

## WISERD 2014 Annual Conference Call for Papers

### Introduction

The WISERD 2014 Conference will be held on 3-4 July 2014 in Aberystwyth University. We are delighted to be able to confirm that [Professor Bob Jessop](#) and [Professor Karel Williams](#) have agreed to deliver keynote addresses.

The 2014 conference is the fifth annual WISERD conference, and follows on from four successful conferences, held in Cardiff, Swansea, Bangor and South Wales Universities. WISERD conferences attract colleagues from across the academic, policy, public, private, and third sectors in Wales; and have become established as one of the most important events in the social science calendar.

### Getting involved

There are a number of ways of getting involved in the WISERD 2014 Conference. At this stage we are inviting submissions of abstracts for papers and posters. We have both themed and open strands for which submissions are invited. The themed sessions are as follows:

#### ***Culture, Values & Creative Industries***

We invite papers which engage with contemporary cultural forces and trends, and their implications for institutions, practices and values in the Welsh context. Topics could include: the development of arts, media and cultural institutions in Wales; strategies for creative industries; cultural policy; cultural power and resistance; minority cultures; intersections between local, regional, national, international and transnational cultures; discourses of history and 'nation'; the shaping of beliefs, norms and values; consumption practices and identities; audiences for old and new media; cultures of sport; and new forms of visual and aural culture. Papers are likely to address issues of inequality and difference according to – for example - class, gender, age, ethnicity, religion, language or locality. We particularly welcome contributions that present empirically-informed work on cultures in Wales or comparisons which include Wales. Papers are likely to reflect a range of disciplines, theoretical and methodological positions.

*Keywords:* creativity, consumption, culture, inequality, intersectionality, media, values

#### ***Civil Society***

Papers are invited that discuss the nature and dynamics of civil society in Wales and beyond. Possible topics include: participation in voluntary and community activities, including analysis of differential participation by age, class, ethnicity and religion; the 'new localism' and community governance; voluntary and third sector activities in a time of austerity; faith-based organizations and the 'post-secular city'; trade union activism in civil society; volunteering in national and international NGOs; the development of a distinctively Welsh civil society; the contribution of civil society groups to policy-making in Wales; civil society groups, the media and public debate in Wales.

*Keywords:* Volunteering, participation, community, localism, third sector, post-secular city, public debate

#### ***Economic Life***

We welcome papers in any area of economics and the social sciences but would particularly welcome papers in the area of labour markets. The session will host both theoretical and empirical contributions and would particularly welcome papers with a high relevance to the Welsh economy or which use Welsh data. Papers undertaking international comparisons with Wales or the UK would again be particularly welcomed. The theme will look to address relationships and interactions between individuals, firms and society including the role of trade unions and social enterprises in labour markets and so papers from across the social sciences which are theoretical, empirical or methodological or a combination would be welcomed.

#### ***Health, Environment & Wellbeing***

This theme will address inter-relationships between the environment, health and wellbeing. We welcome contributions based on theoretical work and research findings addressing the ways in which

environmental changes (broadly conceptualised) are connected to levels of health and well-being together with research that addresses policies linking ecological change with population health. Examples might include but are not limited to; landscapes of rurality and health, urban change and well-being, connections between green environments and quality of life, sustainability and public health, natural environments and human needs, parks and green spaces for public health, health inequalities and environmental justice.

*Keywords:* environment, health inequalities, sustainability, well-being

### **Transitions in Education, Childhood & the Labour Market**

We welcome papers that examine transitions through childhood and into adulthood. This could be transitions through the education system, from pre-school through to higher education or between different stages of the compulsory education system, transitions in child cognitive development, transitions of young people into the labour market, transitions through the care system, or any other aspect of 'growing up' during childhood. Contributions can be empirical, theoretical and/or have policy relevance. We also welcome interdisciplinary papers that attempt to consider various dimensions of childhood and education. Topics can be far-ranging and could include: educational achievement; well-being; vocational training and career development; health and exercise; relationships with the State, family and community; accessibility and geography; social networks; cultural activities; democratic participation; children's contribution to civil society. However, we encourage all papers to address issues of transition - whether they be about development, growth, progress, upheaval, transformation, passing, or even the absence of change such as sameness and stagnation.

