



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

IPR Annual Report

**August 2016–
July 2017**

IPR Institute for
Policy Research

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Executive Summary

The University of Bath Institute for Policy Research (IPR) is a leading institute of public policy research in the UK. We undertake and enable policy-relevant research to make an impact, especially through building links with the worlds of policy and practice as well as by increasing public understanding of policy research through our Public Lecture and publications series.

We deliver activities for policymakers, researchers and practitioners to enable two-way learning and original contributions to both research and practice, delivered through our Policy Fellowship Programme, Professional Doctorate, and Outstanding Visiting Fellows and Visiting Policy Fellows Schemes.

Below are some of the key highlights of our activities and achievements during 2016–2017.

Research



We have successfully bid for and been involved in research projects to the value of £303,654.



We are awaiting funding decisions on four projects submitted with an IPR value of £905,429.



We have refined our research focus and identified four strategic IPR research streams.



We have developed a substantial portfolio of IPR-led research projects and activities across these research streams.



We have grown our cohort of IPR-associated PhD candidates, with 6 students currently on programme.



We have hosted a number of high-profile visitors including: Professor Janine Wedel, IPR Global Chair; Professor Dr Ricardo García Mira, IPR Visiting Professor; Professor Susan Maguire, IPR Honorary Professor; and four IPR Visiting Fellows.



Dr Kate Woodthorpe (Department of Social and Policy Sciences) completed a highly successful sabbatical with the IPR.

IPR Programmes

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Nine Policy Fellows have taken part in our Policy Fellowship Programme, taking part in 69 meetings with University of Bath academics.

We became an affiliate of the Cambridge Centre for Science Policy and Policy Fellowship Programme, which runs alongside our existing Policy Fellowship Programme.

Thirteen students joined our Professional Doctorate in Policy Research in Practice.

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Four University of Bath staff took up placements with government departments through our partnership with the Cabinet Office Open Innovation Team.

We will launch, with the Department of Social and Policy Sciences, a new Masters in Public Policy (MSc) in September 2018.

Events and Communications



We launched a new responsive website in July 2017.



We launched a new blog platform in June 2017.



Over 3,500 people have attended our Public Lectures, Policy Research Seminars, symposia, conferences and roundtable events.



We have hosted 13 IPR Public Lectures and Policy Seminars with speakers including Lord Kerr, author of Article 50; Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal; Lord Darzi, Imperial College London; Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; James Purnell, Director, Radio and Education, BBC; and Lord Blunkett, former cabinet minister.



We took part in our first Bristol Festival of Ideas event in November 2016.



We partnered with the OECD to launch its '2017 Skills Outlook' report.



We produced and successfully disseminated seven reports and three Policy Briefs.



We have launched an IPR LinkedIn account and our Twitter following has reached over 2,000.



Our Policy Podcasts have been listened to nearly 20,000 times.



We have published 99 blog posts by 60 authors with a total of 40,177 blog hits.



We have had a total of 277 media features with a total news reach of 29.15 million.

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IPR Structure



IPR Team

- Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director
- Dr Matt Dickson, Reader in Public Policy (from 1/10/2017)
- Professor Julie Barnett, Professor of Health Psychology
- Professor Chick Wilson, Professor of Physical Chemistry
- Professor Jane Millar, Professor of Social Policy
- Professor James Copestake, Director of Studies for Professional Doctorate
- Dr Hannah Durrant, Research Programme Lead (Maternity leave August 2016–May 2017)
- Dr Rita Griffiths, Research Programme Lead (Maternity leave cover August 2016–May 2017)
- Amy Thompson, Marketing and Communications Manager
- Dr Jonathan Gray, IPR Prize Fellow (until 14/9/2017)
- Dr Luke Martinelli, Research Associate
- Marsha Wood, Research Assistant
- James Harle, Marketing and Communications Assistant
- Claudia Torres-Cervantes, Administrative Assistant



PhD Students

- Emily Rempel, Research Assistant and PhD Candidate
- Joan Abbas, PhD Candidate
- Xinyan Cheng, PhD Candidate
- Joe Chrisp, PhD Candidate
- David Young, PhD Candidate
- Jane Mackay, PhD Candidate, co-supervised with the School of Management (from July 2017)



New IPR Staff

Dr Matt Dickson has been appointed as the new IPR Reader in Public Policy.

Starting in the autumn term 2017, Dr Dickson will lead an ambitious programme of research on public policy economics with a particular focus on widening participation in higher education.

As well as leading on quantitative research into participation in higher education, Dr Dickson will also contribute to related IPR research on public policy, and undertake management responsibilities within the IPR commensurate with his role. His teaching responsibilities will include supporting students at the postgraduate level, and supervising postgraduate research students.

In addition Xinyan Cheng joined the IPR in April 2017 as a PhD candidate working on Big Data and Policing, and Jane Mackay joined in July 2017, working on degree apprenticeships and widening participation (co-supervised by Professor Pearce with Dr Felicia Fai in the School of Management).

We were also joined, for six months (March 2017–September 2017), by Rosemary Ash as a Civil Service Fast Streamer. Rosemary worked at Pall Mall for both Executive Education and the IPR on a project researching the civil service and wider public sector education market in London, including proposals for the content and marketing of the new Masters in Public Policy.



The IPR Advisory Board

The IPR Advisory Board meets twice a year to provide valued strategic advice and direction.

We are very grateful to its members for their contributions in 2016–2017.

- Lord John Eatwell (Chair), President of Queens' College, University of Cambridge
- Dawn Austwick, Chief Executive of the Big Lottery Fund
- Marcial Boo, Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority
- Dr David Cleavelly, Chair of Advisory Council at the Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge
- Mats Karlsson, Director of The Swedish Institute of International Affairs
- Paul Maltby, Director of Data Projects at the Department for Communities and Local Government
- Carey Oppenheim, former Chief Executive, Early Intervention Foundation
- Lord Christopher Tugendhat, the Former Chancellor of the University of Bath and former EU Commissioner

- Ryan Shorthouse, Director, Bright Blue
- Penny Young, Librarian and Director General of Information Services at the House of Commons Library
- Van DuBose, former investment banker and consultant



IPR Visitors

IPR Global Chair

Professor Janine Wedel of George Mason University was the IPR Global Chair in 2016–2017. During this time Professor Wedel gave two IPR Public Lectures and took part in many research meetings with colleagues across the University. She is an anthropologist who works on networks of influence in policymaking. Professor Wedel is also based at the Hertie School in Berlin.

Professor Wedel has extended the period of her position as IPR Global Chair until summer 2018.

IPR Visiting Professor

Professor Dr Ricardo García Mira of the University of Coruna has been appointed an IPR Visiting Professor from 2016–2018. Professor Garcia Mira is a professor in social and environmental psychology and a member of the Spanish parliament. He gave a keynote lecture at our risk conference *Understanding Risk: From Theory to Application in Policy and Practice* in June 2016. He is helping the IPR develop its policy research networks in Europe.

IPR Honorary Professor

Professor Susan Maguire, formerly of the University of Warwick, joined the IPR for a three-year term from 1 July 2016 as an Honorary Professor at the IPR. She is an expert on post-16 education and training, and is currently working on a multi-year EU project on young people not in education, training or employment. She has considerable expertise in evaluating government policies.

In early 2017 Professor Maguire produced a report with the Young Women's Trust entitled: *Young, Female and Forgotten* focusing on young women not in education, training or employment. A final report after the second year of the study will be published in November 2017.

IPR Visiting Fellows

Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere is an occupational therapist turned political theorist and policy scholar who joined the IPR as a Visiting Fellow during 2016–2017. In addition he is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Tampere (Finland), and is part of the research team working on the national basic income experiment in Finland.

During his time at the IPR Dr Wispelaere has contributed to four seminars, one roundtable, and a workshop entitled: *Basic Income and the European Welfare State*. He also helped supervise an IPR PhD student and Research Associate, and has co-authored two papers. He continues to be affiliated to the IPR via a research grant from the Independent Social Research Foundation to support a political economy research fellowship.

Professor Mike Kenny, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge and former Director at the Mile End Institute at Queen Mary University of London, was an IPR Visiting Fellow between September and November 2016. During his fellowship he worked with Professor Nick Pearce on a book *Shadows of Empire: The Anglosphere in British Politics*, which will be published by Polity in 2018.

Professor Kenny also took part in an IPR Symposium in December 2016, entitled: *The origins and history of the “Anglosphere” in British politics*.

Professor Peter Whiteford, who is based at the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, part of Australian National University’s Crawford School of Public Policy, visited the IPR as a Visiting Fellow between 3 July–21 July 2017.

Professor Whiteford has expertise in a wide range of policy issues, including child poverty, family assistance policies, and pension and welfare policies in Australia and worldwide. He is a frequent collaborator with Professor Jane Millar.

During his visit to the University of Bath, Professor Whiteford met with colleagues here at Bath and attended the Social Policy Association Annual Conference in Durham.

Keum Jeong Soo is an experienced policymaker who has held a number of prominent positions in the Korean government. Before joining the IPR he was Regional Director of the Ministry of Employment and Labour (MoEL) for the Gunsan Region, but he has also held the position of Director of International Relations in the Republic of Korea’s Economic and Social Development Commission, and worked in various fields for the MoEL.

His particular expertise lies in policy areas relating to labour standards, minimum wage, ageing societies and in-work benefits.

During his one-year fellowship (January 2017–December 2017), Keum is pursuing a programme of research based on the comparative study of unemployment benefits and active labour market policy across several countries including the UK and Korea. As this research progresses, he will also contribute to IPR Policy Briefs and present his research in IPR seminars.

IPR Sabbaticals

Dr Kate Woodthorpe, Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath, was on sabbatical with the IPR between January and September 2017.

During her sabbatical Dr Woodthorpe continued her research on policy and practice associated with death, dying and devolution. Dr Woodthorpe produced an IPR Policy Brief entitled: *Death, Dying and Devolution*, answering the call of the Work and Pensions Select Committee's Special Inquiry into Bereavement Benefits in 2016 on the need to review policy across government departments.

The Brief consists of contributions from experts across the sector and details the opportunities, risks and challenges for death, dying and bereavement policy and services as a result of national and local devolution.

A roundtable event was held in September 2017 to launch the Brief at which Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister at the Department for Work and Pensions for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, spoke.

Dr Woodthorpe received considerable media coverage for her Brief including national and local BBC coverage, Radio 4's Today Programme, BBC Breakfast News, *The Times*, *The Observer* and the *Herald Scotland*.

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IPR Research

The Institute for Policy Research (IPR) aims to further the public good through research into issues of significant relevance to policy debate and decision-making. We employ a wide range of research methods and work across the University and with external partners to forge effective research collaborations that contribute to tackling public policy challenges in the UK and beyond.

Over the past year we have strategically refined our research focus and considerably strengthened our in-house research capability and policy expertise across four research streams:

- The welfare state, family and work
- Evidence, data and democracy
- Government, politics and policymaking
- Science, technology and innovation

In addition, we support policy-relevant Research Networks focused on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Latin America world regions. These networks bring together researchers, students, policymakers and practitioners to engage effectively with policy challenges emerging in their respective contexts and globally – enabling the IPR to be a hub for cross-national policy learning.

