

# WISERD NEWS

Wales Institute of Social & Economic  
Research, Data & Methods



## inside ●●●

First Impressions	2
Localities Team	2
Focus on: WISERD Projects	4
Thematic Reference Groups	6
Focus On: WISERD Housing Research Network	7
Local Knowledge in Context	8
Biomapping	11
WISERD Conference Presentations	12
Training and Events	13
Knowledge Exchange	14
WISERD PhD Students	15

# First Impressions from WISERD's new Director



I have now been Director of WISERD for some five months. Previously, I was a professor in Cardiff University's School of Social

Sciences (a position that I continue to hold), so I knew something about WISERD's activities in my role as an associated researcher. Even so, I have been on a very steep learning curve since taking over the Directorship.

One of the first things that I have learned is that there is a deeply-felt commitment to collaboration between researchers, both across disciplines and between the universities that play a part in WISERD. Of course, this is integral to WISERD's aims. It is also a necessary condition of ensuring that social science research in Wales thrives in what will be an increasingly

competitive environment for research funding. Given this, I think that it is essential that WISERD develops into a permanent element in the social science research infrastructure in Wales.

Over the past few months, I have also been struck by the demand for high-quality social science research in Wales. My own - rather long! - research career has focused empirically to a large extent on changes in economic and social relations in Wales. However, this empirical focus has gone hand-in-hand with contributing to general debates in the social sciences (and the funding that this makes possible). It seems to me that this general approach is one that could usefully be developed through WISERD's activities, in terms of both methodological and substantive research.

What strikes me as new about the current situation, however, is the

extent to which policy-makers - in the Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities and, more widely, in organisations within civil society - are looking to co-operate with academic researchers to produce better understandings of social and economic change in Wales. Clearly, to a large extent, this reflects the realities of post-devolution governance and the need to develop policies that are better attuned to the specific needs of Wales. Again, I have been impressed by the potential for more robust institutional arrangements for such co-operation; and I expect that WISERD will continue to contribute to these developments in full measure.

It is clear that the funding of social science research faces a difficult future, at least over the medium term. Nevertheless, I am excited by the opportunities that WISERD makes possible; and I look forward to realising at least some of them over the coming years.

meet...

## the Localities Team



**Martin Jones**

WISERD Co-Director & leader of WISERD

Localities Programme

[msj@aber.ac.uk](mailto:msj@aber.ac.uk)

Martin is the co-ordinator of the localities team and is based at Aberystwyth University. Martin's research interests are economic development & economic governance; the regulation approach and strategic-relational state theory; regional spaces/spaces of regionalism; work - welfare programmes; state spatiality and the geographies of state power; nature and the states; space and time in geography. Martin's current research is examining socio-spatial relations, geographies of compossibility, regions in geography and 'new localities' therein.

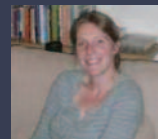


**Jesse Heley**

WISERD Researcher

[eyh@aber.ac.uk](mailto:eyh@aber.ac.uk)

Jesse is a member of the localities team based at Aberystwyth University. Jesse's research interests include rural social change, class analysis and the geographies of employment and training. Jesse has a longstanding interest in the methodological and ethical implications of undertaking 'native' research



**Laura Jones**

WISERD Researcher

[lgj@aber.ac.uk](mailto:lgj@aber.ac.uk)

Laura is a member of the localities team based at Aberystwyth University. Laura's research interests include critical/feminist geopolitics; spaces and practices of knowledge production; everyday emotional/political lives; media geographies; qualitative and participatory research methods. Underlying Laura's ongoing research is a concern with knowledge, and how people come to know the world around them and make sense of their place within it.



**Suzie Watkin**

WISERD Researcher

[srw@aber.ac.uk](mailto:srw@aber.ac.uk)

Suzie is a member of the localities team based at Aberystwyth University. Suzie is interested in qualitative rural geographies; her PhD research analysed the delivery and experiences of Welfare to Work in rural Wales. Suzie's work is influenced by a commitment to social relevance, and research interests encompass rural politics and participation at the individual level, social exclusion, young people's rural geographies, governance, governmentality, and practices and spaces of resistance.

## WISERD in the news

**WISERD researchers Ian Thomas and Dr Scott Orford in collaboration with colleagues in the Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning and Shelter Cymru have produced a report for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) on the challenges facing young people in their move to independent living over the next decade.**

The report is a review of literature, secondary data and the initial findings of stakeholder interviews and forms part of a wider JRF funded research project that is attempting to map out housing pathways of people aged 18 to 30 between now and 2020 and identify policy challenges and solutions. Thomas and Orford are providing the quantitative input of what is an innovative mixed method approach to the research and are currently undertaking analysis of longitudinal data. The findings of the initial report generated interest in the press with the Observer newspaper reporting that a combination of increased graduate debt, high unemployment, a shortage of council homes and widespread benefit changes would mean that many young people would struggle to get a secure and affordable place to live.

