Research Poster Conference 2015 Press Releases
College of Social Sciences

Index

23. Enrico Vanino - Anti-dumping measures on Chinese products: a curse or a blessing for European firms?
24. Feylyn Lewis - Identities and transitions: The experience of providing care during young adulthood
25. Gerardo Arriaga - Making ends meet. The human face of poverty
26. Louis Monroy Santander - Deconstructing peacebuilding: looking at meanings of reconciliation and their relation to state-building in Bosnia-Herzegovina
27. Matt Smith - 'The relationship between a sophisticated personal epistemology and desired pedagogical beliefs in trainee teachers'
28. Ourathai Yosinta - ‘Does Organizational Culture Matter for Good Governance?’
29. Paula Lameu - Educational Assemblages: Encounters of Teaching and Learning Components through the use of ICT.
31. Timea Nochta - Governance Networks and the Low-Carbon Transition in European Cities
32. Xin Liu - Working longer and working healthier in China

Inclusion of students with special educational needs in mainstream schools has become a fundamental goal that countries around the world are keen to achieve. In Saudi Arabia, the number of children with special educational needs who are included in mainstream school has reached up to 82%. This study aims to reveal details about the process of inclusion in Saudi Arabia in order to highlight the difficulties that may hinder the implementation of inclusion, or prevent its success. It also aims, based on the conclusions of this study, to propose solutions for overcoming barriers related to the inclusion of children with special educational needs in mainstream schools. The study will examine the situation by looking at different aspects of the implementation, such as the existence of an inclusive culture in the school, special education teachers' attitudes toward the inclusion of SEN learners, attitudes of pupils without SEN toward their SEN peers, collaboration between the parents of SEN learners and the schools. This study will utilise a mixed approach methodology in order to collect two types of data, which are quantitative and qualitative data. Questionnaires and interviews will be the main research tools for gathering data from teachers involved in the study.

23. Enrico Vanino - Anti-dumping measures on Chinese products: a curse or a blessing for European firms?

This is a joint collaboration with the Hong Kong University under the supervision of Prof. Elliott, Dr. Jabbour and Prof. Tao. We provide an economic analysis of the EU anti-dumping measures on Chinese products, looking at their impact on trade flows and at the contrasting effects on the performance of Chinese and European firms. Dumping strategies - exporting at a lower price than the cost of production - might have a negative effect on international competition, but concerns have been raised about the protectionist abuse of this instrument, especially to defend mature industries from emerging countries competition. We focus on this topic both for the increasing role played by China in international trade and for the peculiarity of the EU political-economic framework. We apply an advanced technique on disaggregated data, taking into account possible bias and endogeneity. Our results suggest that EU anti-dumping measures successfully target Chinese dumped products, increasing
their prices and substituting them with domestic production and extra-EU imports. Impact on firms' performance is mixed, temporary protecting domestic producers, but negatively affecting importers with a perverse long-run effect on welfare in terms of competitiveness vis-à-vis China.

**24. Feylyn Lewis - Identities and transitions: The experience of providing care during young adulthood**

Young adult carers play an important role in our society, yet we know little about the deeper, internal effects of providing care during young adulthood. Young adult carers are those 18-25 years old who provide unpaid care, support, and assistance to a family member who has a condition requiring support, e.g., a physical or learning disability, mental illness, or substance abuse. This research looks at the impacts of providing care onto identity development during the crucial life stage of young adulthood. Young adults with caring responsibilities may find that their opportunities to explore their identity are restricted as a result of the demands of their caring activities, or conversely, their identity is positively influenced. This research features the experiences of young adult carers through qualitative interviews. Previous research has focused on identity in young adulthood, but never before has identity been considered in the context of young adults who provide care. Furthermore, this research compares the experience of young adult carers living in the United Kingdom with those young adult carers living in the United States, adding an international perspective that is both original and timely.