We continue to have active partnerships with a number of universities and research institutes, including Yonsei University, South Korea; Institute of Government Sciences and Strategic Development, Mexico; Sciences Po, France; and University of Science, Malaysia. Through our engagement with the Public Data Lab (an interdisciplinary network of researchers, practitioners, journalists, civil society groups, designers, developers and public institutions that aims to facilitate social science research, teaching and public engagement activities around the future of the data society) we are establishing connections and research partnerships with researchers at: the Department of Digital Humanities (King's College London, UK); the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (University of Warwick, UK); the Citizen Data Lab (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands); Density Design (Politecnico di Milano, Italy); the Digital Methods Initiative (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands); the Global Studies Institute (University of Geneva, Switzerland); the Innovation Insights Hub (University of the Arts London, UK); INRIA (France); the Media of Cooperation research group (University of Siegen, Germany); the médialab (Sciences Po, Paris, France); the Techno-Anthropology Lab (Aalborg University Copenhagen, Denmark); the University of Ghent (Belgium); the University of Groningen (Netherlands); and the Université de Rennes 1 (France).

Over the past year we have strategically refined our research focus and considerably strengthened our in-house research capability



The Welfare State, Family and Work Research Stream

About this research stream

We are active in researching contemporary public policy welfare and social protection issues

We research the reform of welfare states with a particular focus on political economy, its tools, methods and explanatory frameworks. We are active in researching contemporary public policy welfare and social protection issues, such as proposals for universal basic income (UBI). We are concerned with the ways in which post-financial-crisis government policies, labour market changes and socio-technological developments produce new social risks and vulnerabilities. We are concerned with the range of political, public policy and social responses to these challenges and the options for better securing social justice.

Current research projects include:

- Examining the case for basic income
- Varieties of basic income in European welfare states
- Loneliness in the digital age
- Collaborating to deliver social prescribing in Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)
- Vulnerable young parents
- Young, female and forgotten
- Change, choice and constraint in family and work
- Death, dying and devolution
- The rise of in-work benefits? Comparing provisions in advanced welfare states (PhD project)
- Welfare States in Transition – The Political Economy of Universal Basic Income (PhD project)
- How low-income families experience and manage income variability and change (PhD project)
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Social Policy Network
- Latin America Social Policy Network (LASP)



Examining The Case for Basic Income

A universal basic income (UBI) would guarantee every citizen a flat-rate, unconditional payment regardless of their employment status, which would not be withdrawn as earnings or income rose. Interest in and support for a UBI straddles the political spectrum,

We have conducted fieldwork in Finland, where a version of UBI is currently being piloted, in order to better understand the motivation for increased policy interest and the role of experimental evidence

from socialists and Greens through to social democrats and free market libertarians. Reflecting this ideological spread, there is no single proposal for what a UBI is or should be for, what it would look like, or how it could be made to work in practice.

This project investigates what a UBI might look like in a UK context in terms of design, distributional effects, and the potential for mainstream policy adoption. The study seeks to move forward the debate on the desirability and feasibility of UBI in a real-world, evidence-based way, subjecting the idea of a basic income to proper academic scrutiny. The research has been conducted by Dr Luke Martinelli at the IPR, in collaboration with IPR Director Professor Nick Pearce and Visiting Policy Fellow Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere, and was funded by an alumnus donation from Eva and Van Dubose.

The research programme has a number of elements. Using microsimulation methods, the research systematically analyses the trade-offs involved in the design features of different UBI schemes with respect to cost, poverty alleviation and administrative feasibility. An innovation of our approach is to disaggregate work incentive effects and distributional costs and benefits of different UBI schemes for different demographic groups, for example distinguishing effects by family type, labour market status, disability status and sex. Our research also aims to situate basic income within the comparative political economy and social policy literatures by analysing the political and institutional factors affecting the feasibility of implementing UBI in different national contexts. We have conducted fieldwork in Finland, where a version of UBI is currently being piloted, in order to better understand the motivation for increased policy interest and the role of experimental evidence in advancing understanding of basic income's impacts. Finally, we examine the validity of arguments for basic income that arise from the perspective that labour markets are undergoing fundamental and irreversible structural shifts due to globalisation and technological change.

Dates

May 2016–
May 2017

Project team: Dr Luke Martinelli, IPR Research Associate, Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director and Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere, IPR Visiting Policy Fellow.

Funder: Donation from Eva and Van Du Bose.

Selected Key Outputs

- **IPR Policy Brief:** *Assessing the Case for Universal Basic Income in the UK*, September 2017, launched with a seminar at the University of Bath Pall Mall offices.

- **IPR Report:** *Exploring the Distributional and Work Incentive Effects of Plausible Illustrative Basic Income Schemes*, May 2017.
- **IPR Report:** *The Fiscal and Distributional Implications of Alternative Universal Basic Income Schemes in the UK Money for everyone*.
- **Seminar:** *The state of the Basic Income/Citizen's Income debate*, March 2017.
- **Seminar:** *Basic Income on the Agenda: Reflections on the Finnish Basic Income Experiment*, June 2016. Research seminar presented by Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere, member of the working group on the Finnish pilot.
- **Roundtable discussion:** *Basic Income: An idea whose time has come?* November 2016. Professor Nick Pearce debated the prospects for basic income with a panel of eminent experts in the field, in association with the Bristol Festival of Ideas.
- **Workshop:** *Basic Income and the European Welfare State*, December 2016. IPR Research Associate Dr Luke Martinelli and Visiting Policy Fellow Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere convened a workshop of international experts to compare the feasibility and institutional 'fit' of different basic income schemes across a number of European welfare states.
- **Seminar:** *Maximal and Minimal strategies for Introducing a Basic Income*, May 2017. Research seminar presented by Professor Michael Howard, University of Maine (USA).
- **Seminar:** *Squaring the Circle of Welfare Reform: Unconditional Basic Income as a Social Investment Strategy?* May 2017. Seminar presented by Drs Jurgen De Wispelaere and Luke Martinelli at the University of Swansea.
- **Seminar:** *Money for Everyone: The state of the Basic Income/Citizen's Income debate*, October 2016. Public seminar presented by Dr Malcolm Torry, founding member of the Citizen's Income Trust.



Varieties of Basic Income in European Welfare States: The Political Economy of Universalism in European Welfare States

While in recent years basic income has evolved from a marginal policy idea to a serious item on the policy agenda, there is surprisingly little engagement with questions of how to integrate universal and unconditional basic income schemes into the existing institutional configuration of the developed welfare state. In this project, Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere adopts a political economy approach to analyse what he terms the “varieties of basic income”: distinctive basic income models that can be mapped onto the

specific features of types of welfare states. The importance of this project is to refocus scholarly attention from philosophical and economic debates about the desirability and feasibility of basic income, to its political feasibility – with specific focus on examining the prospects for building a robust basic income constituency, a stable enacting coalition of political actors, and the goodness-of-fit of specific basic income proposals within the institutional configuration of mature welfare states.

Dates

March 2017–
March 2018

Project team: This research project consists of several separate projects conducted in collaboration with scholars from the IPR as well as universities in the UK and EU:

- Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere, IPR Visiting Policy Fellow
- Dr Luke Martinelli, IPR Research Associate
- Joe Chrisp, IPR PhD Candidate
- Professor Lindsay Stirton, Sussex Law School
- Johanna Perkio, University of Tampere
- Dr Simon Birnbaum, Institute of Future Studies/
Uppsala University
- Dr Louise Haagh, University of York

Funder: The research is funded through a Political Economy Research Fellowship from the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF).

Selected Key Outputs

- **Publication:** *When Basic Income Meets Professor Pangloss: Ignoring Public Administration and Its Perils*, *The Political Quarterly*, 88(2), 298–305. De Wispelaere, J. & Stirton, L. (2017).
- **Publication:** *Basic Income – Have Austerity’s Chickens come Home to Roost?* ISRF Bulletin 13, Independent Social Research Foundation. De Wispelaere, J. (2017).
- **IPR Blog:** *Basic Income – Have Austerity’s Chickens Come Home to Roost?* June 2017.
- **IPR Blog:** *Comparing Basic Income Experiments: Lessons and Challenges*, November 2016.
- **Open Democracy Blog:** *After the Swiss basic income vote – learning political lessons is key!* June 2016.
- **Event:** *VIII Summer School in Political Philosophy & Public Policy on Philosophical Ideas for a Brave New World of Work*, University of Minho, 13–15 July 2016.
- **Workshop:** *Basic Income and the European Welfare State*, December 2016.

- Various presentations at high profile conferences and workshops, including at the ESPANet annual conference (Lisbon, September 2017), Independent Social Research Foundation annual conference (Amsterdam, June 2017), IBEI workshop on Technology, Employment and Basic Income (Barcelona, May 2017), and CIDEEFF workshop on Unconditional Basic Income (Lisbon, May 2017), as well as a number of invited public lectures and seminars, including at the Centre for Sustainable Business, Stockholm School of Economics (Riga, April 2017) and the Centre for Research in Ethics (Montreal, September 2016).



Loneliness in the Digital Age

Loneliness is one of the most significant challenges faced by Western societies in the 21st century. Experiences of loneliness are complex and usually involve feelings of anxiety, lack of connectedness and community, dissatisfaction, depression, and pessimism. In the UK, surveys suggest that one in ten people are ‘lonely’, with loneliness being linked to ill health and premature mortality. As work and life patterns continue to change, it seems likely that greater numbers of us will experience episodes of loneliness. More people are now working remotely or are required to move abroad for purposes of work and education, thus finding themselves separated from their colleagues, family, friends and social networks for protracted periods of time. Carers can also suffer from loneliness and feelings of isolation through lack of social interaction and support. The shifting of healthcare services to the home alongside the rising trajectory of chronic diseases mean that increasingly people can find themselves taking on a caring role for family members. In the UK, there are currently 6.5 million carers and the number is expected to rise to 9 million by 2037. Alongside these changes to people’s lives, technological innovations, such as social media, have enabled people to connect with others and to initiate and maintain social relationships in online environments.

Using a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods and informed by the principles of participatory research, the Loneliness in the Digital Age (LiDA) study will work closely with different communities experiencing different types of separation and social isolation – students leaving their home country or town to study in a UK university, remote workers, and informal carers providing full-time care for a spouse, partner or other relative. The project will examine episodes of online and offline loneliness and the potential role of empathy and trust in both mitigating and preventing such

The project will seek to develop new digital technologies to support new modes of facilitating empathy and trust between people

experiences. It will seek to develop new digital technologies to support new modes of facilitating empathy and trust between people, and evaluate the effects of the digital interventions developed.

Dates

September 2014–
May 2018

Project team: Professor Julie Barnett, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology and Dr Konstantina Vasileiou, Research Associate, Department of Psychology.

