

<p>Institution: Cardiff University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 23 Sociology</p>
<p>a. Context: Cardiff School of Social Sciences is a large research-intensive unit with significant experience and expertise in delivering diverse impacts for a range of beneficiaries. The School's five Sociological research themes – Advances in Research Methodology; Scientific Knowledge, Technology and Risk; Crime, Security and Justice; Culture, Identity and Transformation; Health, Wellbeing and Welfare – are home to staff conducting internationally recognised research. They produce a full spectrum of academic and practitioner-oriented outputs, with close attention paid to maximising the reach and significance of research impact. As set out below, the School's emphasis on impact is embedded in its Research and its Innovation and Engagement Strategies and is also supported by its adoption of a 'mixed economy' funding model, encouraging colleagues to secure research funding from government, third and corporate sectors, in recognition that such sources often provide clear pathways to influencing policy and practice. Much of our work connects to issues of public policy and public service development, and we have strong relationships with international, UK and Welsh policy makers. The breadth and depth of these relations are vital in enabling Cardiff research to produce changes in practice and public policy as well as making important contributions to public debates through proactive public engagement.</p> <p>A distinctive feature of our impact activity is the long-term strategy of investing in a network of research centres, providing an infrastructure for impact, through a focus on specific social issues and problems, and a concentration of specialist expertise that policy-makers and practitioners working in these areas can engage with on an ongoing basis. This infrastructure has supported a significant amount of innovative knowledge co-production with user groups, whereby research users have been woven into the design, delivery and dissemination of the research process, contributing to change in practice. This is exemplified by the Universities' Police Science Institute (UPSI) a partnership collaboration with South Wales Police explicitly praised by the Home Secretary in September 2012, and currently being promoted as a model for the future development of research-based police practice by the new College of Policing. Another example can be found in the Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre (CWERC) which collaborated with the European Trade Union Institute and the European Textiles Workers Federation to develop a 'toolbox' of guidance materials to support small firms in the textiles industry and producing change in practice through practical support for workers and employers in managing the risks of hazardous substances at work.</p> <p>WISERD – the Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods showcases how our research also has impacts for other beneficiaries (i.e. non-academic consumers rather than co-producers of research). A partnership between Cardiff University and four other HEIs, WISERD has particularly close relationships with the Welsh Government (WG) and other locally-based organisations (such as the Office for National Statistics). The Institute jointly runs an ESRC-funded seminar series with the Welsh Government and holds regular information exchange meetings with senior policy makers, with direct impact on practice; for example as a direct result of one of these meetings (29/6/2012), a steering group has been set up by the WG and is in the process of developing a set of wellbeing indicators.</p> <p>Cardiff sociologists have regularly reached broader audiences via Welsh and UK newspapers, international papers and television news, and by appearing on BBC Radio 4's Thinking Allowed social science discussion programme, Woman's Hour and the Today Programme.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact: A particular focus of Cardiff's sociological impact work is influencing policy formation and implementation, as well as professional practice amongst those who deliver policies on the ground. These were identified as areas for strategic support and investment via the School's long standing Innovation and Engagement Strategy. By adopting an integrative and proactive approach, we have established a variety of support mechanisms across the impact pathway and for a variety of potential users which can be clustered around three broad approaches: people, policies and procedures.</p> <p>Our investment in people is typified by the appointment, early in this REF cycle, of an academic member of staff (Hedgecoe) to serve as '<i>impact co-ordinator</i>', liaising with staff involved in impact case studies, organising training and review meetings and supporting the Director of Research. Beyond 2013, this role will shift to implementing the School's impact strategy (see section c). Drawing on the well-established precept that impact most often arises from personal connections with users, members of staff have been supported in taking <i>secondments</i> and other</p>

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placements to build knowledge of policy settings and policy makers. Examples of sociologists involved in such placements include: Professor Andy Pithouse (currently on a 60% secondment as a specialist policy advisor to the Minister/ Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government); Amanda Robinson (who obtained a placement within WG, funded by the Strategic Insight Programme, a HEFCW programme supporting engagement between Welsh university staff and public, private and third sector organisations) and Professor Mark Drakeford (between 2000 and 2010 seconded as health and social policy adviser at the Welsh Government; then head of the First Minister's political office; in 2011 elected as a member of the Welsh Assembly while remaining a member of staff at Cardiff, strengthening the School's links with legislators and the Welsh civil service; March 2013 appointed Minister for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government). Finally, the School has taken the initiative in *staff development* providing training around impact at all levels. Sessions on impact are offered as part of the MSc Social Science Research Methods as well as ½ day course provided by School staff through the Wales Doctoral Training Centre. In terms of staff, as well as access to University level training in impact relevant areas (around the media for example), the School funds impact relevant training events, such as a workshop on the use of 'social media for impact'.

