**Humanising SIG meeting**

****

**Details of topics and speakers December 7th 2017**

***Dr Jim Cowan - Comparing market and civil society thinking from the standpoint of humanising health and social care***

A core concept developed in `The Britain Potential` Jims paperback to be published, is of the country having an `operating system` comprising civil society, the state, markets, and 1.5+ million organisations. The `operating system` is underpinned by certain thinking and the values.

The book argues that Britain has had 3 operating systems since the industrial revolution and that a new one, a fourth seems to be beginning to take shape in which the prospects for humanising public services, and indeed Britain, are central. To avoid seeming to have a crystal ball, what the book says about a fourth operating system is grounded in actualities: things already happening. These actualities together with `thinking` which supports such developments has meant it has been possible to compare the thinking and values of this seeming-to-be-taking-shape ‘operating system 4’ with the thinking and values powering the current market oriented operating system. Jim will present these two sets of thinking/values for discussion and explain their contexts, especially how humanising changes seem to be happening in health and social care.

Dr Jim Cowan is now an independent researcher having completed 40 years as a community development practitioner, retiring in 2012. Jim has worked on issues of class on council estates (70s), family support (between the 70s and 80s), anti-racism (the 80s), and a variety of disability communities (Deaf, neurological conditions, learning disabilities, carers, users of homecare, people with physical disabilities, and independent living in the 90s and 2000s). The independent research has been converting this experience into a current affairs/politics paperback. `The Britain Potential` is nearing completion. Jim has 5 degrees including the PhD which was awarded in 2004/5 for a social constructionist study exploring shared language/meaning among groups of people with a shared purpose and drawing from John Shotter`s work. Jim has taught at South Bank University, was honorary visiting senior research fellow at South Bank from 2005 until 2016, has presented conference papers throughout the 2000s as preparation for the book, and is part of a network of academics seeking to humanise academia that is sponsored by SGI-UK (a socially engaged form of Buddhism) through an annual symposium.

***Sue Melling - Symmetrical and/or asymmetrical interacting: A grounded theory explaining the process of being a relative during their family member’s hospital admission in adult, medical areas of care.***

Much attention in nursing and health care is centred on the patient but little seems to be known about relatives’ experiences when a family member is an inpatient of a medical directorate in England. The setting is pertinent as adult medical care is the largest service in most NHS hospitals, demand for beds is high, availability problematic, wards are busy and optimal staffing challenging. This presentation concerns how from my doctoral studies symmetrical and/or asymmetrical interacting emerged as the fundamental social process of being a relative in the circumstances stated above. It consists of empowering and/or disempowering and equitable and/or inequitable interacting. These concepts derived from relatives' perceptions and experiences of the positive and/or negative impact of interacting on the care and safety their loved one which constituted relatives' main concern. Relatives constantly watched interactions and if needed would assertively advocate for their family member by counter interacting or remain passive and compliant through disassociating.

At present, I am a lecturer in adult nursing and facilitate learning on the BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing degree. Previously, as a registered nurse in adult and child and young person’s nursing my area of expertise was associated with intensive care nursing especially of neonates and children. I pursued a career in higher education from 1997 and have had postings as a lecturer in adult and child health; senior lecturer and leader of a child health team and principal lecturer as academic co-ordinator of access and recruitment. I also led the development, validation and delivery of a Foundation Degree in Early Years Care and Education in three further education colleges and the ‘top up’ to BA (Hons) Early Years Care and Education degree ensuring quality provision, widening participation and career progression. From 2008 I lived in Eastern Europe and then returned to higher education in 2013. I consistently aim to make a positive impact on the student nurse experience. I am passionate about instilling the values of good quality, safe, humanistic and person centred nursing care. To this end I employ varied pedagogical strategies and am innovative in my approach to student learning. My current doctoral studies draw on previous undergraduate and postgraduate research enabling me to extend my expertise in grounded theory and interest concerning relatives’ in the hospital setting. Additionally my research highlights humanising theory and the concept of person centred care. I am proactively engaged in developing synthesis across a range of activities related to these themes that contribute to educational, professional practice and research outputs.