The University of Bath is leading the design and conduct of the qualitative research for this collaborative project. The project is led by Professor Michael Wilson, Loughborough University (Principal Investigator), with Professor Manuela Barreto, University of Exeter (Co-Investigator), Professor John Vines, Northumbria University (Co-Investigator), and Professor Shaun Lawson, Northumbria University (Co-Investigator).

Funder: LiDA is supported by the:

- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), in partnership with
- Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)
- Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI)

This is one of a cluster of projects funded under the ‘Empathy and Trust In Communicating Online’ (EMoTICON) call.

To ensure impact for this research, Professor Barnett and Professor Pearce have engaged systematically with the work of the cross-party Jo Cox Loneliness Commission.

Selected Key Outputs

- **Publication:** *Experiences of Loneliness Associated with Being an Informal Caregiver: A Qualitative Investigation*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8. Vasileiou, K., Barnett, J., Barreto, M., Vines, J., Atkinson, M., Lawson, S., & Wilson, M. (2017).
- **Report:** *Connecting Those That Care: Designing for Transitioning, Talking, Belonging and Escaping*, Long, K., Bakewell, L. L., McNaney, R. C., Vasileiou, K., Atkinson, M., Barreto, M. & Vines, J. (2017). In *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 1339–1351). ACM.



Collaborating to Deliver Social Prescribing in B&NES

Social prescribing links primary healthcare service providers and individuals to third sector voluntary organisations that provide a wide range of wellbeing and fitness activities which improve individual health. The aim of social prescribing is to consider health in a more holistic way by addressing broader social determinants of wellbeing like isolation, lifestyle and low income that can reduce the uptake and efficacy of health interventions. As such, social prescribing programmes broaden the range of options available to health professionals to most effectively and cost-efficiently meet patient health and wellbeing needs.

Funded by Innovate UK, this project is helping GPs and patients to identify and access local wellbeing opportunities using tools like mobile phone apps. The study draws on skills and expertise developed from the research team's work with data and digital methods for policymaking and public engagement. The researchers are working to explore the options for digital technologies in matching individuals' wellbeing profiles to social prescribing opportunities.

Dates

October 2015–
December 2017

Project team: The Institute for Policy Research (IPR) is a partner on this project, which is led by Digital Algorithms Ltd. The IPR team includes: Professor Julie Barnett, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology; Dr Hannah Durrant, IPR Research Programme Lead; and Emily Rempel, IPR Research Assistant and Doctoral Candidate.

Other collaborators on this project include:

- Developing Health & Independence (DHI)
- Wellbeing College
- Second Step
- Bath & North East Somerset Council

Funder: Innovate UK

Selected Key Outputs

- **IPR Blog:** 'How do we decide what works in wellbeing', January 2017.
- **Publication:** *Preparing the prescription: A review of the aim and measurement of social referral programmes*, Rempel, E.S., Wilson, E.K., Durrant, H. & Barnett, J. (2017) BMJ Open.



Vulnerable Young Parents

This research was commissioned by Action for Children to consider the difficulties faced by not only teenage parents, but also young parents in their early 20s who are an often-neglected group in social and economic policy.

Previous interventions have focused on teenage pregnancy reduction, creating a policy landscape fixated on prevention with limited attention to support for young parents, especially for young parents in their early 20s. The aim of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was to halve the rate of teenage pregnancy by 2010, which was achieved in 2013 – and the strategy has therefore been deemed a great public health success. Since this time there has been little policy consideration of the needs of teenage or young people who do become parents.

The study involved a literature review undertaken by Marsha Wood at the IPR, which synthesises research and evidence on issues affecting young parents such as education, employment and income, housing, parental background, child health and development, support networks, stigma and social perceptions, as well as identifying services available to young parents and their level of access. The review also explores issues and needs relating to specific groups of young parents, such as care leavers and young parents with learning difficulties. The review highlights the complex issues that affect young parents and their children and the need to reawaken a policy focus on young parenthood that has been neglected over recent years, reflected by a lack of policy, academic research and service provision. The review highlights the need for supportive policies to expand their remit beyond the teenage years, recognising the disadvantages faced by young parents in their early 20s which, left unsupported, will have negative consequences for their children. The review highlights that whilst the prevention of unplanned pregnancy is important, there is a need for a separate policy focus on support in order to address the issue of intergenerational disadvantage faced by young mothers and their children. Action for Children also commissioned Dr Luke Martinelli at the IPR to conduct some analysis of the Next Steps Survey (formerly the Longitudinal Study of Young People, LSYPE) to further understand the issues faced by young parents.

The literature review and Next Steps Survey analysis will be combined with focus group material being gathered by Action for Children researchers for the final report.

Dates

February 2017–
September 2017

Research team: Marsha Wood, IPR Research Assistant; Dr Luke Martinelli, IPR Research Associate; Professor Sue Maguire, IPR Honorary Professor; and Dr Rita Griffiths, IPR Research Programme Lead (maternity cover).

Funder: Action for Children

Selected Key Outputs

- Report to be published in autumn 2017.



Young Female and Forgotten?

For over a decade, young women have been more likely than young men to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) and to be NEET and economically inactive. Beyond an assumption that most economically inactive young women are caring for others, there is limited research and policy that addresses this problem. In this two-year study, Young Women's Trust and Professor Sue Maguire (University of Bath), with the support of Barrow Cadbury Trust, are investigating the reasons why young women are economically inactive. The study enables young women to share their experiences of being economically inactive. It also includes five area case studies and has drawn on data from the Labour Force Survey and Understanding Society to build up a profile of economically inactive young women and the factors that lead them to inactivity.

A report of the first year of the study has been published and finds that young women who are economically inactive are far less likely to receive any form of positive support or intervention. While many young women may wish to spend time caring for their children or relatives and may not wish to feel under pressure to (re)join the labour market, the study finds that this needs to be accompanied with access to appropriate support and intervention when it is required. As it stands, findings show that young parents are 'left alone' within the benefit system, struggling to make ends meet, until their youngest child reaches the age of five. They are then immediately expected to find work or training if they wish to claim benefits. Many young women feel isolated within their households and communities, detached from external support, suffer from low self-confidence, low self-esteem and, for some, mental health issues which can have long-lasting effects on their health and likelihood of participating in future education, employment or training. The study finds that young

women in the NEET economically inactive group need contact and sustained transitional support alongside suitable employment and childcare opportunities.

The second year will focus on young women's experiences of economic inactivity and bring them together with policymakers to find ways to help more young women into work. A co-creation event is planned for September 2017 in Westminster.

Dates

December 2015–
November 2017

Project team: Professor Sue Maguire, IPR Honorary Professor and Emma Mckay, Young Women's Trust.

Funders: Young Women's Trust and Barrow Cadbury Trust

Selected Key Outputs

- **Report:** *Young, Female and Forgotten. Executive summary report from the first year of the study.* London: Young Women's Trust. Maguire, S. & Mckay, E. (2016).
- **Report:** *Young, Female and Forgotten. Full report from the first year.* London: Young Women's Trust. Maguire, S. & Mckay, E. (2016).
- **IPR Blog:** *Being Female, NEET and economically inactive – what does that mean?* February 2017.
- **Report:** A final report after the second year of the study will be published in November 2017.



Change, Choice and Constraint in Family and Work

This research examines the nature and role of relationships, especially family relationships, in sustaining work and quality of life. As part of an earlier project, the research team interviewed a sample of lone mothers and their children in 2004, when the mothers had recently started work, and again in 2005 and 2007. At the time significant changes were taking place in the shape and direction of social security and employment policy for families. There was a commitment to increasing employment rates and making work pay, and there was a promise to end child poverty. The in-depth interviews explored the transition to work and the impact of work on quality of life and wellbeing. The financial crisis of 2008, the economic recession, and the political and policy changes that followed have all highlighted the challenges facing such families. The 2016 follow-up interviews with 15 of the families examine how the participants have managed work and family over time. The research explores how the participants themselves identify what they believe were key points of choice and decision-making.

Dates

October 2015–
January 2017

Project team: Professor Jane Millar, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Social Policy, Department of Social and Policy Sciences and Professor Tess Ridge, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy.

Funder: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Selected Key Outputs

- **Report:** *Work and relationships over time in lone-mother families*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Millar, J and Ridge, T (2017).
- **IPR Blog:** *Coping and Hoping: Interviews with low-income lone mothers*. August 2017.



Death, Dying and Devolution

A substantial number of people die or are impacted by death every year. Despite this, policy responses are limited, slow or non-existent, lacking in joined-up thinking, hampered by limited data collection, and poorly planned. Such policy neglect reflects the sequestration of death from personal, public and political life, resulting in a knowledge gap on how we plan for death, how we care for those who are dying, and how we overcome resource challenges associated with dying and bodily disposal. As a country we are therefore poorly prepared for death and its social and economic consequences. As national and regional devolution of policy and services gathers pace, variance in policy responses will become increasingly obvious, and intensify existing problems in nations and regions that fail to ensure that their services are robust, sustainable and financially sound. The aim of this project is to raise the profile of death, dying and bereavement as a significant policy issue and make cases for change in the policy areas affected.

This project reviews policy areas associated with death, dying and bereavement within the context of devolution. It focusses on the national and regional delegation of power, resources and authority across the UK and the implications of this for those who are dying or bereaved – as well as those tasked with organising and running the services that support these groups of people. The project, through the publication of an IPR Policy Brief, aims to set the policy scene and agenda for the immediate future, addressing and demonstrating both where there are risks but also the potential for better policy and services associated with death.

The aim of this project is to raise the profile of death, dying and bereavement as a significant policy issue and make cases for change in the policy areas affected

Dates

January 2017–
September 2017

Project team: This project has been led by Dr Kate Woodthorpe, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, while on secondment to the IPR and has involved editing a collection of 14 contributions from co-authors of the Policy Brief.

Selected Key Outputs

- **IPR Policy Brief:** *Death, Dying and Devolution*. September 2017.
- **Roundtable Event** to launch the Policy Brief. September 2017.
- **Media coverage:** Radio 4 Today Programme, BBC Breakfast News, *The Times*, *The Observer* and the *Herald Scotland*.
- **IPR Blog:** *Death, dying and devolution: the challenges ahead for policymakers*. September 2017.



The Rise of In-Work Benefits? Comparing Provisions in Advanced Welfare States (PhD project)

This project explores the rise of policies that top up earned income through the tax benefit system, commonly referred to as ‘in-work benefits’. Focusing in particular on cross-national variation in policy types and design, the project analyses in-work provisions from a comparative perspective in light of a range of empirical, theory and policy-driven concerns.

In-work benefits are not new in some countries. The US and the UK introduced earlier versions of their current in-work ‘tax credit’ policies in the mid-1970s. Although widely regarded as novel or irrelevant in many other countries, the past two decades have seen a shift, with more countries implementing their own in-work provisions. Yet, countries’ in-work benefits vary along numerous lines, including the type of ‘benefit’ in place (e.g. cash benefits, tax allowances, tax credits), the levels or generosity of benefits, and the eligibility criteria. This leads to questions about the nature of these trends, the similarities and differences between countries, and the reasons for, and implications of, the (diverse) growth of in-work provision.

