies in Wales, WISERD/Cardiff University School of Social Sciences seminar series, May 2010
- Not from a book: Social workers' acquisition of knowledge about alcohol, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, November 2011
- Opening up the market: implications of the probation service in England and Wales, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, May 2012

- Policies and practices of urban security in Italy, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, March 2012
- Postcolonial perspective on race and ethnicity in Wales, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, October 2011
- Qualitative GIS: Resolving the oxymoronic endeavour?, WISERD lunchtime seminar, October 2011
- Regeneration in Wales, key issues: communities first the future, WISERD/CREW seminar series, December 2010
- Regeneration in Wales, key issues: regenerating the small towns of Wales, WISERD/CREW seminar series, April 2011
- Regeneration in Wales, key issues: Regenerating Wales – An Open Forum, WISERD/CREW seminar series, January 2011
- Regional Inequalities in Wales and the Recession, WISERD/Cardiff School of Social Sciences Seminar Series, May 2010
- Rhythm, communications and cultures of mobility, WISERD Aberystwyth seminar series, March 2011
- Rural Poverty and Resilience, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, October 2010
- Shelter Cymru - Foundations for the Future, in collaboration with Shelter Cymru, December 2010
- Small Countries and the global crisis: challenges and opportunities, in collaboration with the Wales Governance Centre, July 2009
- Social Europe: Scorched Earth or Fertile Groud? - A roundtable, in collaboration with the European Commission, March 2012
- Social Work as a Promoter of Civic Engagement - Strategies, Opportunities and Problems', WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, October 2010
- Spaces and sites of comic books, WISERD Aberystwyth seminar series, March 2011
- Students as Producers, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, February 2012
- The "pleasure citizen": Analysing partying as a form of social and political participation, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, February 2012
- The armchair explorer: Slavery, empire and African cartography, WISERD Aberystwyth seminar series, February 2011
- The Criminalization of Sharing: File-sharing and the music industry, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, November 2010
- The Crisis of Quantitative Methods in UK Social Science, seminar by John Macinnes, March 2010
- The Future of Homelessness Policy in Wales: Learning Lessons from the States and the Scots, February 2012
- The pay penalty to part-time employment after childbearing: evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study, WISERD/Swansea University School of Business & Economics seminar series, November 2010
- The positivist rebuilding of modern society and the Marxian critique of its inherent authoritarianism, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, November 2011
- The problem of over research, WISERD lunchtime seminar, June 2011
- The Psychic Costs of Migration: Evidence from Returned Irish Migrants, October 2010

- The revival of regionalism? WISERD lunchtime seminar, December 2011
- The role of theory in educational research, October 2010
- The understanding of citizen engagement by local authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government, in collaboration with the Regeneration Institute, March 2010
- Towards the Light: Why do non-Welsh-speaking parents choose Welsh-medium education for their children? The case of Cwm Rhymni, Caerffil, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, February 2011
- Trade Unionism in Wales, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, October 2010
- Understanding and influencing behaviour change, Evidence Symposium, September 2010
- Volunteering, Big Society and public services: What's the way forward for Wales? WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, December 2011
- Wales: Trade Union Country? Structural change, historical continuities, WISERD/Cardiff University School of Social Sciences seminar series, April 2010
- Weakness' as 'Strength'? The Institutional Grounding of Knowledge-based Commodity Chains in a Less-favoured Region, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, April 2011
- Welsh Baccalaureate, WISERD lunchtime seminar, November 2011
- Welsh Graduate Mobility, November 2011
- What makes a terrorist? Some UK evidence, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, December 2010
- What's the future for probation? WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, May 2012
- Who's afraid of Pierre Bourdieu? February 2010
- Why can't we be English?' Nation, class and ethnic majoritarian resentment in Britain, WISERD/Bangor University School of Social Sciences seminar series, October 2009
- WISERD Aberystwyth Research Seminar, June 2011
- WISERD/Welsh Government joint rural research seminar, November 2010