Dr Peter Mackie, a researcher on the project from the Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning, stated in the Observer: "It is not a happy time for any young people but especially the most vulnerable". More details about the project and links to the JRF report can be found on the WISERD website. The full article from the Observer is available online at: [www.guardian.co.uk/money/2010/nov/28/new-buyers-decade-of-struggle](http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2010/nov/28/new-buyers-decade-of-struggle)



**Alexandra Plows**

WISERD

Research Fellow

[a.plows@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:a.plows@bangor.ac.uk)

Alex is a member of the localities team based at Bangor University. Alex's research interests include the theory and practice of sustainable development; citizenship, participation and public engagement; feminism, particularly eco-feminist approaches to genetic and reproductive technologies; social movements and theories of social mobilisation; public engagement with bioscience; research methodologies and the use of "e-methods" to map cyber socialities.



**Robin Mann**

WISERD

Research Fellow

[r.mann@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:r.mann@bangor.ac.uk)

Robin is a member of the localities team based at Bangor University. Robin's research interests include ethnicity and nationalism; the ethnic majority and national identity; civil society; the politics of the Welsh language; intergenerational family relationships and grandparenting, particularly grandfatherhood.

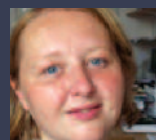


**Stephen Burgess**

WISERD Researcher

[burgesss@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:burgesss@cardiff.ac.uk)

Stephen is a member of the localities team based at Cardiff University. Stephen's research interests include adolescent smoking and smoking cessation; school smoking policies and the methodological and the ethical considerations of researching in schools. He is also interested in mental health; the roles of culture and tradition in health behaviour and the geographical experience of health.



**Kate Moles**

WISERD Researcher

[molesk@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:molesk@cardiff.ac.uk)

Kate is a member of both the localities and the knowing localities in context research teams, based in Cardiff University. Kate's research interests include place, identity, young people, and the interaction between policy, history and place-making. Using qualitative methods, Kate is interested in the ways people come to know places, how they are constructed through different discourses and the ways people who live in them, move through them and visit them are positioned.



**Bella Dicks**

Senior Linked

Academic at Cardiff

[dicksb@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:dicksb@cardiff.ac.uk)

Bella is a member of the localities team based at Cardiff University. Bella's research interests are in the field of cultural sociology, and particularly focused on placed identities, cultural representation, regeneration and heritage.

# Focus on WISERD Projects

## **An Evaluation of the Women's Turnaround Service (WTS)**

**Funded by the National  
Offender Management Service  
(NOMS) Cymru**

### **Project Team**

- Martina Feilzer, Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) member and Co-ordinator of thematic Group, WISERD Associate Member, School of Social Sciences, Bangor University
- Alexandra Plows, WISERD Bangor, WCCSJ Member and School of Social Sciences, Bangor University
- Katherine Williams, Deputy Director of Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ), WISERD Associate Member, Law and Criminology, Aberystwyth University.
- Jo Yates, Research Student, Bangor University, WCCSJ Member.

### **Overview**

The Women's Turnaround Service (WTS) aims to engage women offenders so that they make necessary changes to stop offending, following a holistic, woman-centred, service model recommended by the Corston Report in 2007. This project is exploring the women's and stakeholder's perspectives on what women need and whether the WTS in North Wales has achieved its aim in helping women to move forward in achieving their targets. Using a mixed methods approach, the research will evaluate whether and how the WTS has altered the behaviour/life-styles of the women participating in the research and how far any changes were internalised (from the perspective of the women) rather than just an external perception (on the part of workers). The research explores these questions in relation to the WTS based in the Women's Centre in Rhyl, North Wales.

Fieldwork is now well underway, with the research team able to access and make use of relevant client information entered into the innovative database system Meganexus by support workers. An initial focus group with WTS staff has been followed by structured interviews with referral agency staff and WTS support workers. Several focus groups with WTS clients will be conducted in November to be followed by interviews with selected WTS clients. The research team have also been attending monthly meetings of WOWJA (Women of Wales Justice Alliance), a network of agencies whose role relates to issues of women and criminal justice in Wales.

### **For further information visit:**

[www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/an-evaluation-of-the-womens-turnaround-project/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/an-evaluation-of-the-womens-turnaround-project/)



## Evaluation of the 2006-2011 Census Programme

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

### Research Team

- Rhys Davies, WISERD Cardiff
- Stephen Drinkwater, WISERD Swansea
- Samuel Jones, WISERD Cardiff
- Scott Orford, WISERD Cardiff

### Overview

The Census of the Population remains a key element of the quantitative research undertaken by the social science community in the UK. It provides an essential snapshot of socio-economic circumstances in the UK and is fundamental to research in many disciplines since it allows for certain types of investigation on issues (e.g. small areas and particular demographic subgroups) that are not possible with other data sources. A thorough review of the Census Programme is essential in order to assess the extent to which Census data are being used and whether improvements can be made to the way in which Census data are provided in the future. The team will review a range of evidence including the annual reports of the co-ordinator; unit documentation and reports; programme documentation; experiences of users and stakeholder interviews, in order to evaluate the four main areas of the Census Programme; the Census units; the usage of datasets; Programme co-ordination and the future development of the Programme.