The research will map cross-national in-work benefits trends in advanced welfare states and systematically compare provisions. Part of this involves the creation of an open-access database of in-work benefit policies across advanced welfare states, comprising data on expenditure, uptake and coverage, as well as other design elements from a number of secondary and primary sources, including policy documents, cross-national datasets and data obtained through a survey of ‘policy experts’ in the countries included. The project will be written up as a series

The research will map cross-national in-work benefits trends in advanced welfare states and systematically compare provisions

of papers relating to key themes, including precarious employment, gender, welfare regimes, welfare state reform, and different policy paradigms (e.g. social investment).

Dates

Autumn 2016–
ongoing

Research team: Joan Abbas, supervised by Professor Jane Millar, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Social Policy, Department of Social and Policy Sciences and Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director.

Funder: University of Bath Studentship

Selected Key Outputs

- **Placement:** Joan has been successful in an application to the University of Leuven’s Jos Berghman Welfare Studies Stipend where she will spend two to three months with Leuven’s Social Policy and Social Work research team at the University’s campus in Belgium.
- **Conference paper:** Joan presented a paper on in-work benefits and non-standard and self-employment at the 2017 ESPAnet conference in Lisbon, Portugal. September 2017.

**Welfare States in Transition – The Political Economy of Universal Basic Income (PhD project)**

Universal basic income is a policy that would provide a regular income to all individuals within a political community, regardless of working status or income from other sources. In an era of austerity and activation, the emergence of basic income as a serious policy proposal discussed around the world is perhaps surprising. Yet in the last couple of years, Switzerland has held a national referendum on the introduction of a basic income, Finland has launched a two-year experiment testing the effects of a basic income on unemployed individuals and governments in Canada, the Netherlands and France have all announced plans to run similar experiments.

The research seeks to answer two broad questions. Firstly, who supports basic income and why? This will consider both constituencies for basic income and political actors. Secondly, how does basic income fit into the wider political economy of the welfare state? This is an attempt to contextualise demands for basic income within particular countries and their institutions. A central facet of the approach is to understand basic income as a family of policies that can stress different features – whether unconditionality, universalism, minimum income guarantees,

redistribution etc. – to different extents. The research will use cross-national attitudinal data and polling to understand how economic or demographic factors may explain support for basic income or particular features of basic income. This will seek to build upon the extensive literature on welfare state preferences and attitudes that has developed in recent years. To understand why political actors and specifically parties are considering or advocating basic income, the research will combine manifesto and policy document analysis with case studies in particular countries using elite interviews to deepen our understand of the motivations and movements behind basic income advocacy.

Dates

Autumn 2016–
ongoing

Research team: Joe Crisp, supervised by Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director, Professor Jane Millar, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Social Policy, Department of Social and Policy Sciences and Dr Matt Dickson, Reader in public Policy, IPR.

Funder: University of Bath Studentship

Selected Key Outputs

Publication: *Basic income: Beyond left and right?* *Juncture*. 23(4). 266–270. Crisp, J. (2017).



How Low-income Families Experience and Manage Income Variability and Change (PhD project)

Poverty in the UK has been increasing. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation reports that between 2008/9 and 2013/14, the number of people living in households with income below the Minimum Income Standard tripled. This research sets out to explore whether and how changes in income and circumstances impact on how families with low incomes cope and manage.

While historic and recent literature looks at how families budget on a low income, very few studies specifically look at variation, sources and periodicity of income and the related lived experience of changing circumstances and management of change. The central research questions are relevant to recent policy debate and change, particularly the introduction of Universal Credit but also to the changing and increasingly insecure economic and social context in which people live. Many low-income families face instability in the housing and labour markets as well as a benefit system that can be complicated and inflexible. There is also evidence from the administration of Tax Credits that

claimants of means-tested benefits experience a great deal of change within the period of a year. This study will seek a better understanding of this change and how low-income families experience and manage change in income over time.

The research will take a qualitative longitudinal approach. The aim is to recruit 30 families, who will be asked to complete weekly income and expenditure diaries over a six-month period in order to establish variations in income, expenditure and circumstances. In-depth interviews will be conducted at the start and end of the diary period to focus on lived experience and how participants manage change. A pilot study is currently underway to test research instruments and to gather initial findings to inform the main phase of the research which is due to start in November 2017.

Dates

Autumn 2016–
ongoing

Research team: David Young, supervised by Professor Jane Millar, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Social Policy, Department of Social and Policy Sciences and Dr Susan Harkness, Department of Social and Policy Sciences.

Funder: University of Bath Studentship

Selected Key Outputs

- **Conference:** *How low-income families experience and manage income variability and change*, Department of Social and Policy Sciences postgraduate seminar, University of Bath, April 2017.
- **Network:** Founder member of the *Money, Security and Social Policy* research network, launch event, LSE London, November 2017.



Middle East and North Africa Social Policy (MENASP) research network

This network provides a first port of call for online information on social policy and social protection issues in the Middle East and North Africa region

This network provides a first port of call for online information on social policy and social protection issues in the Middle East and North Africa region. The network promotes policy-relevant research in relation to social policy in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA); up-to-date policy analysis on the key social challenges facing the region; information on social welfare issues for use by the wider public; and resources for policymakers, practitioners and academics in the subject areas of social policy and social protection in MENA.

The network also organises a bi-annual conference which gathers together academics, policymakers and practitioners to

engage with cutting-edge research and policy developments in the field of MENA social policy.

The network is comprised of a core group of globally based academic experts who specialise in social policy topics in the MENA region.

Dates

Ongoing IPR Network

Network co-ordinator: Dr Rana Jawad, Department of Social and Policy Sciences

Selected Key Outputs

- **Online database:** In collaboration with the Institute for Mathematical Innovation (IMI) at the University of Bath, the network has been commissioned by UNICEF (Jordan) to develop and host the first searchable online database of social policy expertise in MENA. The database will be available for public use in the autumn of 2017.

**Latin America Social Policy Research Network (LASP)**

This network provides a first port of call for online information on social policy and social issues in Latin America. This is an exciting time for the study of Latin American social policy. During the 21st century great changes have transformed the way the state protects and supports citizens. Existing programmes have been reformed and new programmes have been created to take welfare protection to groups of the population never reached before. Most of the recent innovations in the field have emerged from the region. Latin America has become the social policy laboratory of the world.

The changing landscape of Latin American social policy requires an expansion on the knowledge of its drivers, outputs and outcomes, to set its achievements, shortcomings and limitations. Much research is needed to provide elements for public debate and evidence for policy design, implementation and evaluation. The Latin American Social Policy Research Network (LASP), in collaboration with the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy, aims to bring together students, academics and policymakers with an interest in contributing to these ends.

Dates

Ongoing IPR Network

Network co-ordinators: Dr Theodoros Papadopoulos and Dr Ricardo Velazquez Leyer, Department of Social and Policy Sciences

Selected Key Outputs

- **Event:** LASP symposium on *Challenges for social policy in Latin America after the 'pink tide'*, July 2017.
- **Publication:** *Introduction: Assessing the Effects of Conditional Cash Transfers in Latin American Societies in the Early Twenty-First Century*. *Social Policy and Society*, 15(3), 417–420. Papadopoulos, T. & Velázquez Leyer, R. (2016).
- **Publication:** *Two Decades of Social Investment in Latin America: Outcomes, Shortcomings and Achievements of Conditional Cash Transfers*. *Social Policy and Society*, 15(3), 435–449. Papadopoulos, T. & Velázquez Leyer, R. (2016).



Evidence, Data and Democracy Research Stream

About this research stream

We are interested in the contested role of data and evidence in democratic societies and in particular how they are employed in policymaking and implementation

We work collaboratively with policymakers and other policy publics around the creation and use of data and the role of evidence in aiding policy deliberation and decision-making. We are interested in the contested role of data and evidence in democratic societies and in particular how they are employed in policymaking and implementation. We develop creative methods for working with data in policy design and evaluation, both nationally and internationally. In addition, we apply our expertise in data and evidence for policy and democratic participation to research projects and activities across other areas of our programme.

Current research projects include:

- The Public Data Lab
- Connecting data across public services in Bath and North East Somerset
- Connecting data: understanding social care demand
- Public engagement and policymaking in the era of big data (PhD project)
- Studying police effectiveness and public trust in policing using big data analysis (PhD project)



The Public Data Lab

The Public Data Lab aims to facilitate social science research, teaching and public engagement activities around the future of the data society. It mobilises an interdisciplinary network of researchers, practitioners and organisations in order to develop and disseminate innovative research, teaching, design and participation formats for the creation and use of public data. It aspires to support deliberation and knowledge exchange around the creation and use of digital public data in the service of social research, policymaking, advocacy, journalism and public engagement around current and future global challenges – from climate change to tax base erosion, migration to automation.

In the longer term, we anticipate that the Public Data Lab will become a pioneer in the following areas:

- Undertaking exemplary research and data projects around major global challenges
- Advancing digital methods, tools and code for working with public data
- Supporting public engagement and critical literacy around data infrastructures
- Developing participatory design methods for creating and working with data
- Catalysing transnational and transdisciplinary collaborations around public data
- Mapping and facilitating the translation of data practices between domains

Its first project, *A Field Guide to Fake News*, was launched at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia.

With funding from the Sage Foundation, the Public Data Lab will run three thematic five-day ‘data sprints’ which bring together a range of researchers and practitioners for an intensive period to collaborate in the co-production of data research projects. The anticipated themes for these data sprints are data for governance at the sub-regional level, data and cities and data and democracy.

Dates

August 2017–
ongoing

Project team: The lab is coordinated by an interdisciplinary team of leading researchers in digital sociology, digital methods, science and technology studies, internet studies, policy studies and design studies.

In addition to the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath, the lab’s initial network currently includes researchers from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies

(University of Warwick, UK), the Citizen Data Lab (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands), Density Design (Politecnico di Milano, Italy), the Department of Digital Humanities (King's College London, UK), the Digital Methods Initiative (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), the Global Studies Institute (University of Geneva, Switzerland), the Innovation Insights Hub (University of the Arts London, UK), INRIA (France), the Media of Cooperation research group (University of Siegen, Germany), the médialab (Sciences Po, Paris, France), the Techno-Anthropology Lab (Aalborg University Copenhagen, Denmark), the University of Ghent (Belgium), the University of Groningen (Netherlands) and the Université de Rennes 1 (France).

Funder: The Sage Foundation

Selected Key Outputs

- **Report:** *A Field Guide to Fake News*, L., Gray, J., Venturini, T. and Mauri, M. (2017).



Connecting Data across Public Services in Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)

This research project explores the potential for connected data to inform citizen-focused local policy and practice. The objective of the research is to realise the benefits of connected 'big data' by generating new insights into public need and service effectiveness and developing an evidence base to inform policy and practice innovation.