**25. Gerardo Arriaga - Making ends meet. The human face of poverty**

Currently there is a paradox between the Mexican government’s policies to fight poverty and the increasing number of “poor” people. The budget allotted from the Mexican government to fight poverty has continuously increased: in the past 17 years it has invested 174.5 billion US dollars for that cause (SEGOB, 2014). However, for the past 13 years poverty has also continuously increased and just reached 52% of the Mexican population (CONEVAL, 2014). The Mexican government has relied on specific sets of policies to alleviate poverty. In line with neoliberalism and recommendations from the IMF and the WB, the Mexican government incorporated the first-of-its-kind Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program in the world: “Prospera” Nevertheless, currently there is a very important gap in knowledge: the
interests behind CCT have pushed for a narrower welfare State wherein people experiencing poverty are presented as the only ones to blame, not the State or the market. By focusing on people’s experiences, I try to show that the current developmental approach to fight poverty is unsustainable. Furthermore, that there is a need to rethink it in the light of an economic system that is harming societies more than it is alleviating their burdens.

26. Louis Monroy Santander - Deconstructing peacebuilding: looking at meanings of reconciliation and their relation to state-building in Bosnia-Herzegovina

This research uses the concept of ‘reconciliation’ to critically analyse the impact of peace-building practices in Bosnia-Herzegovina on local populations during the reconstruction era (post-Dayton Accords, 1995). It supports critical debates around liberal peace: the promotion of democracy through institution/state-building practices and market capitalism through international intervention. In particular, it questions the relevance of various approaches to “transitional justice” and how these affect citizens' views of peace-building politics in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Situated within peace research and international relations, this qualitative research seeks to interpret the meaning behind "reconciliation" as understood by social agents in the country: international mission officials, representatives of organizations engaged in reconciliation practice, Bosnian participants of reconciliation initiatives at the Grassroots/Ngo level or from political projects linked to transitional justice policies. Although Bosnia as a topic in peace research has been thoroughly researched, the space for connecting meanings, ideologies and practice brings a new scope for understanding the impact of peace-building in Bosnia. By digging deeper into the “local” and “the international” through reconciliation, it is possible to shed light into the multiple realities that derive from this experience and the alternative, feasible spaces for sustainable peace that exist in modern day Bosnia-Herzegovina.

27. Matt Smith - ‘The relationship between a sophisticated personal epistemology and desired pedagogical beliefs in trainee teachers’

This element of my research demonstrates the key link between understanding how children learn and the development of the most effective teaching practices. This research involved a large-scale literature review and empirical research amongst the trainee teachers with whom I work. At a time when the teaching profession seems to be increasingly dictated to by
successive governments with political rather than educational aims, it is vital that we as teacher educators search for the best outcomes for trainees and children. My conclusion is that it is vitally important that teacher training institutions allow for the development of sophisticated personal epistemologies – that trainee teachers understand what learning is – in order to be fully effective teachers. I explain that this needs to happen through explicit teaching and exposure to the specific reflective practices I discuss in order to promote the best possible outcomes in terms of trainees’ understanding of teaching and therefore their actions in school, and for teacher training institutions to retain appropriate levels of control over the contextual, environmental and experiential circumstances that their trainees encounter. I envisage this research to be of use to all teacher training institutions in the UK.

28. Ourathai Yosinta - ‘Does Organizational Culture Matter for Good Governance?’

How do the attitudes and values of officials affect performance in the public sector? An organization consists of the pattern of the underlying attitudes and values shared among members called ‘organizational culture’. This research asks whether and how the efficiency and effectiveness, or ‘good governance’, of government organizations is connected to organizational culture and explores this in the context of Thailand. Thailand has promoted efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector though performance evaluation for over a decade. The program is based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with 4 dimensions: effectiveness of mission, service quality, efficiency of performance, and organizational development. Although there have been rich studies on the relationship between organizational culture and various factors, there are not many studies on the relationship between organizational culture and good governance, including in the context of the provincial level of Thailand. The research involved questionnaire surveys and semi-structured interviews with officials in 16 of the 75 provinces who have been involved in performance evaluation for at least one year.