### For further information visit:

<http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/evaluation-of-the-2006-2011-census-programme/>

## Sounding the Way: Audio Walking in Cardiff's Urban Neighbourhoods

Funded by Beacon for Wales

### Research Team

- Kate Moles, WISERD Cardiff
- Angharad Saunders, University of Glamorgan

### Overview

This project aims to create a series of community audio walks around Grangetown, one of Cardiff's inner-city neighbourhoods.

### The objectives of the project are:

1. To engage and work with young people to produce a series of audio walks around their neighbourhood that pivot around temporality and spatiality
2. To create a community resource of audio walks and associated maps, which will be widely available, at no cost to the user, through community websites
3. To establish a set of teaching materials and pedagogical resources that can be used by students to help develop non-visual ways experiencing and recording city spaces.

The walks will be hosted on their own website – [www.soundingtheway.com](http://www.soundingtheway.com), as well as potentially on the BBC community website. They will also be made available in the community, through Buzz radio and the local library.

### For further information visit:

[www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/sounding-the-way-audio-walking-in-cardiffs-urban-neighbourhoods/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/sounding-the-way-audio-walking-in-cardiffs-urban-neighbourhoods/)

## Young People and Housing: Identifying Policy Challenges and Solutions for 2020

Funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

### Project Team

- David Clapham, School of City & Regional Planning, Cardiff University
- Scott Orford, WISERD Cardiff
- Peter Mackie, WISERD Associate Member, School of City & Regional Planning, Cardiff University
- Shelter Cymru
- David Robinson (Sheffield Hallam University), Iain Atherton (Stirling University), Ursula McNulty (Ulster University)

### Overview

The project is concerned with young people and housing and has the following aims:

- to determine the profile of the housing system in 2020
- to ascertain young people's housing aspirations and how they fit with the current housing system and the system likely to exist in 2020
- to identify the 'new' winners and losers in the 2020 housing system
- to assess the extent to which accepted typologies of young people's housing pathways will be relevant in 2020
- to identify the spatial dimensions of the 2020 UK housing system
- to determine how policy and practice will need to change in response to patterns of housing need in 2020

### For further information visit:

[www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/solutions-for-2020/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/research/wiserd-projects-current/solutions-for-2020/)

# WISERD

## Thematic Reference Groups

WISERD has established a series of thematic reference groups across key policy themes.



### Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

The group is convened by Professor Gareth Williams of the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University.

The group is planning a mini-conference on 9 March entitled: "Sustaining healthy places in a time of economic uncertainty"

For further information, including a full list of members, visit:  
[www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-health-wellbeing-and-social-care-thematic-group/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-health-wellbeing-and-social-care-thematic-group/)



### Language, Citizenship and Identity

The group is convened by Graham Day of the School of Social Sciences, Bangor University.

The group has met twice to date and has a further meeting planned for spring 2011.

For further information, including a full list of members, visit:  
[www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-language-citizenship-identity-thematic-group/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-language-citizenship-identity-thematic-group/)



### Environment, Tourism and Leisure

The group is convened by Professor Michael Woods of the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, Aberystwyth University.

The group has met twice to date and has a further meeting and possible launch event planned for spring 2011.

For further information, including a full list of members, visit: [www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/thematic-group-on-environment-tourism-and-leisure/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/thematic-group-on-environment-tourism-and-leisure/)

### Transport

The group is convened by Owen Clark of the Wales Transport Research Centre, University of Glamorgan.

The group first met in September 2010 and has a further meeting planned for spring 2011.

For further information, including a full list of members, visit: [www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/transport-group](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/transport-group)



### Employment, Skills and Training

The group is convened by Professor Philip Murphy of the School of Business and Economics, Swansea University.

The group has met on three occasions to date and has been instrumental in steering the planned WISERD business survey.

For further information on the group, including a full list of members, visit: [www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-thematic-group-on-employment-skills-and-training/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-thematic-group-on-employment-skills-and-training/)



### Economic Development and Regeneration

The group is convened by Professor Kevin Morgan of the School of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University.

The group is holding a seminar series during Spring 2011 in collaboration with the Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales (CREW)

For further information on the group, including a full list of members, visit: [www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-thematic-network-on-economic-development-and-regeneration/](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/networks/wiserd-thematic-network-on-economic-development-and-regeneration/)

### Crime, Public Space and Policing

WISERD has formed a partnership with the Wales Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) for activities under this theme.



WISERD works closely with the Director of the Centre, Professor Mike Maguire of the University of Glamorgan

and



the Deputy Director, Dr Katherine Williams of the School of Law and Criminology, Aberystwyth University

For further information on the WCCSJ visit: <http://wccsj.ac.uk/index.php>

# Focus on

## the WISERD Housing Research Network

The housing research network has already become a well established collection of researchers from WISERD institutions, WAG and the voluntary sector. Network members all share an interest in housing-related studies but come from diverse disciplines including; Social Sciences, Geography, Regeneration, Planning, Architecture, Health and Economics.

The shared objectives of the network are to promote and undertake multi-disciplinary housing research which is aligned to and informs housing-related policy.

