

**Spotlight on Social Sciences 2012
Abstract Submissions - Talks**

Abdul-Azim, SOCSI, Bangor University - Talk

The Forgotten Welsh Revival

The study of Muslims in Britain is an important and burgeoning field, despite this, academic research into Muslim history and presence in Wales is sparse. My presentation, based upon ongoing PhD research, will aim to explore some of the forgotten historical events that have shaped Welsh Muslim identity. Specifically, it will focus on an Islamic revival in South Wales, led by Abdullah Ali al-Hakimi during 1930s and 40s. Wales is known for its Christian Revivals, but this forgotten Islamic revival played a key role in the shaping of not only Welsh Muslim identity but Muslim identity in Britain.

Jessica Baillie, SONMS, Cardiff University – Talk

Findings from an ethnographic study of home dialysis

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is a treatment for kidney failure, performed in the home daily, by the individual or family. Few qualitative studies explore how families live with PD, despite international emphasis on promoting PD utilisation. This study used ethnographic methods, including interviews with individuals using PD and relatives, with observation of PD being performed. The results, the focus of this paper, reveal in-depth understanding of how individuals and relatives live with PD; how it is integrated into and impacts upon everyday life. It is anticipated that the findings will assist healthcare professionals to further support individuals, and demonstrate the usefulness of ethnography to examine the impact of home medical treatments.

Harry Bowles, School of Sport, Cardiff Met - Talk

Becoming Critical: Dilemmas Faced by Qualitative Researchers

Undertaking qualitative research is time-consuming, unpredictable and emotionally draining, and can present a host of philosophical, methodological, and ethical dilemmas (Sugden, 1997). In the form of an ethnodrama, this presentation communicates some of the challenges faced by a group of novice researchers coming to terms with the demands of working within the qualitative research paradigm. The role of reflective and reflexive practice, the value of critical friends, and the vulnerabilities and dilemmas experienced during the research process are explored in the pursuit for critical thought and advancement of knowledge across a range of subject areas.

Rachel Cahill-O'Callaghan, CLAWS, Cardiff University – Talk

Influence of Personal Values on Legal Judgments

Judges hearing the same case can reach different decisions. There is extensive debate regarding the factors that affect such decisions. This research examines the influence of personal values on judicial decisions.

Drawing on empirical and theoretical work of psychologists, a novel method to systematically identify, code and analyse personal values as espoused in legal opinions was developed. A series of Supreme Court cases were analysed. The majority of Supreme Court Justices were found to reach decisions consistent with their values. The value-decision paradigm was analysed in a small empirical study. This research demonstrates personal values may influence the judicial decision.

Verity Clarke, School of Policy Studies, University of Bristol – Talk

The Adoption of mixed Ethnicity Children

There has been a lack of agreement about whether mixed ethnicity children should be placed 'trans-racially' or not because there has been dispute how to define their ethnic identity. Mixed-ethnicity children are also significantly over-represented in adoption statistics. Consequently, research is needed that will help social workers make appropriate decisions about the placement of these children. My PhD explores the identities and experiences of racism of these children in adoptive families and the strategies employed by adoptive parents to help them cope with these issues. In this presentation I will outline the background behind my research and how I intend to answer these research questions.

Rebecca Craig, PSYCH, Cardiff University – Talk

Attachment and the Triarchic Conceptualisation of Psychopathy

Attachment-related functioning (the way we think, feel, and behave within relationships) has been implicated in the development of psychopathy, a pathological form of personality with strong links to criminality. The current study investigated links between attachment and the triarchic conceptualisation of psychopathy (boldness, meanness, and disinhibition). Using self-report questionnaires among a university sample, links were found between each component of psychopathy and distinct elements of attachment-related functioning. These links may be used to inform further prospective investigations, as well as therapeutic interventions designed to lessen the negative impact of psychopathy on the individual, those around them, and society at large.

Corinne Funnell, SOCSI, Cardiff University - Talk

Racism by stealth: understanding how victims perceive racist hate crimes

The presence, nature and impact of racist hate crime raises theoretical and methodological issues crucial to the development of hate crime scholarship as well as policy and practice responses. Hate crime has however only recently been the focus of criminological inquiry in the UK. This paper presents findings from ethnographic research which sought to understand how racist hate crime victims and their caseworkers understood their experiences, and focuses specifically on the nature of victimization, including racism by stealth, and the challenges of reporting such crimes and incidents to reporting authorities.

Alegra Hummel, MEDIC/PSYCH, Cardiff University – Talk

The relationship between family, puberty and substance use in girls

Adolescent substance use can have serious health consequences. Family-related variables and pubertal timing have been associated with increased risk of substance use in adolescence. However, there is little research examining how these factors combine to increase substance use. Data from the large population-based ALSPAC (Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children) study were analysed using different regression models. It was found that on-time maturing girls used significantly more alcohol and cigarettes than late girls and that negative family functioning was associated with higher levels of substance use. Additionally, it was found that family functioning has different effects on substance use depending on the girls' pubertal timing.

Ilona Johnson, DENTL, Cardiff University – Talk

Oral Care in Nursing – Emotions, Motivation and Moderation

Oral care (e.g. toothbrushing) can prevent hospitalised patients from developing life threatening infections but this care is often inadequate. We will present an overview of the qualitative (focus group and interviews) and mixed methods (questionnaires, interviews and psychological Stroop and Implicit Association Tests) studies used to find out how nurses' emotional experiences influence patients' oral care. Barriers to oral care exist and we will explain how these studies have developed our understanding of emotions that motivate care. We will also outline future steps to apply this multidisciplinary research to training and health promotion to enhance care and improve patient health.

