

Newsletter



Contact details

SIPS Director

Peter Wells is Professor of Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation, and the Assistant Dean for Research and Business Development for the Faculty of Development and Society. He has led major policy and programme evaluations for UK Government Departments and other funding bodies. He has held advisory roles at local, national, and international levels. His policy specialisms are in urban and regional policy, EU cohesion policy, youth unemployment and the third sector. He was director of the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) from 2010-2013.

SIPS Chair

Professor Paul Wiles is a trustee and Board member of the National Centre for Social Research and a Local Government Boundary Commissioner. Until recently he was a board member of the Food Standards Agency and an advisor to The Sentencing Council. He was the deputy chair of the main social science panel for the 2014 REF and was a former Chief Scientific Advisor to the Home Office and Government's Chief Social Scientist. He is also a governor of Sheffield Hallam University.

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Editorial

Peter Wells



We recognise that solutions to the great economic, social and environmental challenges facing policy makers today cannot be addressed adequately by single academic disciplines, without full engagement of policy

communities, nor without the involvement of the public. With this in mind, we have established the Sheffield Institute for Policy Studies (SIPS) - a space for innovative, inter-disciplinary working and capacity building that will extend its reach beyond the University to engage with a dynamic and expanding group of stakeholders.

Underpinning our work are the values of social justice and social inclusion. These values underpin research across the University and inform the partnerships and activities that we are involved in.

A key focus for SIPS will be the role of evidence in informing decision making and communities.

In an environment where the traditional 'contract' between state and society is fracturing and public services (and low income households) are under attack from a seemingly never ending austerity agenda, it is imperative that universities engage in policy focused research, and showcase their findings to as wide an audience as possible. This challenge will help shape the initial focus for SIPS.

Polly Toynbee



Polly Toynbee is a columnist for the Guardian. She was formerly the BBC social affairs editor, columnist and associate editor of The Independent, co-editor of the Washington Monthly, and reporter and feature writer for the Observer.

Books:

- Cameron's Coup (with David Walker), 2015
- Rewards: Exposing Greed and Inequality in Britain Today (with David Walker), 2008
- Better or Worse: Has Labour Deceived?, 2005
- Hard Work: Life in Low-Pay Britain, 2003
- Lost Children: Story of Adopted Children Searching for Their Mothers 1985; Way We Live Now, 1981
- Hospital, 1977
- A Working Life, 1971
- Leftovers, 1969

She has honorary degrees from the University of Essex (1999), London South Bank University (2002), Loughborough University (2004), the Open University (2005), the University of Sussex (2007), the University of Leeds (2008), and the University of Bedfordshire (2014).

She was awarded the Orwell prize for journalism in 1998 and Columnist of the Year 2007 at the British Press Awards.

She is a former president of the Social Policy Association.

Overview of the SIPS model, vision and aims

SIPS is concerned with showcasing the policy research that is undertaken across Sheffield Hallam University with a view to informing and shaping policy locally and nationally.

SIPS' policy areas of expertise include: housing, the impact of welfare reform, labour markets, regeneration, the voluntary and community sector, social justice and human rights, criminal justice, migration, public health, and education. SIPS will also be concerned with encouraging multi-disciplinary policy studies research across Sheffield Hallam University with attention focusing on key inter-disciplinary issues such as resilience, austerity, migration, radicalisation, devolution, public sector transformation, and young people.

SIPS will elevate the level of debate and discussion and will ensure that existing evidence is promoted in policy debate and that new forms of empirical evidence and critical analysis are produced. To achieve this, SIPS will promote partnerships and collaborations within the Faculty of Development and Society at Sheffield Hallam University, across faculties within the University and with a range of stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally.



A public launch with a difference...

On the 15th of June, at the Heart of the Campus site on Collegiate Crescent, SIPS will be formally launched.

The launch event will feature a keynote lecture entitled "Our Inequitable Life: Can we make Britain fairer?" by the eminent journalist and social commentator, Polly Toynbee, who will also participate in a question and answer session with doctoral students on how research informs policy debate.

Prior to the public lecture, SIPS will host a series of workshop discussions designed to bring together people with an interest in policy studies from across the policy and academic communities. The workshops will focus on the following issues: fair access, resilience, devolution and the North, and failures of citizenship, the last three of which are the focus of forthcoming SIPS seminars. As workshop discussions will continue over the coming year, it is not too late to get involved - please contact us at sips@shu.ac.uk for more information.



News from across SIPS

Future events

SIPS will run quarterly seminars that will address key issues affecting local, national and international issues where research and policy coincide.

The programme for 2016-17 includes:

Devolution and the North

(5th October 2016, 4-6 pm, Heart of the Campus)

Confirmed keynote speaker: Dr Richard Crisp, Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research and Member of the JRF Inclusive Growth Panel (other speakers to be confirmed).

Conceptualising and applying resilience in a social policy context

(8th February 2017, 4-6 pm, Heart of the Campus)

The seminar will feature presentations on:

Community Resilience: Exploring Concepts and Realities -Deborah Platts-Fowler (Department of Law and Criminology) and Professor David Robinson (Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research), Sheffield Hallam University.

Household responses to economic hardship in post-crisis Europe and insights about 'resilience': A critical assessment - Professor Hulya Dagdeviren and Dr Matthew Donaghue, University of Hertfordshire.

Problematizing and reconceptualising resilience in Higher Education - Professor Jacqueline Stevenson, Sheffield Hallam University.

Citizenship

(April 2017, 4-6pm, Heart of the Campus)

What are the challenges of engaging marginalised populations within inclusive communities?

Confirmed keynote speaker includes: DCC Andy Rhodes (Lancashire Police) (other speakers to be confirmed).

The focus of this seminar will be on policy and practice initiatives that exclude, or include certain social groups from active participation, and will examine the idea of empathic citizenship from the perspective of individuals and communities.