Network members met twice in 2009/10 in order to agree the network remit and to begin to generate multi-disciplinary research ideas. Network members have collaborated on several research proposals and the Network also led on the development and organisation of the first housing research conference for Wales. The Foundations for the Future conference, launched by Rt Hon Rhodri

Morgan AM, brought together academics, WAG, housing professionals, the voluntary sector and students to discuss emerging housing research on Wales and by academics in Wales.

The Network will continue to provide a forum for discussion between its members and the aim for the forthcoming year is to ensure that collaborative and policy-relevant research proposals are developed.

## Symposium for Graham Day Bangor University

### WISERD Bangor: Community and Identity: Change and Development – Reflecting on the work of Graham Day, Bangor, November 2010

A special symposium was held to celebrate the work of Graham Day and his contribution to the understanding of community and identity in Wales. The concept of 'community' has long occupied a key place in political and social thought in Wales, from the pioneering 'community studies' of the 1950s through to the current policy focus on 'community regeneration'. It is a term whose fortunes have ebbed and flowed, but which is, once again, enjoying renewed attention. It is also

one of the most hotly contested concepts employed by policymakers and social scientists alike. What are the foundations of 'communities'? To what extent can policy create 'community'? This special symposium made a timely assessment of the place of community studies in Welsh Social Science in the past and considers the role they can play today and in the future. The event brought together a number of key scholars working in the field, including many of Graham's colleagues and students, past and present. This included the presentation of three keynote papers by Professor Richard Jenkins (Sheffield University) on Wales and Community Studies, Professor Paul Milbourne (Cardiff University) on Communities in Rural Wales and Professor Dave Adamson (Glamorgan University) on

Community Regeneration, and which were followed by a final summing up from Graham himself. Following the event, Graham said "Although I knew that a WISERD day on community was being planned in Bangor, I was kept rather effectively in the dark about how much it was centred on my own work, so I was surprised and gratified to find so many friends and colleagues there on the day. The three papers brought out the richness and complexity of ideas of community, and their past and present relevance to social science work in and on Wales. In fact, as this account indicates, there has been a significant revival of interest in the Welsh 'community studies' tradition recently, which should pick up even more as the findings of the WISERD localities teams are published."





# Local Knowledge in Context Research Programme (KLiC)

## THE PROJECTS

The three projects have all been based in specific locales, and have involved research teams working closely with local residents, families, workers and professionals.

**The SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES project has been exploring the ways in which communities, families and professionals work individually and collectively to support the well-being of children and youth at the neighbourhood level.**

Based in the South Wales valleys, and led by Sally Holland and Stuart Tannock, the project has been working with children, young people, parents and grand-parents, as well as a variety of local community associations and professional service workers in explorations of safeguarding children and young people in their neighbourhoods. The roots of the study are in current child welfare policy documents that assume that adults in communities have a shared responsibility to develop safe communities (for example, the 2006 report of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Children Review for the Welsh Assembly Government, and The Every Child Matters policy framework in England). Little is currently known about how community members perceive and enact this responsibility in the UK. Relevant current knowledge resides mainly in studies that link factors such as poverty and deprivation to child abuse, and studies of the impact of the area of residence on parenting and studies of social networks. Other relevant studies

are placed within the growing body of literature on children and young people's perceptions of their local environments. The project has been exploring the ways in which neighbourhoods, families and professionals understand, identify and manage risk within a local setting, and seeking to identify geographies of safety and risk. Data collection has included interviewing, (including mobile interviews), ethnographic observation, media and archival research, visual methods and GPS tracks.

**The YOUNG PEOPLE AND PLACE project has been concerned with exploring young people's understanding and use of local public and private spaces in a South Wales community experiencing regeneration.**

The research team, Gabrielle Ivinson, Emma Renold, Kate Moles and Mariann Martsin, has sought to understand how young people are positioned in relation to the changes that are taking place within their locality, and how they feel about (other) places in their neighbourhood. A particular focus has been on investigating the social and psychological resources available to young people as they attempt to live different lives as places change and as they re-imagine their place. A significant part of the research has been to explore the understandings and expectations of places that the young people have, and understanding 'locality' from the perspectives of young people. The project has foregrounded gender and class in exploring young people's mobility and movement, social interactions and escapades in the public and private spaces of their everyday lives. The project has been working with individual and groups of

young people, teachers and youth workers in a local small town setting. Young people have been accessed via local schools and youth work settings. A range of methods have been employed to generate multi-modal data representing the various geographies of young people's appropriation and negotiation of local spaces. Methods have included photo-elicitation interviews, body movement diaries, live debates about controversial local places, visual mapping of young people's everyday routes, walking tours and car journeys with young people in their local area, film making, observation and focus groups.