Advisory Roles

- Robin Mann gave a presentation on WISERD at the National Eisteddfod on 5 August 2010
- Child Protection in the Community research is feeding into major NSPCC Strategy for 2013
- Written evidence was provided for the Welsh Affairs Select Committee on Inward Investment in Wales, March 2011
- Martin Jones is the chair of the Journals Management Committee (JMC), Regional Studies Association
- Martin Jones was a member of the Pro VC Learning & Teaching Network, Higher Education Wales (HEW) (September 2009 – September 2011)
- David Blackaby was a member of the ESRC Research Resources Board 2006-2009

- David Blackaby was a member of the ESRC Methods and Infrastructure Committee 2009-2010.
- David Blackaby was a member of the Conference of Heads of University Departments of Economics (CHUDE) Steering Group 2001-2010.
- David Blackaby was a member of the Royal Economic Society (RES) Committee for Women in Economics 2002-211.
- David Blackaby is a member of the National Health Service Pay Review Body
- David Blackaby is a member of the Nuffield Trust Advisory Group for Research on NHS Workforce.
- David Blackaby is a member of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Wales Poverty and Ethnicity Group.
- David Blackaby is a member of the Economic Roundtable Discussion Group for Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science, Welsh Government.
- David Blackaby is a member of the Cemmap Advisory Committee, ESRC Research Centre.
- David Blackaby is a member of the Work and Pensions Labour Economics (WPEG) Steering Group.
- David Blackaby is a member of the REF 2014 Economics and Econometrics Sub-Panel.
- David Blackaby is a member of the REF 2014 Business and Management Sub-Panel.

Reports published by the Welsh Government on their website:

- "Economic Analysis of the Implications of Introducing a 'Living Wage' in Wales"
  http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/aboutresearch/econoresearch/completed/?skip=1&lang=en

- "Modelling and Explaining Regional Differences in Economic Prosperity within Wales"
  http://wales.gov.uk/about/aboutresearch/econoresearch/economicresearch/capacitybuilding/regionaldifferences/?lang=en

- "An Investigation into Regional Differences in Child Health and Cognitive Function"
  http://wales.gov.uk/about/aboutresearch/econoresearch/economicresearch/capacitybuilding/childhealth/?lang=en

Conference Papers

2009

- Ayres S, Stafford I, (2009), An actor, game and network analysis of decision making procedures in the English regions, BAM Conference 2009: The End of the Pier? Competing perspectives on the challenges facing business and management, Brighton, UK
- Ayres S, Stafford I, (2009), Enhancing regional governance capacity in the UK: A comparison of England?s decentralised and devolved arrangements,

Regional Studies International Conference: Understanding and Shaping Regions: Spatial, Social and Economic Futures, Leuven, Belgium