*Keywords:* Transitions, Education, Childhood, Interdisciplinarity, Development

### **Social Care across the Life-course**

This theme invites contributions addressing all areas of social care and also inter-disciplinary research that includes social care, such as developments in integrated health and social care services. Empirical, theoretical and policy analysis papers are welcome. Potential topics include themes central to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill and *Sustainable Social Services*, such as citizen centred care, eligibility frameworks, measuring outcomes, co-production and regionalisation. Other potential topics include comparative studies between social care in Wales and the rest of the UK or internationally, the impact of spending cuts, use of routine data and data linkage, evidence-based practice, adult and child protection, out-of-home care, prevention and early intervention.

*Keywords:* social care, social work, prevention, support, intervention, protection, inter-disciplinary, social policy.

### **Open Sessions**

Themed sessions are intended to be inclusive to colleagues from a wide range of disciplines and sectors. In addition to the themed sessions above, there will also be a series of open sessions to ensure that the programme for the conference reflects the research interests and priorities of the social science and policy sectors within Wales, the UK and internationally. All topics will be considered for inclusion within the conference programme.

### **Requirements for participation**

WISERD will accept proposals from both academic and non-academic colleagues. An abstract is required for everyone presenting a paper or poster.

### **Fees**

All participants, except non-attending co-authors, must book onto the conference, paying the appropriate participation fee, within the early booking period (before 2 May 2014).

### **Proposals**

Proposals for papers; sessions; workshops; roundtables and posters should take the form of an abstract of no more than 500 words in total. To submit an abstract, please fill in the attached proforma.

## How to submit a proposal

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 17 January 2014.

Your proposal should be sent to: [wiserd.events@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:wiserd.events@cardiff.ac.uk).

All submissions will be considered by the WISERD conference planning group and presenters will be informed of their decision during February 2014.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact the WISERD hub team at the email address above, or telephone 029 208 79338.

## Booking

Booking for the conference opens on 5 March 2014 with early bird rates applying until 2 May 2014. Further information about the conference and details on how to book will be available from the WISERD website at [www.wiserd.ac.uk](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk). Please note: In order to speak at this event you will also need to register as a delegate in the normal way.

## Post Conference

As part of our capacity building and knowledge exchange strategy, WISERD is aiming to maximise the dissemination and impact of social science research relevant to Wales. To facilitate this, presenters will be offered the opportunity to disseminate their presentation and/or research findings to a wider audience via one of the following mechanisms:

- Publication of a WISERD working paper
- Publication of a policy briefing
- Publication of a research summary
- Article in WISERD News
- Publication of slides and supplementary materials on the conference pages of the WISERD website

## PhD Student Competitions

### Poster Competition

WISERD, in collaboration with the ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Centre, will be awarding prizes to postgraduate students who present posters. All posters submitted by postgraduate students will be automatically entered into the competition. If you do not wish your paper/poster to be entered, please note this in the 'additional information' section of the abstract proforma.

### Essay Competition

In addition to the Poster competition, the 2014 WISERD conference will include a 'collaboration short essay competition'. Entrants must be currently registered PhD students and must be attending the conference. The winning entry will be read out by the author (or if preferred, by the Director of the ESRC Wales DTC) as a formal part of conference events, and the author will receive a cash prize of £200 sponsored by the DTC. The winning entry will be published on the DTC and WISERD websites.

The short essay may take many forms and could refer to past, present or planned activities or experiences, such as negotiating aspects of design or fieldwork, co-authorship, knowledge exchange, a placement or internship. It may discuss hopes, fears, successes, frustrations...or all of these!

However:

- It must not exceed 750 words;
- It must focus on aspects or an aspect of collaboration between a PhD researcher and a non-academic organization;
- It must be written in a clear and accessible style;

Entries should be sent to [WalesDTC@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:WalesDTC@cardiff.ac.uk) by Friday 13 June 2014. They will be judged by the DTC Director and a senior WISERD representative.