Inequalities Research Collaboration Workshop

Thursday 18 June, 2015
1 – 3pm

Welcome
AGENDA

13:00  Welcome and (self) introductions
      *Name, School, and one key word / phrase to summarise your research interests*

13:15  Inequalities at Leeds Research Overview / Research Funding Landscape

13:25  Presentations on inequalities research at Leeds from:
      - Professor Paul Routledge, School of Geography
      - Dr Ghazala Mir, Leeds Institute for Health Sciences
      - Professor Sarah Irwin, School of Sociology and Social Policy
      - Dr Nick Emmel, School of Sociology and Social Policy

13:50  World Café – Exploring inequalities research at Leeds
      Table 1 – Concepts
      Table 2 – Methods
      Table 3 – Collaboration
      Table 4 - Virtual Network

14:30  Wider Discussion

14:50  Summary and next steps

15:00  Close

Note: room is available until 4pm for networking / further discussion
Introductions:

1. Name
2. School
3. One key word / phrase which summarises your research interests
Inequalities Research at Leeds

Research Funding Landscape

Sophia Kennedy, LSSI
Rachel Woolley, RIS
Inequalities at Leeds Research Overview

- Social Sciences Research Strategy highlighted 68 social science research centres /institutes

LSSI undertaking a mapping exercise to confirm intellectual agenda and identify synergies
Research Funding Landscape
Research Funding Landscape

RCUK – 6 cross council themes (interdisciplinary)

- **Global uncertainties**: ESRC (Lead). Priority areas: conflict, organised crime, cyber security, terrorism
- **Lifelong health and wellbeing**: MRC (Lead). Priority areas: ageing populations, health working lives, mental wellbeing, health inequalities in developing countries
- **Global food security**: BBSRC (Lead). Recent call: Resilience of the UK Food System in a Global Context (£7m)
- **Digital economy**: EPSRC (Lead) Priority area: security, trust, privacy – (Internet of Things £10m)
- **Living with environmental change**: NERC (Lead). Priority areas: climate, ecosystems, resources, health, infrastructure and society
- **Energy**: EPSRC (Lead)
Research Funding Landscape

**ESRC**
- Healthy Urban living – health inequalities, justice, diversity, migration (July 2015)
- Social science of the food-water-energy nexus (2 July 2015)
- ESRC /DIFD -Financial sector development and economic growth (2 July 2015)
- Education in developing countries (forecast Spring 2016)
- Methodological Innovation for Longitudinal Studies (Understanding society)- education; employment; health, income, housing, deprivation. (forecast Spring 2016)

**EPSRC**
- Future priority area: Urban living

**British Academy**
- BA/DIFD Anti-Corruption Evidence Partnership – themes include: anti-corruption initiatives; gender and social exclusion (24 June 2015)
# Research Funding Landscape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding and Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EU Horizon 2020</strong></td>
<td>- Science with and for Society theme: responsible research; gender equality</td>
<td>Draft WP - Reversing Inequalities &amp; Promoting Fairness (2016/17)</td>
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<td><strong>Nuffield Foundation</strong></td>
<td>- Children and families; education; law in society (outline 2 July, £50 – 250k)</td>
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<td><strong>Wellcome Trust</strong></td>
<td>- Society and Ethics programme (July 2015): social roles, perceptions of risk and uncertainty, public attitudes and behaviour, health inequalities (£100k - £2m)</td>
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<td><strong>Joseph Rowntree Foundation</strong></td>
<td>- Rights and justice; peace and security; power and accountability; sustainable futures programme grants, up to £100k (1 September 2015)</td>
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Funded Inequalities Research

ESRC Understanding the dynamics of ethnic identity and inequality in the UK, £2.1m, led by Manchester

ESRC Urban Big Data Centre - transport, employment, migration, housing, education and social exclusion, £7.3m, led by Glasgow

AHRC Representing communities: developing the creative power of people to improve health and well-being, £1.2m, led by Cardiff

EPSRC Challenging Human Environments and Research Impact for a Sustainable and Healthy Digital Economy, £3.1m, led by Swansea
Presentations:

• Professor Paul Routledge, School of Geography

• Dr Ghazala Mir, Leeds Institute for Health Sciences

• Professor Sarah Irwin, School of Sociology and Social Policy

• Dr Nick Emmel, School of Sociology and Social Policy

concepts – methods – collaboration - networks
Professor Paul Routledge
Paul Routledge

School of Geography (Cities and Social Justice + Citizenship and Belonging clusters)