The objective of the research is to realise the benefits of connected 'big data' by generating new insights into public need and service effectiveness

There is a great deal of expectation attached to the promise of 'big data' to illuminate patterns and trends in human interaction and transaction, and inform policy and practice decisions. Alongside this the importance of sturdy information governance protocols and procedures has become ever more pertinent, as instances of highly visible data security breaches amplify public and professional perceptions of risk associated with sharing and linking data. At the same time open data is seen to offer a vital mechanism for enhancing the transparency and accountability of governments and empowering engagement with public policies. These agendas do not always sit in easy alignment with each other, and tension and disjunctions between them are realised acutely where the use of big data in the policymaking process is practiced at the local level.

Since April 2014, Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council, NHS B&NES Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

and an interdisciplinary team at the University of Bath Institute for Policy Research (IPR) have been involved in a co-produced research project to explore the potential for connected data to inform local policy debate and decision-making. Funded by a Transformation Challenge Award, the principle aims of the project are to create, pilot and evaluate a process to change the culture of information sharing across public services; identify mechanisms (technologies and processes) for safely linking data; and realise the benefits of big data by generating new insights into public need and service effectiveness to guide policy and practice development.

The approach that this project develops has been piloted through application to a number of current policy priorities for the Council and the CCG – starting with diabetes care services and the financial wellbeing of B&NES residents. The findings of the project have contributed to the development of policy and practice and to our understanding of the processes and techniques that realise the benefits of big data for local government.

Dates

April 2014–ongoing

Project team: Dr Hannah Durrant, IPR Research Programme Lead; Professor Julie Barnett, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology; Jon Poole, Business Intelligence Manager, B&NES Council; and Jason Young, Chief Information Officer, NHS B&NES CCG.

Funder: Transformation Challenge Award

Selected Key Outputs

- **Policy impact:** The findings from the project have directly influenced policy and practice in B&NES Council and NHS B&NES CCG. In addition, the study was shortlisted for a major national healthcare award for the innovation of its approach to improving Type II Diabetes care services in Bath and North East Somerset.
- **Additional proposals/activities:** Established highly effective working relationship with B&NES Council and NHS B&NES CCG that has led to the development of further funded research collaborations, such as the ‘Connecting data: understanding social care demand’ project.



Connecting Data: Understanding Social Care Demand

Building on the existing collaboration between the IPR and Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council this project explores the significant increases in demand for services relating to Special Educational Needs and Disability and Learning Disabilities from early years into adult services. Building on existing good practice, high-quality data analysis is needed to understand the causal factors behind these increases. In order to avoid a 'black box' analysis and to ensure that skills and capacity within both B&NES Council and the IPR are enhanced, ongoing collaboration around the process of articulating research questions and curating, describing and analysing the data is vital. This process is part of developing a methodology which is transferrable to other local settings.

Dates

April 2017–
October 2017

Project team: Dr Hannah Durrant, IPR Research Programme Lead; Professor Julie Barnett, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology; Emily Rempel, IPR Research Assistant and PhD Candidate; and Jon Poole, Business Intelligence Manager, B&NES Council.

Funder: Local Government Association, Local Data Experts programme (through B&NES Council)

Selected Key Outputs

- **Policy impact:** It is anticipated that the findings from the project will inform the review of existing services and support business case development for new services in the area.
- **Report:** Due in December 2017.



Public Engagement and Policymaking in the Era of Big Data (PhD project)

The aim of this research is to examine how publics can engage with emerging data technologies in the context of local and national policymaking. We send out millions of bits of information everyday through things like filling forms in a GP surgery, searching for a restaurant on Google, and logging in to social media. Government is a key collector and user of this information, however, we do not normally have control over how they use that information nor where it is ultimately held. There is an absence of tangible public involvement with the ways new forms of data

are collected and used by government. The project includes four qualitative exploratory streams of research contextualised through the history of public engagement, the current environment of public engagement around data, methods used by government data teams, and pilots of new public engagement initiatives.

The goal of this programme of work is to first understand how engagement is done in local and national government, and then to develop a set of techniques for engaging publics around new forms of data use and collection. Early results include an ethnography with the Government Digital Lab that found public engagements are often instantiated within limited bounds of influence, as well as an actor-network driven inquiry of the use of data in Bath and North East Somerset council which found that the rhetoric around data does not align easily with the day-to-day challenges and realities of local authority work. The ultimate goal of this work is to create a reflective, practical, and critical understanding of the intersections between publics and government bodies and how they fit together in a datafied society.

Dates

October 2015–
ongoing

Research team: Emily Rempel supervised by Professor Julie Barnett, IPR Leadership Team, Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychology and Dr Hannah Durrant, IPR Research Lead.

Funders: The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Department of Psychology, University of Bath

Selected Key Outputs

- **Publication:** *Preparing the prescription: A systematic review of the aim and measurement of social referral programmes.* BMJ Open. Rempel, E.S., Wilson, E.K., Durrant, H. & Barnett, J. (2017).
- **Conference Paper:** *Beyond the Hype: Using storytelling to explore the use of data in local government.* Rempel, E.S. (2017). Presented at Data Power Conference 2017 in Ottawa, Canada, and at ADRN Conference in 2017, in Edinburgh.
- **Conference Paper:** *Developing a sociotechnical imaginary: The role of publics in the future of new data.* Rempel, E.S. (2016) Poster presented at the Data for Policy 2016 conference in Cambridge and verbal presentations at the University of Bath Faculty of Humanities and Social Science's Changing Lives, Changing Worlds Postgraduate Conference and the 3rd Annual Department of Psychology PhD Conference.

- **Workshop:** *Engaging the public in data science: Looking through the lens of policy.* The Government Digital Services Data Science Ethics Launch. London. 2016.
- **IPR Blog:** *The Problem of Public Engagement, Public Policy and Public Data,* May 2016.
- **IPR Blog:** *The machines are all around us: An introduction to the UK Government's Public Dialogue on Data Ethics,* February 2016.
- **IPR Blog:** *How do we decide what works in wellbeing?* January 2017.



Studying Police Effectiveness and Public Trust in Policing Using Big Data Analysis (PhD project)

This research will employ statistical methods and big data analytics to measure police effectiveness and assess public confidence in policing.

The research will address public trust in policing using data extracted from social media platforms such as Twitter

Police forces are responsible for preventing crimes, investigating criminal incidents, and arresting suspected criminals in order to bring them to justice. It is important to establish how well police forces perform, given the important public resources that are invested in them, and whether they satisfy the public in their duties.

The research consists of two parts: to measure police effectiveness in England and Wales, and to gain an insight into levels of public trust in policing by analysing data extracted from social media platforms. The research will focus on quantification of police effectiveness and efficiency using crime data, police operational data, and local socio-demographic data, and then address public trust in policing using data extracted from social media platforms such as Twitter. The research will employ text mining analysis to analyse data collected from these sources. Extracted data will be analysed separately by area to show variation in levels of public trust in local police forces. The research is interested in understanding what relationships exist, if any, between the effectiveness of policing and levels of public trust in policing.

Dates

April 2017–
ongoing

Research team: Xinyan Cheng, supervise by Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director, Dr Theresa Smith, Department of Mathematical Sciences and Professor Julie Barnett, IPR Leadership Team, Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychology.

Funder: Police Foundation



Government, Politics and Policymaking Research Stream

About this research stream

We are interested in the evolution of politics, the changing role of the state and the political ideas and values that define contemporary political parties, political identities and public policies. Working with colleagues across the University, we are currently developing a strand of research on political parties, and another on the interdisciplinary study of public policy.

Current research projects include:

- Open City: London after Brexit
- Evidence Information Service
- Scottish Labour Party



Open City: London after Brexit

This project researched the potential impacts of Brexit on London, exploring the risks it poses to London's economy and international position, and the policies needed to tackle these. It also examined how increased devolution of taxation and spending powers to the Mayor and London boroughs could help address long-standing challenges faced by the city in housing, infrastructure, childcare and other areas.

London is much more closely integrated with the rest of the EU than any other UK region. Consequently, the EU referendum's impact is expected to be more profound than in other parts of the country. However, compared with cities like New York, Paris and Tokyo, London has very little power over tax and revenue collection or service delivery. The IPR's Director, Professor Nick Pearce, led this study jointly with The Centre for London and in collaboration with the Institute for Mathematical Innovation (IMI) at the University of Bath. The key research themes it addressed included immigration, employment and skills, housing and planning, land value tax and other options for fiscal devolution. The IPR and the IMI led on the employment and skills and tax and revenue data modelling research strands. The research has fed into public debate on Brexit in London, and helped take the argument for greater fiscal devolution forward by showing tangible possibilities and outcomes for the city.

Dates

October 2016–
July 2017

Project team: The Centre for London; Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director; Marsha Wood, IPR Research Assistant; Dr Rita Griffiths, IPR Research Programme Lead (maternity cover); and Dr Catherine Barnaby, IMI Research Associate.

Funder: Donation from Eva and Van Du Bose

Selected Key Outputs

- **Report:** *Open City: London after Brexit*, Centre for London and IPR (2017).
- **IPR Report:** *Estimation of Land Value Tax Revenues in London*, Barnaby, C. & Pearce, N. (2017).
- **IPR Report:** *Stamp Duty Receipts in London*, Barnaby, C. & Pearce, N. (2017).
- **Event:** Launch event in London, 13 July 2017.
- **IPR Blog:** *If London's Mayor had more power could London address its low maternal employment rate?* August 2017.



Evidence Information Service

The aim of this project is to develop an evidence information service (EIS) that will provide parliamentarians and parliamentary research services with a single gateway to a network of academic experts in science, technology, medicine, arts, humanities and social sciences.

The project involves partners from each of the GW4 universities – the Universities of Bath, Bristol and Exeter and Cardiff University. The partners undertook a ‘citizen study’ in 2014–15 that found that 85% of politicians would be supportive of the service, with many saying that the service would level the playing field between political parties in terms of their access to academic expertise. Working with the House of Commons Library and the National Assembly of Wales Research Service, the next phase of the project is piloting the EIS to enhance parliamentary capacity for research-derived and evidence-informed decision-making. The pilot aims to determine the feasibility and utility of the EIS by recruiting academics and policy researchers across different disciplines to trial responding to ‘test’ parliamentary questions. The project also involves a confidential survey asking academics across the UK to share their experiences of engagement with policymaking, such as contributions to select committee hearings and think-tank reports, with a view to eventually rolling out the EIS through parliamentary research services in England and Wales.

The pilot aims to determine the feasibility and utility of the EIS by recruiting academics and policy researchers across different disciplines to trial responding to ‘test’ parliamentary questions

Dates

July 2016–
July 2017

Project team: Dr Hannah Durrant, IPR Research Programme Lead; Professor Julie Barnett, member of IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology; Marsha Wood, IPR Research Assistant; Dr Elizabeth Fortin, University of Bristol; Dr Lindsey Pike, University of Bristol; Dr Lindsay Walker, Cardiff University; Dr Andrew Kythreotis, Cardiff University; Professor Chris Chambers, Cardiff University; Dr Gerard O’Grady, Cardiff University; Dr Natalia Lawrence, University of Exeter; Professor Sven Bestmann, University College London; the House of Commons Library; and The National Assembly for Wales Research Service.