- Ayres S, Stafford I, (2009), Evaluating decision making procedures for regional funding allocations, South West Branch of the Regional Studies Association, 1st South West Branch Conference, Bristol, UK
- Bradbury J, Stafford I, (2009), Devolution and policy innovation in Wales: critical perspectives and an assessment of transport policy, Public Administration Committee Conference 2009: Competing Narratives of Public Service Reform – Politics, Devolution and Service Improvement, University of Glamorgan, UK
- Bradbury J, Stafford I, (2009), Policy dynamics and the process of sub-state regionalisation: The case of Wales and the devolution of UK transport powers,59th Political Studies Association Annual Conference: Challenges for Democracy in a Global Era, Manchester, UK
- Burgess S, (2009), Qualitative GIS: an innovative framework for mixed methods approaches to studying locality, BSA Conference: BSA Annual Conference 2009: The Challenge of Global Social Inquiry, Cardiff
- Coffey A, (2009), The future(s) of qualitative research practice, ESRC NCRM Autumn School, University of Southampton
- Edwards R, Jones M, Stafford I, (2009), Advancing "clear red water" Insights from housing and transport on devolution and public policy, RGS Annual Conference 2009: Geography, Knowledge and Society, Manchester, UK
- Hall T, Smith R, (2009), Connections Made Visible: Place-bound Knowledge and the Map as Intellectual Tool - Keynote Address, EUROQUAL: Spatial and Network Analysis in Qualitative Research, Nicosia, Cyprus
- Hall T, Smith R, (2009), Urban Outreach as Sensory Walking, Royal Geographical Society Annual Meeting: Geography Knowledge and Society, Manchester, UK
- Heley J, Watkin S, (2009), Brave New Localities? Cultures of Local Economy in a Celtic Fringe Region, Regional Studies Association Annual Conference: Theorising Regional Economic Development, Leuven, Belgium
- Mann R, (2009), Making sense of grandfatherhood, Faculty of Health Sciences Seminar Series, University of Wales Institute Cardiff, UK
- Plows A, (2009), Challenging DNA Codes: Public engagement with human genetics outside the policy process, Conference: The future of public participation: cultures, contexts and challenges, Banff, Canada
- Smith RJ, (2009),The negotiation of a pastless place: Interpretation, identity and Cardiff Bay, BSA Annual Conference 2009: BSA Annual Conference 2009: The Challenge of Global Social Inquiry, Cardiff
- Smith RJ, Housley W, (2009), Mundane reason, categorisation practices and the ontology of space and place, The sociological review 100th anniversary conference, Stratford
- Stafford I, Ayres S, (2009), The impact of the Sub-National Review on inter-governmental relations in England, Public Administration Committee Conference 2009: Competing Narratives of Public Service Reform – Politics, Devolution and Service Improvement, University of Glamorgan, UK
- Wilkins C, (2009), Religion in the workplace: Free exercise or excessive entanglement?, Law and religion scholars network conference, Cardiff

2010

- Anderson T, Corcoran J, Higgs G, (2010),Exploring Intra-Urban Variations in the Incidence of Fire Events using a Geodemographic Classification., Proceedings of the GIS Research UK 18th Annual Conference GISRUK 2010,University College London, London

- Berry R, Fry R, (2010), Building an open source geoportal for enhancing collaborative research in Wales. Association of Geographic Information (Cymru) Annual conference, Cardiff
- Berry R, Higgs G, Langford M, Fry R, (2010), An Evaluation of Online GIS-Based landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Tools and Their Potential for Enhancing Public Participation in the UK, 1st International Workshop on Pervasive Web Map: Geoprocessing and Services, Como, Italy
- Blackaby D, (2010), Comparing business environments and the skills agenda, Institute for Welsh affairs National Economic Conference, Cardiff
- Blackaby D, Robinson C, (2010), Productivity and Performance in Wales, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Blackaby D, Robinson C, (2010), The economics of data mountains, VIBE Visual Analytics Conference, Cardiff
- Burgess S, Orford S, (2010), Combining the Spatial and Platial: QGIS and knowing Wales, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Burgess S, Orford S, (2010), Qualitative GIS: Past, Present, Future(s), Qualitative GIS: Emerging issues and possible futures (International Conference),Cardiff
- Burgess S, Plows A, (2010), Stakeholder Perceptions of Place shaping and Geographies of Participation, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Places, Policy, Cardiff
- Davies R, MacKay R, (2010), Collective Learning, Effective Demand, Loss of Work and Loss of Direction: The Growing Regional Divide', WPEG Labour Economics Conference, Bristol University
- Davis H, (2010), Language acquisition in biographical narratives: steps in supranational identity formation, ISA XVII World congress of Sociology, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Davis H, (2010), Through Education to Europeanness? Biographical significance of international education in Europe, FP7 Euroidentities conference, Brussels
- Dicks B, Doring H, (2010), Participation and empowerment for communities in crisis: rhetoric and reality, European Association of Social Anthropologists, Ireland
- Dicks B, Holland S, Ivinson G, Moles K, Renold E, (2010), Young people and the modalities of place, Fourth ESRC Research Methods Festival, Oxford
- Doring H, Dicks B, (2010), From the Margins to the Centre and Back: Trajectories of regeneration in English coalfields, Comparing Coalfields in Britain and Japan Sympoisum, Gregynog, Wales
- Doring H, Pereira dos Santos S, (2010), Post-Developmentalist State and Steel Sector: is it possible to talk about a new Brazilian developmental path?, Society for Latin American Studies Annual Conference, St Andrews, Scotland
- Drinkwater S, (2010), Examining recent migration patterns using the Labour Force Survey, Fourth ESRC Research Methods Festival 2010, Oxford
- Drinkwater S, (2010), Migration to, from and within Wales, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Drinkwater S, (2010), Self-employment amongst ethnic and migrant groups in the UK, OECD Conference on Entrepreneurship and Employment Creation of Immigrants, Paris
- Drinkwater S, (2010), The provision of social care in Wales: Evidence from Census microdata, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place, Policy, Cardiff