29. Paula Lameu - Educational Assemblages: Encounters of Teaching and Learning Components through the use of ICT.

The theme of this study is the use of ICT in British education and its influence: in teaching and learning processes; and in the constitution of identity of teachers and students. However, this investigation assumes an innovative philosophical perspective, considering
people, things, actions, processes, policies, apps as part of an educational assemblage. By assemblage it is meant wholes constituted by independent parts that together are coherent: individuals, objects, practices, relations, events and any other thing, human/inhuman, that may act as a component of educational process. Regarding ICT as one of the components of the assemblage, it is assumed that it has an immanent vitality with the capacity to orient other elements to act. The question raised is ‘How does the use of ICT in education affect pedagogical processes and the identity of participants – and is affected by them - if each of them is part of the same assemblage and equally vital?’ A case study has been used to answer this question, examining Primary, Secondary and Post-secondary education in Birmingham. An innovative attitude demands an inventive research design and a combination of methods: Assemblage Ethnography, composed by classroom observation, audio recording, diaries, document analysis, virtual/digital mapping, and interviews.


Cross-council collaboration is a potential mechanism for enhancing the capacity of small local governments in delivering services. However, there has been little progress in implementing collaboration in Thailand while England has much longer experience. Hence, a comparative study of inter-local government in England and Thailand may help policymakers and practitioners successfully develop and operate this policy. This study aimed to address three questions: why do collaborations happen? What forms have been used? What factors influence successful collaborations? Two English cases: Adur and Worthing and Babergh and Mid-Suffolk partnerships demonstrating shared services and management and Two Thai cases: collaborations in Lampang and in Roi-Et demonstrating shared services were examined. Thematic analysis was used to analyse interviews, documents, and observations data. It found that collaborations were driven by the need of councils to effectively provide services for residents and to achieve substantial savings during a period of financial pressure. Without entrepreneurs, political leader in Thailand and managerial leaders in England, who brought potential partners together, collaboration would not occur. Political buy-in and public support proved vital to creating partnerships. Getting people on board, having leaders acting as boundary spanners, and collaborative culture were essential for successful cross-council workings in both countries.
31. Timea Nochta - Governance Networks and the Low-Carbon Transition in European Cities

The interdisciplinary research project focuses on the role that governance networks may play in the low-carbon transition processes in European Cities. Expressions like “sustainable development”, “socio-technical transition”, “co-operative (network) governance” and “circular urban systems” often appear in the relevant literatures, but to date little attention has been given to the analysis of correlation between the changes occurring in the physical and social context of the city, and in the institutional structure that governs it. To evaluate the effects of the networking activity of the public sector in different urban realities, the study will attempt to link the physical and social functioning of the urban system to the local governance arrangement, and investigate the interactions and their effects taking place within and between these spheres. Empirical data will be obtained through the ‘Pioneer Cities’ and ‘Transition Cities’ programs of the European Commission’s ‘Climate KIC’ initiative, from three European cities including Birmingham (UK), Budapest (HU) and Frankfurt-am-Main (DE).

32. Xin Liu - Working longer and working healthier in China

Population ageing has created a number of problems for development in China. People now need to work for longer, so they are expected to be healthier at older age. This research is formed of a few papers that discuss the same topic: working longer and working healthier in urban China. This research firstly will identify the enablers and barriers for physical activity participation among different ethnical groups worldwide. Then it explores public policy and employment practice in urban China, linked to the objectives of improving the health of the older workforce through increased physical activities. The evidence is based on original data collected from questionnaires and interviews in Wuhan and Shanghai. The outcome of this research will benefit the health of working population by offering constructive recommendations to public policy makers as well as employers. By encouraging the working population to a higher level of physical activity participation, older workers will be healthier and work longer.