Funder: GW4 Initiator and Accelerator fund

Selected Key Outputs

- **Survey:** Confidential Survey for Academics to share their experience of engagement with policy.
- **Report:** A report will be published on the analysis of the survey data.
- **Additional proposals/activities:** Exploration of future funding opportunities and collaborations is underway.



Social Media Analysis of the Scottish Labour Party (SLP) Election Campaign 2017

The aim of this project is to assess the extent to which there has been a revival of the Scottish Labour Party, in terms of its activism, influence and reach

The aim of this project is to assess the extent to which there has been a revival of the Scottish Labour Party, in terms of its activism, influence and reach, and the extent to which this accounts for its success in winning back Westminster seats at the last election. The project also assesses the SLP campaign messages and policies to understand how the identity of the SLP was constructed and presented to potential voters, and compares these with the messages and policies of the UK Labour Party. Our research asks how far the SLP, and its members and candidates, used Jeremy Corbyn in their social media campaigns and used UK Labour campaign themes, compared with using distinctly Scottish themes and Scottish Labour Party figures. We assess to what extent the SLP was able to create and drive new arguments and frames in the campaign (and if so, what these were based on), and to what extent they were reactive to the campaigns of the SNP and Scottish Conservatives.

Alongside interviews with leading SLP figures and party activists, the project collects and analyses social media data from Twitter, Facebook (public pages), and Instagram for specified individual

and party political accounts over the period of the 2017 general election campaign. We are particularly interested in key nodal figures/accounts in the social media campaigns of the SLP and its supporters, and whether or not the SLP and its activists engaged with or retweeted English “alt left” sources, such as The Canary, Skwawkbox, Another Angry Voice, or Novara Media. We are also assessing geographical or other differences in the data that might relate to social class or other identities in different parts of Scotland.

Dates

July 2017–
June 2018

Project team: Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director; Dr David Moon, Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies; Dr Sophie Whiting, Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies; Professor Julie Barnett, member of the IPR Leadership Team and Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology; and Dr Shaun Lawson, Northumbria University.

Funder: This project has not received external funding. The intention is for the results of this initial study to feed into a larger research proposal under development for submission to the ESRC.

Selected Key Outputs

- **IPR Report:** A report on the social media analysis will be published in December 2017.
- **Additional proposals/activities:** Application to the ESRC Open Call is under development.



Science, Technology and Innovation Research Stream

About this research stream

We seek to bring together scientists, engineers and social scientists to research and develop solutions to the interconnected economic, social and environmental challenges we face in the UK and globally. We have a particular focus on the role of education, skills and industrial strategy in national and regional economies, and the implications for global trade and global value chains of political and economic change.

Current research projects include:

- Deployable Sustainable Energy Sources for Portable, Transportable Energy Supplies in Development Contexts
- An Assessment of Degree Apprenticeships as a Route for Widening Participation Based Access to Higher Education



Deployable Sustainable Energy Sources for Portable, Transportable Energy Supplies in Development Contexts

This interdisciplinary IPR feasibility study brings together researchers from chemistry, engineering, international development and policy studies to develop a methodology for assessing the suitability of innovative technologies through a social-scientific understanding of the political, economic and social context, focusing on the policy challenge of providing affordable energy in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Affordable energy is essential to improving employment levels, health, incomes, educational achievement and living standards among Africa's poor. However, the African energy market is notoriously inefficient, expensive and under-invested. Two thirds of Africa's population – some 600 million people – have no access to a safe, reliable and affordable energy supply in their home. Scientific and technological advances offer vital solutions to some of the complex challenges of developing sustainable energy sources in Africa. However, too often the promised benefits fail to be realised in local development contexts. Frequently this is due to the complex interplay of politics, economics, public policy, education and poverty which, together with socio-cultural norms and preferences, defines the extent to which any new science or technology is fit for purpose and can or will be adopted in any particular local setting.

With pump prime funding from the government's Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), this study developed cross-disciplinary research capacity to situate technological development and implementation within complex local development contexts with the aim of contributing to the successful implementation of affordable and societally-acceptable sustainable energy sources in developing countries in Africa and to develop future interdisciplinary research programmes.

Dates

September 2016–
April 2017

Research team: Marsha Wood, IPR Research Assistant; Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director; Dr Hannah Durrant, IPR Research Programme Lead; Dr Karen Robertson, Department of Chemistry; Professor Chick Wilson, member of IPR Leadership Team and

Department of Chemistry; Dr Petra Cameron, Department of Chemistry; Dr Joe Devine, Social and Policy Sciences and Centre for Development Studies; Dr Roy Maconachie, Social and Policy Sciences and Centre for Development Studies; Professor Chris Bowen, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Professor Peter Wilson, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Funder: Global Challenge Research Fund

Selected Key Outputs

- **IPR Report:** A final report will be published in autumn 2017
- **Additional proposals/activities:** Research collaborations have been sustained beyond the duration of the project; additional funding opportunities have been identified and research project development is ongoing.



An Assessment of Degree Apprenticeships as a Route for Widening Participation Based Access to Higher Education (PhD Project)

The research will consider the development and current structure of Degree Apprenticeships and their potential impact.

Degree Apprenticeships, launched in 2015, combine employer-embedded training with degree-level education. This initiative (included in the government target of 3 million apprenticeships by 2020) potentially offers a credible and welcome alternative to full-time higher education, addresses employers' concerns including 'not ready for work' applicants, and supports the need for a highly trained workforce to decrease the skills shortages further highlighted by Brexit.

Throughout the launch of the Degree Apprenticeships much has been said about their ability to increase participation in higher education from under-represented groups. Therefore, they can be seen as increasing routes into professional employment from socio-economic classes who may not have considered careers in those sectors. However, there is no formal widening participation agenda embedded within the employer-led recruitment process or associated policies.

This research project has two broad aims. Firstly, to consider the current initiative from a policy formation perspective, and how it fits into the wider political socio-economic arenas and drives towards increase productivity as we move to a knowledge-based economy. Secondly, to consider how the programmes and

admissions are structured, particularly in relation to encouraging widening participation and determining the weaknesses of the current structure alongside the compelling arguments for engagement by all stakeholders – government, employers, universities, schools and participants. Taking a qualitative approach combining policy document analysis and in-depth interviews with representatives from each stakeholder group involved, this study will make recommendations to policymakers to ensure Degree Apprenticeships have a sustained positive socio-economic impact.

Dates

July 2016–
ongoing

Research team: Jane Mackay, supervised by Dr Felicia Fai, School of Management and Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director.

Funder: University of Bath Studentship

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IPR Programmes

Through our programme streams we deliver activities for policymakers, researchers and practitioners to enable learning from and the opportunity to make original contributions to both research and practice in a broad range of settings.



Policy Fellowship Programme

The IPR Policy Fellowship Programme is for senior decision-makers from government, industry and the third sector. It offers Fellows fresh perspectives on the policy questions they are looking to address in their day-to-day professional roles.

The Programme is structured around tailored one-to-one meetings with selected academics. The meetings take place over a period of between one and three days at the University.

Drawing on the insights of our experts forms an important part of the Policy Fellowship experience. Our research informs new approaches to organisational management and service delivery, enhances professional and corporate practice and supports changes in policy.

Engaging with academics across the University inspires Policy Fellows with new ideas and perspectives. In this way the Policy Fellowship Programme drives innovation, helping Fellows apply new tools, models and frameworks to improve the ways in which policy is developed and delivered.

This year nine Fellows took part in the Programme from seven government departments, think-tanks or third-sector organisations. Collectively they took part in 69 meetings with University of Bath academics.

Feedback from Policy Fellows

I thoroughly enjoyed my day with you and found the conversations I had with your colleagues were extremely helpful and informative. It gave me lots of ideas, which I intend to incorporate into my advice to Ministers engaging in the EU exit discussions... Given how long the impacts of Brexit will be felt, I think there are some fascinating future research topics here too.

Neil Johnson, Deputy Director, EU and International Affairs Division, Department for Work and Pensions

This year nine Fellows took part in the Programme from seven government departments, think-tanks or third-sector organisations

Over the two days I spoke with a group of people with a wide range of interests who were all happy to chat to me about their work and about the areas I had flagged of interest. The conversations covered a considerable amount of ground, much of which I can take back and feed directly into ongoing research and policy debates in the joint work and health unit – in terms of research and associated academic developments, understanding the broader landscape, testing ideas and approaches and, to a useful degree, of the challenges about how best to develop the trials on which I am working. It may also be that some of the conversations can continue to develop as work progresses with the future benefit of greater collaboration. I thought that the two days was put together very professionally and so thank you for all your hard work.

**David Johnson, Head of Innovation Evaluation, Work and Health Unit,
Department for Work and Pensions**



The Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice

The breadth of professional experiences and personal interests across our three cohorts contributes to a very active and successful group of engaged students

The Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice (DPRP) is designed to enable experienced professionals working in a range of policy arenas – locally, nationally, and globally – to develop their policy analysis expertise without having to take a full career break. Combining advanced training in policy research and analysis with a thesis based on original research, it is based on a cohort model and can be spread out over up to six years.

We have successfully recruited a third cohort of 13 students onto the DPRP this academic year bringing our total number of students to 33. The breadth of professional experiences and personal interests across our three cohorts contributes to a very active and successful group of engaged students.

The two-week residential component of the IPR's DPRP took place between 5th and 16th September 2016. 23 students from five continents attended the course, with each of the two cohorts following a separate programme of lectures, seminars and drop-in sessions provided by 14 members of University staff. The DPRP students also attended 'Evidence and the Politics of Policymaking: where next?' and participated in plenary sessions in the days that followed the symposium.

The two-week residential in 2017 took place between 4th and 15th September with the annual symposium taking place on the 14th September. This year the symposium, 'Politics, Fake News and the Post-Truth Era', brought together a coalition of journalists, policymakers and academics for a day of discussion, with keynote addresses delivered by Professor Susan Banducci of the University of Exeter, Guardian writer Matthew d'Ancona and former Home Secretary Lord Blunkett.



Masters in Public Policy

The IPR has contributed to the development in the Department of Social & Policy Sciences (SPS) of a new Master of Science in Public Policy (MSc) which will launch in September 2018. This course will be an innovative and flexible programme of mixed residential and online distance-learning delivered part-time over two years. It will be marketed alongside the IPR-SPS Professional Doctorate.

It is specifically tailored to the needs of early- to mid-career professionals employed in, or planning to move to, policy-related roles in the public, voluntary and private sectors. It will improve their effectiveness and understanding around the contexts of public policy, creative thinking about public policy problems and solutions, and understanding the range of knowledge, data and information used in and for public policymaking. There will be application of theory and concepts to real-world cases, practice-based learning, and application of students' professional knowledge in the new context of learning from the programme.