- Hall T, Smith R, (2010), Circuits of City Space: Moving and Meeting With the Homeless, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: Circulations, New Orleans, USA
- Hall T, Smith R, (2010), Local knowledge: Place, non-place and urban spatial practice, Fourth ESRC Research Methods festival, Oxford, UK
- Hall T, Smith R, (2010), Local Motion, Local Knowledge: Research 'On the Move' With Urban Patrols, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: Circulations, New Orleans, USA
- Hall T, Smith R, (2010), Mapping Urban patrols: Spatial Practice and place-binding knowledge, EUROQUAL: International Perspectives on Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences, London, UK
- Heley J, (2010), Institutionalizing Regions: Political Geographies of Contemporary Wales, Regional Studies Association Annual Conference: Regional Responses and Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations, Pecs, Hungary
- Heley J, (2010), The traps and pitfalls of a PhD study, RGS_IBG Postgraduate Conference: RGS_IBG Postgraduate Conference, Aberystwyth University, UK
- Heley J, Moles K, (2010), Partnerships, Power and Place, WISERD Summer Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff University, UK
- Holland S, (2010), Power, agency and participatory agendas; A critical exploration of young people's engagement in participative qualitative research, Researching Children's participation: Methodological Challenges, international Conference Norway, University College Oslo, Norway
- Holland S, (2010), Safeguarding children in families and communities within changing risk environments, CRFR International conference: Changing Families in a changing world, University of Edinburgh
- Holland S, (2010), Safeguarding children in local communities: parenting practices in and of the neighbourhood, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Ivinson G, (2010), Expanding Learning: Codes, skills and phronesis, Sixth International Basil Bernstein Symposium, Brisbane, Australia
- Jones L, Mann R, Watkin S, (2010), Socio-spatial relations: Geographies of patch, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place, Policy, Cardiff
- Jones M, (2010), Dimensions of phase space, AAG Annual Conference, Washington, USA
- Mann R, (2010), Emergent hybridization? A case study of grassroots civil society in a North Wales locality, British Sociology Association Annual Conference: Inequalities and Social Justice, Glasgow Caledonian University, UK
- Mann R, (2010), Intergenerational transmissions in Italian migrant families in south Wales: continuities and transformations, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Mann R, Plows A, Patterson C, (2010), Exploring the local life of civil society; A pilot study of a north Wales locality, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Mann R, Plows A. And Patterson, C., (2010), Convergence space: Researching civil society networks at a local level, Fourth ESRC Research Methods Festival, Oxford
- Martsin M, (2010), Exploring the dialogues of young people in transition, Sixth International Conference on the Dialogical Self, Athens, Greece