**The third project, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, SPATIAL PRACTICE AND THE URBAN PATROL has been exploring professional geographies of care, repair and inequalities in public space, specifically focussing on the, often unnoticed, routine maintenance of the urban fabric.**

The perverse – persistent and contrary – connection between public space and social exclusion, between (spatial) centre and (social) margin, has provided the backdrop to this project. Tom Hall and Robin Smith have undertaken an ethnographic study of the street-level management of problem populations in public space, taking Cardiff city-centre and abutting residential streets as a field site. The research has traced the local knowledges through which routine urban patrols practice a mobile pedestrian labour of care, repair, and regulation – across a range of patrols; outreach workers, street sweepers, and Police Community Support Officers. Mobility poses a particular focus and



The 'local knowledge in context' research programme sits alongside the broader WISERD localities research programme and explores understandings of local knowledge and their relationship with and to knowledge of locality and place invoked by policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders. The programme has supported three empirical, ethnographically orientated projects, all of which have focused on exploring embedded local knowledge in practice. The three projects have been exploring and documenting the ways in which knowledge is grounded in given contexts and the conditions in which different modes of local knowledge are produced, circulated and utilised. The projects have also been concerned with developing methodological engagements and methods for identifying and interpreting people's understanding of their locality, in all its forms, and with questioning how people come to understand the relationship between their locality and other life events and experiences.

methodological challenge in this context, to professionals and researchers alike. For example, outreach workers (of varied disposition and remit, both statutory and third-sector) are obviously mobile, and the populations they work with are similarly so – their mobility and spatial distribution makes them a challenging population to contact, assist, control, and manage. The project has employed ethnographic methods in an attempt to get the grips with and adapt to this movement, bringing local ethnography into dialogue with the burgeoning social scientific interest in mobility and mobile methodologies. Map work, still photography, GPS plotting and GIS have all been tested as creative engagements with urban patrol and the local knowledges it performs in place and space.

## Emergent themes

The three projects are all now engaged in a sustained period of data analysis and dissemination. The projects will all report, individually, on their findings, and are working with a number of emergent themes.

**The SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES project is locating questions of the safeguarding and well-being of children, young people and families at the neighbourhood level within the broader social, cultural, political, economic and historical context of the region.**

The project team are also been exploring what qualitative neighbourhood-based research can tell us about claims

commonly found in media and political discourse today of a break-down of adult solidarity and failure of adults to provide care, intervention or discipline for children other than their own.

On the contrary, the project has found extensive evidence of networks of informal care being provided for other people's children. The team are developing analyses in relation to how parenting practices are rendered visible or invisible through interactions of the spatial and the social and how these practices are known and understood by residents, community workers and professionals.

**The YOUNG PEOPLE AND PLACE project has been documenting the symbolic and affective associations that young people attached to places, including the importance of virtual spaces in relation to young people's associations and relationships to place.**

Some places, including public spaces and landscapes, have been revealed to be contested places, in which different groups of young people have different investments. The project has raised issues about how young people are connected to the land in different ways. The project is developing analyses in relation to the importance of a historical analysis of place, and the values attached to skills and body practices in a post-industrial social and economic landscape.

The project team are also developing work on the objects of affect, as part of more general theorising about the affective qualities of places, as well as exploring the positive affects that circulate within post-

industrial communities. For example, the strong familial connections that exist in some extended families. While some young people move between three and four households across one week, many spoke about the importance of their families and the sense of belonging that they achieved from being part of large family networks.

**The LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, SPATIAL PRACTICE AND THE URBAN PATROL project are working with Tim Ingold's notion of wayfaring, using their data to provide an additional perspective on concerns and relations with walking, knowledge and habitat.**

The team are preparing a paper on the accomplishment of professional practice in public space and the forms of interaction and action which ensure 'extra-institutional professional space' (utilising Goffman's conceptual spatial apparatus).

The project is also providing an empirical documentation of Nigel Thrift's 'knot of maintenance', and the importance of human care to understandings of physical maintenance and repair in the city. Another aspect of the current analysis provides a counter-point to the current valorisation of mobility and considers 'stopping' as an accomplishment by those in enforced mobility (such as the homeless), and the relationship of moving and stopping to the work of the outreach team. Here the project is engaging directly with debates relating to the 'right to the city', regeneration, securitisation and the public realm.

# Local Knowledge

## In Context Research Programme (KLiC)

These projects are also contributing, collectively, to a programme of work designed to contribute, substantively and empirically to understanding local knowledges, and methodologically to further developing qualitative and integrated methods. Colleagues are collaborating on analysis, outputs, capacity building and other dissemination activities.

As well as planned workshops on research with children and young people, walking methods and multimodal methods, there are a number of emergent collective themes and contributions. These include;

- A focus on mobile methods and methodologies: Developing and consolidating methodological work which engages with and uses mobilities and movement; for example walking tours, journeys, GPS tracks, mapping movements around and through space. This work is informing training events within WISERD and will also contribute to the wider WISERD work on the development and use of Qual GIS methods to analysis and visualise data.

- A series of critical reflections on the political economy of research, the ethical governance of research, the role and purpose of research and researchers in the field, issues of methodological innovation, ethics of disclosure and over-research. This consolidates and extends the contribution of WISERD to qualitative methodological development and dialogue.

- The development of ways of communicating qualitative research data and analyses, and research engagements, with different publics - at the local, community level, with policy-makers and other stakeholders. The projects are engaging in developing innovative practices of engagement, and reflecting critically on these practices as ways of representing and sharing local knowledges.