LSSI

Centre for Global Development
Concepts

- Social Movements
- Social justice
- Climate justice
- Critical geopolitics

All relate to economic, political, environmental inequalities and injustices across scales and how people attempt to transform them
Methods

- Scholar Activism
- Ethnographies
- Participant observation
- PAR
Collaborations

- Co-Convener (with Jane Holgate) of Leeds Social and Environmental Justice Action Network ([http://www.senjanet.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.senjanet.leeds.ac.uk))
- Food Politics and Justice sub theme
- ISSC Knowledge Network (academics and civil society organisations in UK; USA; Brazil; Bangladesh; South Africa; NZ)
- Common Resources Network
- La Via Campesina; (e.g. Bangladesh Krishok Federation)
Dr Ghazala Mir
Inequalities Research at Leeds Institute of Health Sciences: concepts, methods and collaboration

Ghazala Mir
Mapping exercise in LIHS

Population groups

• ethnic/religious minorities (e.g. mental health; maternity; long term conditions); women; children/young people (e.g. infant mortality/bereavement); people with learning disabilities; older people; deprived communities; offenders

Health inequities not health disparities

• reference to social justice essential for most e.g. access to services, improving health outcomes, empowering socially excluded populations.
• Ethical issues – not replicating social exclusion; privileging the voice/priorities of marginalised groups

Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods

• e.g. systematic reviews, case studies, health economic evaluations, intervention studies, Social Network Analysis
• Some use of methods that model social inclusion e.g. participatory research
Ideas for development

Support to network

• Reduce silo/fragmented working, increase critical mass
• Clarify concepts and compare approaches
• Share and develop expertise/resources
• Identify areas/opportunities for collaboration
• Develop as an area of excellence to increase impact

Incremental approach

• Institutional validation and profile e.g. web presence
• Identify funding opportunities/support collaborations
• Dedicated posts to help sustain development and activity
• Influencing attention to inequalities in other research areas
Further discussion

- Developing focus/identity/coherence
- Partnerships outside the University
- Collaboration models
- Adding to what already exists
- Participatory input
Professor Sarah Irwin
Sarah Irwin, Professor of Sociology

- Director of the Centre for Research into Families, the Life Course and Generations; [http://flag.leeds.ac.uk](http://flag.leeds.ac.uk)
  Various UoL collaborations/ cross-disciplinary activities including facilitator of ‘Parenting and Inequalities network’; various PhD/postdoc events etc; Methods training; Timescapes

- Interests – family, parenting, education, life course, reproduction of socio-economic inequalities, subjective social inequality (economic | cultural)

- Methods – primarily qualitative and qualitative longitudinal; mixed methods (working across quantitative and qualitative data)
Subjective inequalities – an end of social class?

The retreat of social class
More implicit and hidden
Part of an individualisation/naturalisation of inequality

Subjective views

Prevarication/ self identification as ordinary/ middling;
Entrenchment of individualism

Multi-dimensional and diverse;
Implications of how we operationalise explanatory categories
Dr Nick Emmel
**My research:** I ask questions about why inequalities in health persist. I am looking for the underlying causes, the powers, dispositions and liabilities that seem to exclude some people and groups, make them vulnerable at different times in their lives, and make some people less healthy than others.

**My methodology:** Realism (of the middle range)—driven by ideas to be tested, not data or my favourite / preferred method of investigating the world. (*Making causal claims is challenging because they are not immediately obvious or measurable, but we can try*)

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**Why are these families in this low-income community unable to consistently access services to be healthy?**

**Why is there no statistical difference in pressure ulcer outcome for patients allocated to standard and alternating pressure mattresses?**

**COLLABORATION**

Nick Emmel
World Café – Exploring inequalities research at Leeds

Table 1 – **Concepts** with facilitator Sarah Irwin (*10 minutes*):
- What is inequality?
- What are the two key concepts in your research area?
- What are the most pressing research questions and challenges in this area?

Table 2 – **Methods** with facilitator Nick Emmel (*10 minutes*):
- What are the most appropriate methods applied to the study of inequalities?
- What are the key priorities and challenges for present and future research?

Table 3 – **Collaboration** with facilitator Ghazala Mir (*10 minutes*):
- What is the potential for future (academic / non-academic) collaborations in this area?
- Who are the key stakeholders?
- What good practice can we learn from existing collaborative networks?

Table 4 – **Virtual Network** with facilitator Sophia Kennedy (*10 minutes*):
- What would you like from a virtual network?
- What are the priority issues for the network?
- How could a network help you?