- Martsin M, (2010), Thick living of the severe disease person and dialogical self, Sixth International Conference on the Dialogical Self, Athens, Greece
- Martsin M, Ivinson G, Renold E, Moles K, (2010), Transitions to elsewhere? Exploring the limited horizons of young people from a post-industrial locale, Sixth International Conference on the Dialogical Self, Athens, Greece
- Moles K, (2010), Regulated Space; how policy reshapes young peoples' educational and leisure landscapes, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Moles K, (2010), Time, place and embodied knowledges, Fourth ESRC Research Methods Festival, Oxford
- Moles K, (2010),Time, place and understanding, ESRC NCRM Autumn School, University of Southampton
- Moles K, Ivinson G, Martsin M, (2010), Moving in, through and out of place, EUROQUAL Conference, International Perspectives on Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences, London
- Orford S, (2010), Investigating changes in the predicted probability of voter turnout when re-siting polling stations in three elections: a case study, GISR UK Conference, UCL, London
- Orford S, Burgess S, (2010), Qualitative GIS: Combining theory and method, Fourth ESRC Research Methods Festival 2010, Oxford
- Orford S, Burgess S, (2010), The potential if any of qualitative GIS for the integration of qualitative and quantitative spatial data, Fourth ESRC Research Methods Festival 2010,Oxford
- Pahri M, Mishra T, (2010), Total factor productivity growth, spatial interdependence and the role of human capital, DRUID Summer Conference, Imperial College, London
- Pahri M, Ouattara B, Mishra T, (2010), Democratic Interdependence, Total Factor productivity and economic growth,44th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economic Association, Quebec City, Canada
- Parhi M, (2010), Revitalising manufacturing innovation in Wales: A perspective of the automotive industry, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Plows A, (2010), Public Engagement with human Genetics as policy practice and as 'social movement', XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology: Sociology on the move, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Plows A, (2010), What is public engagement with human genetics and what is it for? Differentiating between policy practice and "social movement", EASST, Trento
- Plows A, Feilzer M, Yates J, Williams K, (2010), An evaluation of the Women's Turnaround project in North Wales, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Plows A, Mann R, Paterson C, (2010), Locating the 'local': Methodological issues in researching of grass roots civil society, XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology: Sociology on the move, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Reinsborough M, Plows A, (2010), Nanobiotechnology and ethics: converging civil society discourses, Society for the study of nanoscience and emerging technologies (S.Net) conference, Darmstadt, Germany
- Robinson C, Riley R, (2010), Which firms innovate? Agglomeration spillovers in British manufacturing and service sectors, NIESR, SERVICEGAP Conference, University of Birmingham
- Smith R, (2010), Domesticating and domesticated urban space, American Anthropological Association, USA

- Smith R, (2010), Hotspots, Stops, and Plots: On Mapping Urban Patrol, Cardiff Centre for Crime, Law and Justice, Autumn Seminar Series, Cardiff, UK
- Smith R, (2010), Researching Space, Place, and Setting: Perspectives on Theory and Method, Fourth ESRC Research Methods Festival, Oxford, UK
- Smith R, (2010), The Urban Problem: From the Bay to the Soup Run, British Council-Netherlands Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Urbanism
- Smith RJ, (2010), Branding and blanding place: Commonsense topographies and accounting for Cardiff Bay, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Smith RJ, (2010), Tinkering at the Margins: The outreach encounter, British Sociological Association Annual Conference, Glasgow Caledonian University, UK
- Stafford I, (2010), Evaluating collaborative decision-making in Wales: The development of Regional Transport Plans, Regional Studies Association Annual International Conference 2010: Regional Responses and Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations, Pécs, Hungary
- Stafford I, (2010), The emergence of 'soft spaces' in the governance of Wales: the case of transport policy, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Stafford I, (2010), The regional governance of transport policy in Wales: Towards institutional decongestion?, Political Studies Association British and Comparative Territorial Politics Specialist Group Conference, University of Oxford, UK
- Stafford I, Ayres S, (2010), Comparing the quality and validity of voice recognition software and professional transcription services, BAM Conference 2009: The End of the Pier? Competing perspectives on the challenges facing business and management, Brighton, UK
- Stafford I, Ayres S, (2010), Promoting policy integration in England: Evaluating decision-making procedures for Regional Funding Allocations, 60th Political Studies Association Annual Conference: Sixty Years of Political Studies: Achievements and Futures, Edinburgh, UK
- Stafford I, Bradbury J, (2010), Policy dynamics and the process of sub-state regionalisation: the case of Wales and the devolution of UK transport powers, WISERD Conference: Knowing Wales: People, Place and Policy, Cardiff
- Tommis Y, Jones K, (2010), Determining the health of children in Wales, 9th Global Conference; making sense of: health, illness and disease, Oxford