The course is specifically tailored to the needs of early- to mid-career professionals employed in, or planning to move to, policy-related roles in the public, voluntary and private sectors

The course will allow students to consider the political, economic and social dynamics and forces that shape contemporary public policy issues both nationally and globally, and identify new ways of acting to achieve public policy goals. Students will develop a robust understanding of concepts and tools used in public policymaking, will be able to apply these, and more importantly will be able to think creatively about new tools and concepts, and have the confidence to understand and critique these. There will be specific focus on how data, knowledge and evidence in the digital environment are re-shaping how public policy is analysed, made and practiced. Residentials will include a 'data sprint', opportunities for networking and to hear from senior and experienced policymakers in the UK and further afield.

The course will include units on: 'Public policy: theory, politics and practice', 'Public policy and economics', 'Knowledge, evidence and data in public policy', a policy review case study and a dissertation or policy portfolio.

The first cohort will aim to accommodate 35 students.



Cabinet Office Open Innovation Team Partnership

The Open Innovation Team is a small team in the Cabinet Office that has been created to work on research and policy development for No10 and Whitehall departments

The University of Bath is a partner – alongside the Universities of Southampton, Warwick and Lancaster, and RCUK– with the Cabinet Office Open Innovation Team. The relationship is managed by IPR.

The Open Innovation Team is a small team in the Cabinet Office that has been created to work on research and policy development for No10 and Whitehall departments. It draws on the advice and support of academics, and hosts PhD placements. It also runs the new Digital Partnership with universities.

The University of Bath is involved with the Open Innovation Team for two years, spanning three of our academic years from 2016/17–2018/19. Each year, the University benefits from:

- Flexible placements for academics working with the Open Innovation Team on specific policy projects
- A “Policy School” for postgraduate students to gain first-hand experience of policymaking in Whitehall
- Guest lectures from senior civil servants at the University
- Visits and engagement with Bath’s research from officials
- Advice and support for engaging with Whitehall

In 2016–2017, placements were established for Dr Susan Harkness (Departments of Social and Policy Sciences), Dr Felicia Fai (School of Management), Mr Chris Archer Brown (School of Management) and Professor Andreas Kyprianou (Department of Mathematical Sciences). In addition, colleagues from the Departments of Psychology and Health were engaged in providing advice on specific research projects.

A “Policy School” was held in May 2017 with the Department for International Development (DfID) on the use of data for humanitarian interventions. Over 20 postgraduates from every faculty of the University attended the day-long interactive session with senior DfID officials.

A guest lecture and interactive policy development session for faculty and students was held in December 2016 with the Cabinet Office Policy Lab team. Other events and roundtables with the Open Innovation Team have been held at the University's Pall Mall offices.



Appointment of Civil Service Fast Streamer

The IPR has also successfully applied for two Civil Service Fast Streamer placements in the past year. These are six-month placements funded by the Civil Service. The first, Rosemary Ash, worked at Pall Mall for both Executive Education and the IPR on a project researching the civil service and wider public sector education market in London, including proposals for the content and marketing of the new Masters in Public Policy. The second placement, Jack Close, will start in October 2017, working on the IPR's data and democracy stream of research.

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**Events and
Communications**

IPR events and communications activities have included:

- The launch of a new responsive website for the IPR: www.bath.ac.uk/IPR.
- The launch of a new IPR Blog platform: <http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/iprblog/>.
- The launch of Facebook and LinkedIn accounts for the IPR.
- Producing and disseminating research through our existing Policy Brief format and a new IPR Report series. We have produced eight reports and three Policy Briefs.
- Communicating our research activities and strengths internally to our community and externally to targeted policymakers, members of the public and the media.
- Communicating and developing our policy research reputation both within the UK and internationally.
- Delivering a range of high profile public and policy engagement events.
- Linking our researchers with policymakers through roundtable events and the Policy Fellowship Programme.
- Marketing and successfully running the Policy Fellowship Programme.
- Marketing and successfully recruiting to our Professional Doctorate.
- Signing an affiliation contract with the Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy Fellowship Programme.
- Placing a total of 277 media features with a total news research of 29.15 million.



IPR Events

Between September 2016 and August 2017 the IPR delivered a comprehensive and highly engaging programme of events which included two conferences, four symposia, eight public lectures, five policy research seminars, six roundtables, one panel debate, three workshops, one Policy School and two joint report launches. We also took part in the Bristol Festival of Economics.

Approximately 3,500 people have attended our events with five of these events having taken place at the new London Pall Mall office. Our event reach has been extended further by our IPR Policy Podcast Series.

The high calibre of our speakers resulted in wide media coverage

IPR Public Lectures and In Conversation events

Our portfolio of guest public lecture speakers has been outstanding during the reporting period with speakers including Lord Kerr, the Author of Article 50, speaking on Brexit during the week of the Supreme Court ruling; Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal, talking about the world in 2050 and beyond; Dame Fiona Reynolds, former Director General of the National Trust and first female Master at Emmanuel College Cambridge, speaking on the fight for beauty in policy; Lord Darzi, Imperial College London, talking about innovation in healthcare; and James Purnell, Director, Radio and Education, BBC in conversation with Nick Pearce.

The high calibre of our speakers resulted in wide media coverage including interviews with Adam Bolton from Sky News, coverage on the BBC Sunday Politics Show and in *The Observer* and *THE*, among others.

In early May 2017, we partnered with the OECD to launch its *2017 Skills Outlook* – a global publication – and in June 2017 we partnered with the Centre for London to launch a joint report: *Open City: London After Brexit*.

IPR Public Policy Research Seminars, Policy debates and Roundtables

This year five IPR Public Policy Research Seminars have been held. IPR Public Policy Research Seminars are academic- and practitioner-led events which aim to engage University of Bath research with current debate and issues in the policy world. The overall aim is to discuss policy issues, concerns and ideas on specific themes and to foster a shared language across the research/policy divide and research/policy links.

Titles of seminars in this series have included: 'Evidence-Based Policymaking in Europe Post-Brexit'; 'An Open Information Age'; 'Money for Everyone: The State of the Basic Income/ Citizen's Income Debate' and 'Brexit, UK Automotive and Implications for Industrial Policy'.

The IPR Policy Research Seminars are open to all members of the University, policymakers and practitioners.

IPR Roundtables are smaller, more focused events where Bath researchers and policymakers and/or policy practitioners meet to have open conversations about the latest research and thinking on a given topic. We have held roundtables in our London Pall Mall office and in Bath.

Titles of Roundtables have included: 'Death, Dying and Devolution'; 'How Big Should Government be?' and 'Alcohol on the brain: Cognitive biases for alcohol-related cues'.

IPR Public Lecture Highlights



**Professor Scott Barrett,
Columbia University**

‘How to (and How Not to)
“Save the Planet”’

12 October 2016



**Lord Kerr of Kinlochard,
former Ambassador to
the European Union and
author of Article 50**

‘Brexit: Will Divorce be
Damaging, and Could
it be Amicable?’

26 January 2017



**Lord Rees,
Astronomer Royal**

‘The World in 2050
and Beyond’

9 February 2017



**Lord Darzi of Denham,
Imperial College
London**

‘Innovation in Healthcare’

22 February 2017



**Professor Janine Wedel,
George Mason University**

‘How Power Came
to “Trump” Policy and
Democracy: Seismic Social
Change, New Influence
Elites, the Rise of the Anti-
Establishment, and Parallels
with Post-Communism’

15 March 2017



**Dame Fiona Reynolds,
Master Emmanuel
College, University
of Cambridge**

‘The Fight for Beauty’

27 March 2017

IPR Conferences, Symposia and Workshops

IPR conferences, symposia and workshops are run to further and share IPR research interests and best practice. We look to work with experts in their fields both within the UK and internationally, from academics to policymakers to policy practitioners.

Over the last year we have held a broad programme of activities that has included:

‘A new Social Contract for MENA (Middle East and North Africa) countries: Experiences from Development and Social Policies’, held as the Third International IPR-MENA Social Policy Network Conference; ‘Evidence and the Politics of Policymaking: where next?’, ‘Innovation in Public Policymaking: An Afternoon with the Cabinet Office Policy Lab’; ‘Prosperity for All: How to Prevent Financial Crises’; ‘Technology and the Public Sector: How Will Technology Revolutionise Public Sector Jobs?’ held in association with IPPR and ‘The Origins and History of the Anglosphere in British Politics’.

In addition the IPR took part in a panel debate: ‘Basic Income – An Idea Whose Time Has Come?’ as part of the Bristol Festival of Economics on 17th November 2016, with a panel including Torsten Bell, Dr Louise Haagh, Anthony Painter, Professor Nick Pearce and Jonathan Derbyshire (Chair).

The IPR’s Response to Brexit

The IPR has made a significant contribution to conversations around Brexit, discussing the impacts of this crucial process across a variety of policy areas

The IPR has made a significant contribution to conversations around Brexit, discussing the impacts of this crucial process across a variety of policy areas. In particular, the IPR has hosted or contributed to six public events on Brexit – including two symposia, two research seminars, a public lecture and a panel debate – with two further roundtable discussions currently planned for autumn 2017. The IPR has also released two major publications and published 23 blogs offering expert commentary on Britain’s progress towards exiting the European Union.

Events

- Berlin Rules: Europe and the German Way, Sir Paul Lever, 25th October 2017
- Brexit: The View from Poland, Professor Joanna Tyrowicz, Dr Christopher A. Hartwell and Dr Emma Carmel, 15th November 2017
- Politics, Fake News and the Post-Truth Era, IPR September Symposium, 14th September 2017
- Evidence-Based Policymaking in Europe Post-Brexit, Professor Ragnar Löfstedt, 6th June 2017

- Britain Outside the EU: More Control? Fewer Migrants? More Prosperity? Professor Nick Pearce, Dr Emma Carmel, Dr Bryn Jones and Dr Susan Milner, 8th March 2017
- Brexit: Will Divorce be Damaging, and Could it be Amicable? Lord Kerr, 26th January 2017
- Evidence and the Politics of Policymaking: where next? IPR September Symposium, 14th September 2016
- Brexit, UK automotive and implications for industrial policy, Professor David Bailey, 7th September 2016

Reports

- *Open City: London After Brexit*, in partnership with the Centre for London, July 2017
- *From Brexit to European Renewal*, Professor Graham Room, May 2017



We have assisted in the development of press opportunities for a number of academics resulting in a total of 277 media features with a total news research of 29.15 million

Media

We have assisted in the development of press opportunities for a number of academics, where there have been strong links or relevance to the IPR. This has resulted in a total of 277 media features with a total news research of 29.15 million.