- An emerging substantive interest in issues of migration and mobilities including: young people and normative social/geographical mobilities; homelessness and enforced mobilities; immigration into the region; historical perspectives on public policy, industrial development, mobility & migration into and out of the region. This substantive research theme offers considerable potential in relation to developing future collaborative projects and analyses across WISERD, including with the localities and data integration programmes.



# Biomapping: Methodological Trials

Principle Investigators: Dr Chris Taylor and Dr Jon Anderson

## Summary and Rationale

This project explores the (bio)physical and emotional relationships between people and place. By using state of the art galvanic skin response units alongside geographical positioning technology, this project seeks to map (bio)physical records of human interaction with their environment. To date, this potential has been explored through and for artistic means. The pioneering 'biomapping' work of Christian Nold has produced a range of innovative maps which demonstrate the possibility of harnessing GPS and GSR technology to advance geographical knowledge

(For an example of this see <http://stockport.emotionmap.net/background.htm>)

This project, however, seeks to explore this potential further, with a primary focus on the scholarly and policy (rather than artistic)-oriented insight that motivates our work. This will be undertaken initially through a series of experimental 'trials' to produce innovative cartographies of new and familiar environments.

## Aim

To produce innovative cartographies of new and familiar environments by mapping (bio)physical records of human interaction with their environment.

## Research Questions

Since this project is largely based on experimental 'trials' its research questions at this stage are methodological rather than substantive. Based on these initial 'trials' further research with associated substantive research questions will be developed.

1. Create a baseline bioregister for the investigators when in stasis
2. Walk through familiar environments to create a moving and mappable bioregister
3. Analyse through subsequent interview and data analysis the affects of certain conditions on bioregister; including bodily (temperature, stress, anxiety etc), external (e.g. weather, technology – e.g. iPod use etc), environment (e.g. built environment, traffic, danger etc)
4. Compare familiar environments to alien places (e.g. unknown neighbourhoods, 'other'(s) places, designated places (e.g. graveyards, museums, libraries, churches, IKEA, saunas etc)
5. Compare familiar and alien places at different times of day or practice (e.g. dusk, night, rush hour, shopping congestion etc).

## Research Strategy

This project will use state of the art galvanic skin response units alongside geographical positioning technology to map (bio)physical records of human interaction with their environment. This quantitative cartography will be interpreted by respondents through the use of qualitative discussions and interviews, giving a personalised insight into embodied engagements between people and place.

## Engagement and Dissemination Activities

- WISERD Annual Conference (2011) (Swansea, 27-29 June 2011): Capturing the moving relations between people and place – Documentary Film
- RGS Annual Conference (2011) (London, 31 Aug - 2 Sept 2011) – Moving Geographies: Film and Video as Research Method (Symposium) – Sensory video and the embodied spaces of film and video session: Capturing the moving relations between people and place.
- RGS Annual Conference (2011) (London, 31 Aug - 2 Sept 2011) – Art, Science and Geographical Imaginaries (Symposium): Mapping person-place relations: a synthesis of science, social science and artistic endeavour.



# WISERD Conference Presentations

## WISERD Cardiff: Dr Kate Moles presented at the NCRM Autumn School, Southampton, November 2010

Following presenting at the WISERD session at the NCRM Summer School, Kate Moles was asked to present a longer version of her paper at the NCRM Autumn School. The focus of this autumn school was a celebration of some of the qualitative work conducted under the remit of the NCRM over the last five years. Kate presented a paper on Time, Place and Understanding in a session with Graham Hughes (University of Southampton) and Andrew Clark (University of Salford) that was concerned with researching place. This paper was informed by the KLiC project, Young People and Place, and how the temporal and the spatial must be understood as intertwined in a research project. The paper called for attention to be paid to this on different levels - in the accounts of the participants, in the way it orders our interactions with the research setting, and in the rhythms of the participants and the research project. The paper was well received, with a discussion afterwards about methods of and in place, and the different ways we can 'know' place and represent it through our research.

## WISERD Cardiff: Dr Tom Hall and Dr Robin Smith presented their work at an invited symposium in Delft, Netherlands and at the American Anthropological Association meeting in New Orleans, 2010

Continuing a busy 2010 for dissemination activities, the Urban Patrols project (Tom Hall and Robin Smith) participated in two international events. The first was a knowledge exchange workshop on 'Urban Crisis and Resistance' in Delft, Netherlands. The Colloquium was co-organised by the Welsh School of Architecture, TU Delft, and Delft School of Design. The event brought together social scientists, architects, and city planners working in a range of European cities and discussions related to the condition of the contemporary city, planning and architectural interventions, and approaches to urban social organisation. Details of the workshop can be found at the DSD website.

[www.delftschoolofdesign.eu/workshops/20/urbancrisisandresistance.pdf](http://www.delftschoolofdesign.eu/workshops/20/urbancrisisandresistance.pdf)

The project was also represented at the American Anthropological Association meeting in New Orleans. The project organised an international panel of five papers (one from the team) addressing the intersection of dwelling and mobility across a global range of fieldsites. The session proved a success and good connections and contacts were established.

The project also presented a methodological paper in a second session. Despite the Sunday morning 8am slot, it was well attended and papers were followed by a lively discussion. Needless to say, New Orleans itself provided a fantastic and charming venue for a stimulating conference.