2011
- Berry R, Fry R, (2011), The WISERD GeoPortal: A tool for the discovery of socio-economic research data in Wales, FOSS4G 2011, Denver, USA
- Berry R, Higgs G, Fry R, Langford M, (2011),Web-GIS for enhancing public participation in wind farm planning, GIS Research UK Annual Conference: GIS Research UK Annual Conference, Portsmouth
- Bristow G, Pill M, Davies R, Drinkwater S, (2011), Stay, Leave or Return? Understanding Welsh Graduate Mobility, Society for Research into Higher Education: 2011 Annual Conference, Celtic Manor, Newport
- Burgess S, (2011), Qualitative GIS: defending a mixed-method approach to spatiotemporal analysis, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting 2011, Seattle, WA
- Davies R, (2011), The impact of student debt upon the early careers of UK graduates, 2011 Work and Pensions Economics Group (WPEG) conference, Sheffield University

- Davis H, (2011), Thinking the Educational Other: Comparative Dimensions of Biographical Experience of Transnational Mobility in the European Higher Education Area, ESA 10th Conference. Social Relations in Turbulent Times, Geneva
- Dicks, B. And Ivinson, G., (2011), Accessing classed experiences: reflections on the research relationship, British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2011, LSE, London
- Doring H, (2011), The Cultural Politics of Place in Regeneration: The waiting miner(s) of Kent, On the Surface: The Heritage of Mines and Mining, Innsbruck, Austria
- Doring H, Moles K, (2011), Problematic Narratives as 'opérateurs of the regional imagination: The Problem of the South Wales Valleys, Colloque International: Les operateurs d'imaginaire urbain, St Etienne, France
- Doring H, Moles K, (2011), Semiotics of Space: Class(ify)ing Identities, British Sociological Association Annual Conference: 60 Years of Sociology, LSE, London
- Drinkwater S, (2011), The relative earnings of immigrants in Wales and regions of the UK,WISERD Conference 2011,Swansea
- Drinkwater S, Garapich M, (2011), Surveying recent Polish migrants in England and Wales, Norface Migration Conference, University College London
- Heley J, Jones L, (2011), Relational resilience? Considering older people's connected rural lives, WISERD Conference 2011, Swansea
- Heley J, Moles K, (2011), Partnership working in Regions: reflections on local government collaboration in Wales, Regional Studies Association Annual Conference: Regional development and policy - challenges, choices and recipients, Newcastle, UK
- Ivinson, G. And Martsin, M, (2011), Solidarities for transistions: parenthood as an ambivalent social resource, British Sociological Association Conference 2011, LSE, London
- Jones L, Mann R, Watkin S, (2011), Patch-based knowledges and practices of local government actors in Wales, RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2011: The Geographical Imagination, London
- Langford M, Fry, R., Higgs G, (2011), A modified two-step floating catchment area technique for measuring transit system accessibility, GISRUK 2011, Portsmouth
- Langford M, Higgs G, (2011), Evaluating the performance of the binary dasymetric interpolation model at the lowest census dissemination level, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
- Mann R, Tommis Y, (2011), Public sentiments towards immigrants and minorities in Wales, WISERD Annual Conference 2011, Swansea
- Moles K, Saunders A, (2011), Critical Public Geographies, RGS IBG Conference, London
- Moles K, Saunders A, (2011), Voices of a community?: Engagement, Representation and Methods of and in Place, BSA Annual Conference: 60 Years of Sociology, LSE, London
- Orford S, Leigh C, (2011), Where to draw the line: mapping perceived neighbourhoods onto Lower Super Output Areas, GISRUK 2011 Conference, Portsmouth
- Parhi M, (2011), Dynamics of Inter-firm interactions in Indian Automotive Industry: A Social Network Perspective,7th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, New Delhi