**Spotlight on Social Sciences 2012
Abstract Submissions - Talks**

Sara Knight, SOCSI & EUROS, Cardiff University – Talk

A game of Chinese whispers: An analysis of the implementation of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification

My PhD focuses on how policy is understood and implemented into schools and colleges as this is a highly overlooked area of the policy process and often results in misunderstanding and incorrect implementation. The face of post-compulsory education in Wales has changed since the establishment of the Assembly, part of the devolution settlement that resulted from the 1997 referendum. Further developments arose in the publication of "The Learning Country" (2001) which outlined the plans to pilot and then implement The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ). I will discuss the initial plans for my research, my progress so far before finally addressing the possible wider implications of the research findings.

Esther Muddiman, SOCSI, Cardiff University – Talk

Students understandings of success in Britain and Singapore: A discussion of cross-cultural research

In the so-called 'age of human capital', a university education is seen as crucial for getting a good job. Ideas about the importance of creating and maintaining an educated workforce have informed policymaking in countries around the world, but little is known about how these economic imperatives are reflected in young peoples' approaches to learning in the context of their own 'employability'. This project explores student experiences of education and understandings of success in Britain and Singapore - two different socio-economic contexts with contrasting skill-formation models. I will focus on the methodological and practical considerations of undertaking a cross-cultural study.

Hannah O'Mahoney, SOCSI, Cardiff University – Talk

The use of 'before' and 'after' interviews: A methodological discussion

Having completed my data collection last summer I will now discuss the use of before and after interviews combined with an extended period of participant observation, conducted with around 70 volunteers working for a turtle conservation organisation in the Western Peloponnese region of Greece. I hope to demystify the research process and highlight some ethical and practical issues entailed in conducting research with participants with whom relationships varied from those of virtual stranger to intimate familiarity, and in some cases one and then the other. In a broader context this data will contribute towards a thesis concerned with contemporary morality.

Olivia Pearson, SOCSI, Cardiff University – Talk

Spending Time: Timebanking with young people

Timebanking is a community currency where participants are paid in time in reciprocal exchanges for skills and services. Timebanking has recently witnessed extraordinary growth in the UK, with timebanking organizations being funded to develop innovative uses of the model in a number of diverse settings, across the public, private and community sectors. This paper will discuss a PhD research project which focuses specifically on one example of these; timebanking with young people. It will start by giving a theoretical account of timebanking, and why timebanking is being used with young people, before moving on to discuss how the PhD research is currently exploring this area.

Katie Webb, PSYCH, Cardiff University – Talk

Mind the gaps: GPs' management of common mental health in primary care

This research looks at the management of common mental health in primary care. In an average general practice population approximately 12% will have a common mental health problem, and approximately 30% will have a mental health component. As public health gatekeepers GPs are best placed to recognise and manage these individuals, although evidence suggests they find the management of these consultations challenging. This PhD used a range of studies and different methodologies to investigate the underlying causes of these challenges in the hope of providing solutions and further directions.

Ben Windsor-Shellard, PSYCH, Cardiff University – Talk

The Link between Sexual Orientation and Health: Attitudes and Ambivalence

An abundance of research describes the link between being gay and higher incidence of mental health (e.g., King et al., 2003, 2008). However, few studies have attempted to explain such trends. The present research attempts to do this by considering people's implicit and explicit attitudes towards their sexual orientation, and how their attitudes relate to well-being and physical health. It is hoped that this will help to better understand the psychological processes related to happiness, in gay men and women. Attitudinal ambivalence (simultaneous positive and negative beliefs) shall be considered as a future area of enquiry.

Gareth Thomas, SOCSI, Cardiff University – Talk

'Low doesn't mean no': prenatal screening for Down's syndrome

Prospective parents are routinely offered screening for Down's syndrome during a pregnancy. Following huge technological progress in prenatal care over recent years, such practices inevitably create dilemmas, both for clinicians offering this care and for parents choosing what information they want to receive about their foetus/unborn baby. Drawing on the preliminary findings obtained during an observational study of two healthcare institutions, this presentation provides a brief overview of the experiences of both parents and clinicians as active agents in the world of antenatal care. Issues surrounding access, prenatal choice, 'risk', and the study's future directions, amongst others, will be explored.

Sarah Witcombe-Hayes, SOCSI, Cardiff University – Talk

Research as 'Roller coaster'

Drawing upon extracts from a research diary and personal experiences in and outside of the research field, this paper seeks to explore research as a metaphor for a roller coaster. The main aim of this presentation will be to reflect upon and demonstrate how research can be characterized by sudden and extreme 'ups', 'downs', 'twists' and 'turns' and how these experiences can evoke powerful emotions. Included within this will be examples of great successes and failures, ethical dilemmas, and changes to the research. It is hoped that this opportunity of looking back, will assist me in looking (and moving) forward to the final stage of my PhD journey.

Mengle Zhang, SOCSI, Cardiff University – Talk

Graduating into Unemployment?

Higher education has changed massively in recent times with far more young people obtaining degrees than ever before. In light of this growth there have been numerous public and academic debates regarding the employability of these new graduates. Do they have the necessary skills to succeed in the labour market? What are employers looking for in a graduate? How many of them find appropriate work after university?

In my presentation I hope to show, with reference to example data, how we may make sense of the various trajectories that graduates follow after university and in particular who the winners (and losers) are in the competition for jobs.