## WISERD Swansea: Professor David Blackaby and Dr Stephen Drinkwater presented at the Global Wales/Cymru'r Byd seminar series, Richard Burton Centre, Swansea University, November 2010

"Wales and the Global Financial Crisis" was the topic of a presentation by colleagues from WISERD Swansea and the presentation began with a summary of the origins of the financial crisis and the subsequent impact that it had on the UK economy and the labour market in particular. This was followed by a fairly detailed examination of how the Welsh labour market has been affected since the start of the recession, as well as its prospects for the future. The final part of the presentation focused on the policy levers that have been available to the Welsh Assembly Government in order to limit the impact of the recession and the importance of different policy measures. The role of education, skills and training featured heavily in this discussion and this also stimulated a lively debate. It is intended that the issues covered in the presentation will shortly be published in a WISERD policy briefing.

# training

## WISERD Training & Events January 2011 to June 2011

Thursday 3rd March 2011  
9.30am to 1pm

### Qualitative GIS: An introduction

**Course Leader:**  
Dr Stephen Burgess, WISERD Cardiff  
**Venue:**  
WISERD Training Room,  
46 Park Place, Cardiff

Wednesday 16th March 2011  
9.30am to 5.00pm

### Introduction to the British Birth Cohort Studies

**Course Leader:**  
Professor Peter Shepherd, Centre for  
Longitudinal Studies, Institute of  
Education, London  
**Venue:**  
Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University

Wednesday 6th April 2011  
9.30am to 4.30pm

### Structural Equation Modeling

**Course Leader:**  
Dr Chris Stride, Sheffield University  
**Venue:**  
Haldane Building, Swansea University

Monday 11th April 2011  
9.30am to 4.00pm

### Locating and Using Data Resources on Wales

**Course Leader:**  
Mr Rhys Davies, WISERD Quantitative  
Research Team and various colleagues  
from the Welsh Assembly Government  
**Venue:**  
WISERD Training Room,  
46 Park Place, Cardiff

Thursday 14th April 2011  
10.15am to 3.30pm

### Social Network Analysis Via UCINET and NETDRAW

**Course Leader:**  
Dr Mamata Parhi, WISERD Swansea  
**Venue:**  
WISERD Training Room,  
46 Park Place, Cardiff

Monday 18th and  
Tuesday 19th April 2011

### Multi-modal Qualitative Research Workshop

**Course Leaders:**  
Dr Bella Dicks, WISERD Cardiff and Guest  
Presenters  
**Location:**  
WISERD Training Room,  
46 Park Place, Cardiff

Tuesday 17th May 2011  
9.30am to 4.30pm

### Walking Workshop: Methods Going Mobile

**Course Leaders:**  
Dr Kate Moles and Dr Robin Smith,  
WISERD Cardiff  
**Venue:**  
WISERD Training Room,  
46 Park Place, Cardiff

Full details of all courses  
and events are available on  
the WISERD website  
[www.wiserd.ac.uk](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk).  
To book a place on a course  
please contact the WISERD  
Office on 02920 875345  
or send an email to  
[wiserd.events@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:wiserd.events@cardiff.ac.uk).

### WISERD Annual Conference 2011 “Changing Wales: Social, Economic and Political Perspectives”

Tuesday 28th and Wednesday  
29th June 2011  
Sketty Hall, Swansea

WISERD will be holding its second annual conference in Swansea in June 2011. The theme of the conference is Changing Wales: Social, Economic and Political Perspectives.

This theme reflects WISERD's roots in and commitment to inter-disciplinary and mixed method working. Building on the success of the inaugural conference, speakers will be drawn from academic, local government and third sector agencies and the conference will be relevant to anyone interested in public policy developments and debates affecting Wales and beyond.

Confirmed contributions focus on:  
Migration and Wales; Inequality in Wales;  
Education; Children and young people;  
Crime and Social Justice; Devolution,  
political change and citizen participation;  
Ageing and Housing

Professor Charlotte Williams, Professor of  
Social Justice, Keele University will give a  
keynote address.

Professor Gareth Rees, Director of  
WISERD will deliver a special lecture on  
changes affecting Higher Education

Other keynotes will be confirmed shortly.

See the WISERD website  
[www.wiserd.ac.uk](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk) for more details  
including booking information.

# Knowledge Exchange

**WISERD is working in partnership with colleagues from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Office of National Statistics on a**

## **Knowledge Exchange Programme.**

The Welsh Assembly Government has recently established a knowledge exchange programme, led by former Chief Social Researcher Angela Evans. The programme aims to strengthen Assembly links to higher education institutions, in particular, in Wales.

To date a series of activities have been carried out including a tri-party meeting between the representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government, WISERD and the Office of National Statistics to discuss research priorities and collaborative working across key policy themes. A further meeting of this nature is planned for Summer 2011.

WISERD is currently working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government to organise a series of evidence symposia. The first of these, on the theme of behaviour change, was held in September 2010. A second of these on the theme of measuring well-being is taking place in March 2011.