- Parhi M, Diebolt C, (2011), Democracy, non-linearity and cross-country growth interdependence, Royal Economic Society Conference, 2011, Royal Holloway, London
- Parhi M, Diebolt C, (2011), Does democratic distance matter for cross-country growth interdependence?, International Political Economy and Cross-Border Effects , Goodenough College, Queen Mary, University of London
- Parhi M, Diebolt C, Mishra T, Ouattara B, (2011), Democracy and Economic Growth in an interdependent world,7th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, New Delhi, India
- Parhi M, Diebolt C, Ouattara B, Mishra T, (2011), Democratic Distribution and Cross-country Economic Growth Interdependence, London
- Pereira dos Santos S, Doering H, (2011), Economic Development in Material-Based Economies: Brazil's steel industry and the quest for a new developmental path, Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Madrid, Spain
- Plows A, (2011), An Accidental Bioethicist: A narrative of researching public engagement with human genetics, 5th Annual postgraduate conference on bioethics: Social scientific approaches to bioethics: method and methodologies, London
- Plows A, (2011), Citizenship, Participation and Civil Society, WISERD Summer Conference 2011 – Changing Wales: Social, Economic and Political Perspectives, Swansea
- Plows A, (2011), Cycles and Scales of contention: patterns of UK climate justice action, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Reykjavik Iceland
- Plows A, (2011), Place shaping and geographies of participation, WISERD Summer Conference 2011 - Changing Wales: Social, Economic and Political Perspectives, Swansea
- Plows A, Routledge P, (2011), Climate Justice and the scale of contentious politics, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR),Reykjavik, Iceland
- Rees G, (2011), The State of the Nation, Could do better? The challenge to the Wales's education system, University of Wales, Newport
- Rees G, Power S, (2011), Educational Opportunity, Social Citizenship and Devolution: Reflections on the Past Decade of Welsh Experience, British Educational Research Association, London
- Rees G, Power S, (2011), Rethinking Expertise in Education, European Conference of Educational Research, Berlin
- Riley R, Robinson C, (2011), Agglomeration Spillovers from Intangible Capital: An Analysis of UK City Regions, Innodrive final conference, Brussels
- Riley R, Robinson C, (2011), Skills and Economic Performance: Intangible Assets and UK Productivity Growth, SERVICEGAP Mid Term Conference, Dublin, Ireland
- Riley R, Robinson C, (2011), UK Economic Performance: How Far Do Intangibles Count? Innodrive final conference, Brussels
- Smith R, (2011), Urban Circulations, BSA Annual Conference, LSE, London
- Stafford I, (2011), Regional centralism by the backdoor? Exploring central-local relations in Wales post-devolution: the case of transport policy, RSA Annual International Conference 2011 - Regional Development and Policies: Challenges, Choices and Recipients, Newcastle
- Stafford I, Ayres S, (2011), From Reluctant Regionalism to Localism, Localism, Localism: Exploring the consequences of the shift from regionalism

to localism in England, Partners and Rivals: Cities regions and new territorial dynamics, Rennes, France

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- Berry R, Fry R, Higgs G, Orford S, Jones S, (2012), The WISERD Geoportal: An innovative tool for discovering social science research data, GIS Research UK 2012,University of Lancaster
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- Hall, T. And Smith, R.J. (2012), In a good state of repair? The everyday politics of the welsh capital, WISERD Conference 2012, Bangor University
- Hall, T. And Smith, R.J., (2012), Keeping up appearances: the street level politics of care and repair, BSA Annual Conference 2012, Leeds University
- Hall, T. And Smith, R.J. (2012), Moving encounters: outreach work, searching and pedestrian practice, RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2012, Edinburgh
- Ivinson G, Renold E, (2012), Valley girls: re-theorising bodies and agency in a semi-rural post-industrial place, Gender and Education Association Interim Conference 2012, Gothenburg
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- Orford S, Fry R, Berry R, Higgs G, (2012), The institutional and cultural challenges to developing portals for interdisciplinary data sharing: some reflections from WISERD, RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2012,University of Edinburgh

Other

- Development of the WISERD website:
- www.wiserd.ac.uk
- Development of the WISERD Collaborative Environment (WISCE) (internal only)
- Development of the WISERD Learning Environment (WLE): http://wiserd.comp.glam.ac.uk/TCB/home.aspx
- WISERD E-newsletters (fortnightly March 2011 onwards)