In terms of **overarching policies to support impact**, relationships with practitioners and policy makers are promoted through *Advisory Boards* that bring our sociologists into contact with research users, helping refine and develop research agendas, providing potential partners, and assisting in the dissemination of findings. Research centre advisory boards are mirrored at School level by the School's advisory panel, which includes representatives from the Welsh Assembly, an NHS Trust, the Chief Constable of South Wales, the Institute of Education, and the Office for National Statistics. In the inverse of this, the School believes that a key pathway for impact lies in *staff membership of advisory panels* and providing evidence to parliamentary committees and other such groups at the Welsh, UK and International levels. For example, in addition to Innes, the director of UPSI, giving oral evidence to the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament's Inquiry into Community Policing, he serves on the International Advisory Board for the Scottish Institute for Policing Research. Similarly, Mike Levi is a member of the Home Office's Economic Resource Allocation Committee, while at the international level he has served on Transparency International's national integrity survey advisory group, as well as providing input into Europol's Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment. The Seafarers International Research Centre has contributed both to UK debates (through evidence on sulphur emissions submitted to the Transport Select Committee) and broader international policy making in the form of EC task force on future of the European shipping industry, on which the SIRC director (Sampson) sat. Members of the School working on the All Wales Hate Crime (AWHCR) Project provided evidence to the Welsh Assembly's Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee. Finally, through our Marketing and Engagement Committee, the school is committed to the idea that effective impact requires some form of *public engagement* at an early stage of the pathway. Public events such as the 'Glamorgan Lecture Series', have attracted high profile external speakers – such as Danny Dorling, Tony Jewell (then Wales' Chief Medical Officer), and the journalist Madeleine Bunting – to engage with the public on topics of current importance, through which we seek to influence broader public discourse as well as connect to specific groups with whom further impact might be sought. The School participated in the ESRC Festival of Social Science, most recently collaborating with 12 schools across South Wales to promote 'statistics in society'.

Cardiff sociologists have developed a range of innovative engagement activities: e.g. the Cesagen centre's involvement in the sciScreen project, expanding on a previously available engagement approach, using up to four speakers from various disciplines to stimulate discussion around a previously screened film. Since March 2010 this has involved 20 events, with over 1300 people in attendance. An example of how such engagement feeds into impact can be seen in the case of Rachel Hurdley's 'Making Wales, Remembering Home' project – a series of short films with asylum seekers/refugees in late 2011/early 2012. As a result, Hurdley now sits as a director of the new Community Business 'Up & Learning', a not-for-profit after-school programme for Roma children in Cardiff.

Finally, the School has developed a number of **procedures to enhance impact**. The research committee operates an '*Impact development fund*' of around £10,000 to support staff in user group engagement and to ensure impact from research. Use of this money has focused on candidate REF case studies, with attention shifting over the course of 2013 to enabling the ongoing

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development of impactful research beyond 2014. Our workload model has been amended to explicitly include impact activities providing an explicit recognition of the work involved, and allowing a transparent and accountable balancing of such activities alongside other aspects of the academic role. This facility both supports and promotes dedicated impact-related work.

c. Strategy and plans: Drawing on and reacting to debates around Michael Burawoy's 'Public Sociology', including his invited lectures on this topic in Cardiff (July 2009 & June 2011), we see policy relevant, publically accessible sociology as the basis for our impact strategy and a vision for how to continue to develop and evolve our work in this area. Policy relevant sociology is an area of strength in the School; we believe that our links to a specific policy community (in this case the Welsh Government and related agencies) are amongst the strongest of any sociology department in the UK. Our forward strategy accents the continuing development of **research centres**, on the grounds that, as well as providing a rich environment for interdisciplinary research on specific social issues and problems, they provide much of the infrastructure for our impact work. An important development in this regard is Cardiff hosting the new Public Policy Institute for Wales to support the work of Welsh Government. The School is a key partner in this endeavour. In terms of professional practice, the School has won the commission for the development and delivery of professional training for qualified social workers across Wales, enhancing our shaping of practice. We will also work with other Schools across the University to develop the Cardiff '**Social Science Research Park**', which will provide a focus for engagement with policy and practice communities.

To further build relationships with policy makers and improve communication of our research we are planning a number of **events**. The 'Policy speaks to Social Science' lecture series, will invite a series of policy makers – for example the Chief Social Research Officer for Wales – to address how social science is used in policy making. We believe this approach will go beyond simply communicating our findings to policy makers and help identify policy relevant areas for future work.

We will also build on the evidence symposia WISERD currently operates with Welsh Government, developing a series of events tailored around specific policy challenges and targeted at practitioners and junior policy makers (for example, Assembly Members' research assistants) as a way to translate our research into policy settings. The School is also increasing its collaboration with non-academic partners in research projects and in **Doctoral studentships**. Several ESRC DTC studentships in Sociology are already collaborative in this sense, reflecting our wish to embed an awareness of such collaboration and its potential for impact right across the research culture. Our current work in publically accessible sociology – for example the Glamorgan Lecture Series – will be expanded through **non-academic publications** including a subset of the School's working paper series, as well as drawing on the University's presence at **public events** such as the Hay Festival and the Eisteddfod. In addition we have a number of plans for generic impact support in the School, including employing a **Research Impact Officer** to support promotion and dissemination of the School's research post-REF by supporting the 'Impact Coordinator' (see above).

d. Relationship to case studies: The case studies selected for return evidence how our research has delivered impacts at Welsh, UK and international levels. They also illuminate the ways our work shapes the conceptual understandings and models that underpin policy formation; the shape of policies and how they might be implemented; and professional practice among those who deliver these policies on the ground (see section a). For example, Robinson's research underpins specific forms of professional practice in protecting the victims of domestic violence as well as the policies that support these practices. Mike Levi's work has raised crucial questions about the assumptions underpinning international and UK approaches to financial crime, and what improved anti-money laundering policies might be. Fevre's research on disability discrimination has shaped UK policy and practice (for example in underpinning the UK Equality performance indicator for disability) and at both a Welsh and International level. The studies by Innes and the UPSI research centre have had key impacts across England and Wales both on the delivery of policing policies and the shape of those policies in the first place. These case studies also serve to illustrate the ways staff have drawn on a number of our approaches to impact (see section b). All case studies have drawn on the *impact co-ordinator*, *Advisory Panel* and changes to the *workload model*, and several have drawn on the *Impact Development Fund* (Fevre, Robinson, Levi). Robinson used her *secondment* to the Welsh Government to enhance the role of her research in the White paper on domestic abuse and a number of cases have benefited from researchers' *membership of advisory panels* (Innes, Levi, Robinson).