**For further information, please contact Victoria Macfarlane, [macfarlanev@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:macfarlanev@cardiff.ac.uk)**

# WISERD Policy Event

## **Exploring institutional and organisational boundaries across Wales**

In mid-December WISERD hosted a half-day workshop which brought together a wide-ranging audience including researchers from across the WISERD institutions and stakeholders from the public and third sectors to explore the role that institutional and organisational boundaries play within the contemporary policy setting within Wales.

The first half of the workshop focused on the wider issues of analysing boundaries and the approach adopted by the Welsh Assembly Government in promoting the 'joined-up' delivery of public services. Dr Scott Orford (WISERD, Cardiff University) presented an outline of the challenges related to analysing data within Wales given the plethora of administrative and statistical units that exist and the increasing emphasis on 'fuzzy boundaries'.

Lisa James from the Welsh Assembly Government provided an overview of the key lessons from Local Service Boards in promoting partnership working. Dr Jesse Heley (WISERD, Aberystwyth University) presented emerging findings from his ongoing research on the operationalisation of the Wales Spatial Plan at the regional and local level.

The second half of the workshop 'drilled down' into three specific policy areas in order to further explore the implications of institutional and organisational boundaries. Professor Sally Power and Dr Chris Taylor (both SOCSI, Cardiff University) presented an analysis of the layered administrative boundaries within education in Wales and highlighted the potential implications that these may have for service delivery from Primary Schools to Higher Education. Professor Marcus Longley (WIHSC, University of Glamorgan) examined the role of boundaries in health and social care provision in England and Wales, challenging the audience to consider how boundaries are framed and applied within policy debates.

Dr Ian Stafford (WISERD, Cardiff University) provided an overview of recent attempts to build regional partnership arrangements within transport policy in Wales and the key issues which faced policy-makers in moving beyond traditional local authority boundaries. Overall the workshop provided a highly engaging range of presentations and facilitated a rich discussion of the key issues around institutional and organisational boundaries in contemporary Wales.

The slides from all of the presentations will soon be available on the WISERD website.

# WISERD PhD students, Cardiff

## Hayley Collicott Hayley's PhD is entitled Safeguarding children and young people in local communities: a neighbourhood study.

The project is a CASE studentship, funded by the ESRC and the NSPCC, and based in WISERD (Cardiff). Her main research question is 'How do residents of a specific neighbourhood understand, perform and experience the safeguarding of children in their locality?' In particular she is looking at:

- How children are safeguarded through informal networks and how decisions are made to make formal reports of concerns.
- How notions of children as a risk, as well as at risk, are enacted within a specific locale.
- The perceived geographies of safety/risk in a neighbourhood.
- Neighbourhood experiences and perceptions of formal safeguarding agencies, including social work, education, health and criminal justice services.

The project entails an in depth qualitative case study of a neighbourhood and aims to include a wide range of residents from the children to the more senior citizens.

The research is partnered with another WISERD project with the same research questions and design focusing on a deprived area in the Welsh Valleys. To facilitate comparisons between neighbourhood types, Hayley's project investigates how community safeguarding is understood and enacted in a more professional, middle class neighbourhood.

## The President's PhD Awards in the Law, Policy and Politics of Wales, Cardiff University.

**Two new PhD students – Sara Knight and Robert David Jones – began their doctoral research at Cardiff University in October 2010. Sara and Robert are the first students on a new PhD programme in the Law, Policy and Politics of Wales at Cardiff University. The programme builds on Wales-focused research at Cardiff, in particular the research environment provided by WISERD and the Wales Governance Centre.**

It draws on research expertise in Cardiff Law School, the School of European Studies and the School of Social Sciences. Students within this programme will work with cross-school supervisory teams. The Law, Policy and Politics in Wales doctoral programme is funded by Cardiff University's President's PhD Scheme and represents a major investment in postgraduate research by Cardiff University. This prestigious scheme was created to mark the appointment as President of Cardiff University of Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Martin Evans.

Sara Knight's research will focus on the implementation of the Welsh

Baccalaureate, and will consider the different contexts in which this new qualification is being delivered, including School Sixth Forms and FE Colleges. Sara is being supervised by WISERD Director Gareth Rees and Alistair Cole from the Cardiff University School of European Studies. Robert Jones is exploring the experiences of Welsh offenders within the prison estate. His research will pay considerable attention to Wales's 'post-colonial' history in relation to Welsh penalty. Robert is supervised by Richard Wyn Jones, Director of the Wales Governance Centre and Kirsty Hudson from the Cardiff University School of Social Sciences.

The doctoral programme in the Law, Policy and Politics of Wales offers PhD studentships which provide fees and an RCUK-equivalent stipend. We expect to offer 3 further studentships to start in October 2011. They are available for students to be registered in the School of European Studies or the School of Law. The deadline for applications to this programme is 4th March 2011. Anyone interested in further information on these studentships should contact Professor Daniel Wincott, Cardiff Law School, on [WincottD@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:WincottD@Cardiff.ac.uk).





# WISERD

46 Park Place  
Cardiff  
CF10 3BB

Tel: 029 2087 9338  
Fax: 029 2087 6318  
Email: [WISERD@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:WISERD@cardiff.ac.uk)