Media coverage has included:

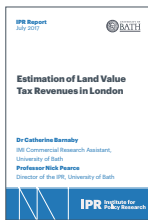
- Dr Kate Woodthorpe's Policy Brief on Death, Dying and Devolution received coverage on BBC coverage, Radio 4 Today Programme, BBC Breakfast News, *The Times*, *The Observer* and the *Herald Scotland*;
- Dr Luke Martinelli's work on Universal Basic Income, including coverage in *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Times Online*, *The Daily Mirror* and *Scottish Sun Online*;
- Dr Sol Gamsu and Dr Michael Donnelly's Policy Brief *Diverse Places of Learning?* received coverage in the BBC Asian network, *THE* and *The Guardian*;
- Lord Rees on BBC Radio 4 and in *Times Higher Education*;
- Lord Kerr discussing his thoughts on Brexit with the BBC and Sky News;
- Professor Sue Maguire's work with the Young Women's Trust, including coverage in *The Independent* and BBC News;
- Professor Roger Farmer on BBC World Service;
- Dr Jonathan Gray's work on the Public Data Lab with Sage.



IPR Publications

The IPR has produced seven reports and three Policy Briefs during the reporting year. All our publications were delivered to strategic and key contacts working in relevant fields to each report's findings and/or recommendations. Reports were also sent to targeted members of the media with some significant coverage across all our publications.

IPR Publications during 2016–2017:



- **IPR Policy Brief:** *Death, Dying and Devolution*, edited by Dr Kate Woodthorpe, Centre for Death and Society. September 2017.
- **IPR Policy Brief:** *Assessing the Case for a Universal Basic Income in the UK*, Dr Luke Martinelli, IPR Research Associate. September 2017.
- **Joint Report:** *Work and Relationships Over Time in Lone-mother Families*, Professor Jane Millar and Professor Tess Ridge, University of Bath. Produced in partnership with the Joseph Roundtree Foundation. July 2017.
- **IPR Policy Brief:** *Diverse Places of Learning? Home neighbourhood ethnic diversity and the ethnic composition of universities*, Dr Sol Gamsu and Dr Michael Donnelly, Department of Education. August 2017.
- **Joint report:** *Open City: London After Brexit*, produced in partnership with the Centre for London. July 2017.
- **IPR Report:** *Estimation of Land Value Tax Revenues in London*, Dr Catherine Barnaby, IMI and Professor Nick Pearce, IPR. July 2017.
- **IPR Report:** *Stamp Duty Receipts in London*, Dr Catherine Barnaby, IMI and Professor Nick Pearce, IPR. July 2017.
- **IPR Report:** *From Brexit to European Renewal*, Professor Graham Room, Department of Social and Policy Sciences. May 2017.
- **Brochure:** *The IPR Policy Fellowship Programme flyer*. May 2017.
- **IPR Report:** *Exploring the Distributional and Work Incentive Effects of Plausible Illustrative Basic Income Schemes*, Dr Luke Martinelli, IPR Research Associate. May 2017.
- **IPR Report:** *The Fiscal and Distributional Implications of Alternative Universal Basic Income Schemes in the UK*, Dr Luke Martinelli, IPR Research Associate. March 2017.
- **Joint report:** *Young, Female and Forgotten?* Professor Sue Maguire, Honorary Professor (IPR) and Emma McKay, produced in partnership with the Young Women's Trust Young Women's Trust. February 2017.



Social Media, IPR Policy Podcast Series, IPR Blog

The IPR utilises social media platforms to engage with interested individuals and organisations. Over the last year we have introduced an IPR LinkedIn page. We have also significantly increased our following on Twitter and Facebook. Our social media strategy has been very successful and the last year has seen us engaging with a broader mix of policymakers, practitioners, academics and members of the public interested in our research, events and publications.



Twitter

Our Twitter account, launched in May 2016, is used as a channel to interact with interested parties for bite-sized, fresh and up-to-date policy commentary as it happens including our latest news, events, publications and policy engagement opportunities. Our Twitter followers have almost doubled since September 2016, from around 1,100 to a total of 2,078. In the future, we will aim to develop engagement with our followers to maximise our reach on the platform.

- **Follow us on Twitter: @UniofBathIPR**



Facebook

Our page was established in June 2016 to engage with like-minded policy individuals in a more in-depth and interactive way than on Twitter, or our website. Since September 2016 we have taken our total likes from 51 to 166. We will continue to grow our number of followers and engagement on this platform.

- **Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/instituteforpolicyresearch**



LinkedIn

Our LinkedIn page was soft-launched in August 2017, and so far has 16 followers. As well as allowing us the opportunity to easily reach external audiences with a professional focus, our LinkedIn account will offer the chance to manage professional groups for alumni and current participants in our programmes (including the Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice, the Policy Fellowship Programme and, ultimately, the Masters Programme in Public Policy) as well as an additional tool for marketing these programmes. In the future we will aim to publicise our presence on this platform, grow our following, and develop use of LinkedIn as a marketing tool.

- **Follow us on LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/2zWwpSH>**



IPR Policy Podcasts

Our Policy Podcast series was launched in June 2016 to enable people who miss our events, or those located internationally, to catch up on the best of our lectures and seminars. 12 Policy Podcasts have been released since September 2016, bringing the total to 21 – which collectively have been played 18,816 times. In the future, we will aim to develop our use of these resources as a content marketing tool.

- **Listen to our Policy Podcasts: bit.ly/2jQigi8**



IPR Video Lectures

Concurrent with our web redesign, we plan to create an IPR video channel on YouTube. This will allow us to better track the impact of our video content, and ensure that it is accessible and discoverable.



IPR Blog

Established at the beginning of 2016 the blog offers expert analysis, debate and comment on recent developments across UK government, policy and academia. The IPR Blog is for researchers, academics and policy experts to blog on a range of topical policy-relevant issues, with the potential to reach a wide audience. We publish posts that reflect the expertise in research at the University of Bath and mirror the current priorities of external policy stakeholders and research funders.

This year we have published a total of 99 posts by 60 authors with a total of 40,177 blog hits.

- **Read our blog: blogs.bath.ac.uk/iprblog/**

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Future Plans

Research

Over the coming year we will continue to develop and grow our portfolio of funded research projects and activities across our current four research streams. We will do this by building on established IPR research capability and expertise and by expanding our collaborations with internal and external partners through our sabbatical and visiting fellow schemes. With the appointment of Dr Matt Dickson, IPR Reader in Public Policy, we will be developing a fifth research stream on Widening Participation in Higher Education.

Specific research agendas that will be developed include:

Over the coming year we will continue to develop and grow our portfolio of funded research projects and activities

- **The future of welfare:** in particular, we will develop on our established profile of funded research assessing the potential for universal basic income schemes to provide welfare solutions in the context of automation and labour market change.
- **The implications of datafication and big data for policymaking and democracy:** funding from the Sage Foundation will act as a catalyst for the research activities of the Public Data Lab and we will use this to leverage additional sources of funding; we will continue to strengthen our collaborations with B&NES Council on the use of data for policymaking and public engagement at the local level and, with colleagues in IMI, develop a tranche of work on the flexible geographies of data and policymaking at the sub-regional (Combined Authority) level. We look forward to welcoming Jack Close who will be joining the IPR in October on a six-month secondment from the Civil Service Fast Stream scheme. Jack will be working with us to develop this research agenda.
- **The changing political ideas and values that define contemporary political parties and political identities:** Professor Nick Pearce and Professor Julie Barnett are working with Dr David Moon and Dr Sophie Whiting (Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies) to develop a proposal for submission to the ESRC on the identity of the Scottish Labour Party. The proposed research will involve the first ever survey of the Scottish Labour Party's membership and will draw on methodologies pioneered by Dr Whiting in her award-winning study of the Democratic Unionist Party. A wider programme of work on the dynamic landscape of political ideals and values in the context of broad social and political change is anticipated.

- **Science, technology and innovation research and its contribution to economic, social and environmental policymaking:** we have a particular focus on growing our profile in this area of research activity and will work with colleagues across the University and with external partners to do this.

We are awaiting the outcome of a recently submitted application to H2020 on the next generation of water systems and services for the circular economy, on which we are a partner with the Water Innovation and Research Centre (WIRC).

We also look forward to welcoming Dr Felicia Fai (School of Management) who is joining the IPR on sabbatical from autumn to work on how the EU policy focus on smart specialisation fits into local enterprise partnerships' (LEPs) strategic economic plans and the government's commitment to a more 'place-based' industrial strategy. In particular she will study those LEPs based on more traditional or mature industries for whom navigating a path to sustainable economic growth through smart specialisation may be less obvious than for those with a density of hi-tech industries.

- **Widening participation in higher education:** this new programme of research at the IPR will help us to better understand how to ensure that the higher education system in the UK promotes diversity and inclusion, and that all students at university are able to fully exploit their opportunities and go on to make the most of their abilities post-HE. The research will address both of these elements: widening participation into HE, and widening successful participation in HE. The first of these, widening participation in HE, is about understanding how we ensure that students from poorer backgrounds and under-represented groups, who have the ability to benefit from higher study, are not prevented from accessing HE through structural or other barriers. The second, widening successful participation in HE, aims to understand how and why there remain social and other gradients in post-HE outcomes, the extent to which this is due to choice of institution and subject and the role of the HE institutions themselves in promoting success post-HE for students from non-traditional university backgrounds. The research will primarily involve quantitative data analysis, using longitudinal administrative data and state-of-the-art econometric techniques.

- **A research network on the role of think-tanks in policymaking:** We will use our funding for academic networks to support colleagues in The Department of Social & Policy Sciences to set up a think-tank research network. We will also use this to help create contacts and partners for Global Challenge Research Fund bids.



Programmes

- To host a sustained level of Policy Fellows from a broader mix of government departments and devolved government departments.
- To host policy fellows through our affiliation with the University of Cambridge.
- To establish an alumni network for Policy Fellows.
- To attract a fourth cohort of ten students to our Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice.
- To involve new colleagues across the University in the delivery of the Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice.
- To launch the new Masters in Public Policy with colleagues in SPS and successfully recruit over 30 students for a September 2018 entry.



Events and Communications

We will continue to develop our events and communications activities to strengthen our research reputation with policy communities, the academic world, the public and the media by:

- Building the IPR's reputation as an institute of policy excellence.
- Building on our portfolio of London Pall Mall events.
- Increasing the number of roundtable meetings with civil servants and MPs.
- Increasing the interaction and engagement of our social media platforms.
- Establishing our YouTube video channel.
- Increasing the number of people who blog for the IPR Blog, as well as the number of hits we receive.
- Supporting the communication of IPR research online, in the media, through social media, our publications and events.
- Raising the number of high-impact media releases and the volume of media coverage.

Discover more about the IPR

- Email us: ipr@bath.ac.uk
- Find us online: www.bath.ac.uk/ipr
- Follow the IPR blog for expert analysis, debate and comment on recent developments across UK government, policy and academia: blogs.bath.ac.uk/iprblog
- Follow the IPR on Twitter for bite-sized, fresh and up-to-date policy commentary as it happens: @UniofBathIPR
- Like us on Facebook to engage with like-minded policy individuals: www.facebook.com/instituteforpolicyresearch
- Listen to our podcasts to catch up on the best of our lectures and seminars: bit.ly/2jQi9i8
- Follow us on LinkedIn to meet like-minded policy professionals: <http://bit.ly/2zWwpSH>
- Join our mailing list to be the first to hear about our events or publications: www.bath.ac.uk/ipr/sign-up

