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WELCOME

The Centre for Applied Research in Health, Welfare & Policy (CARe) is a research centre based within the School of Health & Society at the University of Salford. Our work seeks to understand the complex challenges facing people, communities, services and places in the 21st Century. It seeks to explain the dynamics of communities as they are influenced by factors such as national and trans-national policies and rapid demographic change.

We are engaged in work which aims to alleviate health and social injustices, and bring about positive change through engaged research and practice. The CARe approach is grounded in principles of collaboration, co-production and critical analysis in order to support the development of positive changes in health, wellbeing and society.

This newsletter will be available quarterly and aims to share learning from our work and to keep our partners up to date with our various activities.

CARe HIGHLIGHTS

National award success for the Greater Manchester Kidney Information Network

The Greater Manchester Kidney Information Network (GMKIN) won the Best Tech For Good Project at the Big Chip Awards, beating off competition from major players in the world of digital technology. The network was set up in 2013 by University of Salford academics Dr Cristina Vasilica, Lecturer/Researcher in Digital Health, and Prof Paula Ormandy, Professor in Long Term Conditions, along with the Hope and MRI Kidney Patient Associations.

The scheme, funded by Kidney Care UK, British Renal Society, and Kidneys for Life, involved designing one of the first projects of its kind in the country. The project has succeeded in creating a sustainable digital community of renal patients in Greater Manchester through continuous capacity building, mentorship, digital skills training and empowerment of patient leaders. GMKIN is now managed by kidney patient Rob Finnigan with guidance and support from Cristina, Paula and an advisory group. The information is generated through patients’ interaction and clinicians’ input in the form of blogs, news stories, posts and tweets.

The impact of GMKIN was captured via an in-depth research study (Vasilica, 2015) and continues to influence the development of similar projects in other fields. The model contributed to national guidance with INVOLVE on the use of social media and has previously won awards.

Patient activation, isolation, mental health issues and access to information remain a significant challenge for health and social care, and this is particularly important in the light of the recent Devo Manc agenda. The GMKIN project demonstrates that social/digital media brings many innovative and creative ways to engage patients and trigger positive outcomes across health and social care.
Major grant examining and supporting the integration of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK

Professor Phil Brown has secured a research grant as part of a large European project which aims to support asylum seekers and refugees in Yorkshire and the Humber region. The project is led by Migration Yorkshire and has a total value in excess of £2m and will be delivered between 2019-2021. There are 7 partners (Migration Yorkshire, Barnsley Council, Calderdale Council, Doncaster Council, Hull Council, Rotherham Council and University of Salford) with about 30 people working on this across the Y&H region (about 19 FTE involved in the project). The project is expected to start in January 2019 and has five outcomes:

1 / A coordinated strategic approach to refugee integration in Yorkshire & Humber
2 / New refugees receive a high quality, comprehensive, and consistent move-on integration service for across all of Yorkshire & Humber
3 / Improved evidence-base for refugee integration policy and practice in Yorkshire & Humber and across the UK
4 / Key services, employers and civil society are better enabled to actively integrate refugees
5 / Refugees have improved opportunities, meaningful participation and co-delivery of services.

The research component of the grant will be delivered by Phil Brown and Phil Martin from the Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) in partnership with the research team in Migration Yorkshire.

CARe HIGHLIGHTS

SHUSU launches findings for project with Forces in Mind Trust: Sanctions, Support & Service Leavers project

On the 19 April SHUSU launched the Interim Findings of their Sanctions, Support & Service Leavers project. Funded by the Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT), this groundbreaking project represents the first research in the UK to focus on the experiences of military veterans in the benefits system. The project is a partnership between the University of Salford (Dr Lisa Scullion, Dr Katy Jones, Philip Martin and Dr Celia Hynes) and the University of York (Professor Peter Dwyer), and involves qualitative longitudinal research with veterans and their spouses, along with interviews with a range of key stakeholder organisations.

The publication of the interim findings was met with a positive response from both the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD), who attended the launch and committed to working with the research team to ensure the findings feed into policy and practice. This includes inviting the Project Director, SHUSU’s Dr Lisa Scullion, to join a new MoD Veterans’ Strategy Academic Advisory Group. The project team has also been working with graphic design students from the School of Arts and Media at Salford to produce a graphic novel from the research, and some of this fantastic work can been seen in the interim report. For more information about the project, please contact Dr Lisa Scullion: l.scullion@salford.ac.uk
CARe EVENTS

CARe at the Work, Careers and Employability Colloquium

As part of the Research Festival, CARe members Dr Daiga Kamerade, Dr Katy Jones and Eileen Cunningham presented their work at the University of Salford’s Work, Careers and Employability Colloquium hosted by the Business School in July.

The event sought to bring together colleagues who are actively researching issues concerning work, careers and employability, and to strengthen relationships across the University and enhance our research and teaching.

The event supported the University’s ICZ strategy by sharing research on topics of relevance to today’s economy and society, and Higher Education policy and practices. Approximately 30 members of staff attended the event, and sessions were held to discuss how this stream of research could potentially contribute to the University’s proposed Pedagogic Research Centre.

If you would like more information, please contact Fiona Christie: f.christie@salford.ac.uk.

CARe hosts the 1st International Social Prescribing Network Research Conference

The University of Salford’s School of Health & Society was proud to host the first International Social Prescribing Network Research Conference on 12 June. The conference, titled The Challenges and Opportunities for Research in Social Prescribing, was attended by over 230 delegates who are actively undertaking research and evaluation in social prescribing, involved in implementing social prescribing schemes or interested in routine monitoring of outcomes of social prescribing. There were over 30 posters and 15 presentations which provided a great opportunity to discuss the theoretical perspectives of social prescribing and to discover more about the research being conducted across the UK and abroad.

The event was opened by the Dean of School, Margaret Rowe, followed by a keynote address by Dr William Bird (Intelligent Health). The conference was chaired by the NHSE GP Lead, Dr Michael Dixon, and national social prescribing leads were able to meet delegates from across GM to discuss the social prescribing movement as part of DevoManc.

The conference attracted delegates from across the UK, Europe and Australia, and helped articulate the work being undertaken across the University of Salford, Salford City and Greater Manchester to an international audience.

CARe secures multiple awards for the 2018 ESRC Festival

CARe is delighted to announce that a total of seven ESRC Festival awards have been granted to researchers for this year’s series of events which are scheduled to take place between 3 and 10 November 2018. Details of the successfully awarded Festival events are detailed below. More information will be released shortly, and updates can be found on the ESRC website.

1 / Dr Ian Cummins - True crime and punishment: exploring the influence of cultural representations of crime

2 / Dr Dilla Davis - How to engage South Asians in cardiac rehabilitation

3 / Dr Donna Peach - Celebrating social science and community engagement

4 / Dr Tina Patel and Dr Laura Connelly - Divided communities? What the Brexit future means for people in Salford

5 / Dr Michaela Rogers - Ageing with healthy relationships: overcoming barriers to help-seeking when experiencing domestic abuse

6 / Prof Phil Brown and Dr Lisa Scullion – Can design save society?

7 / Dr Tracey Williamson, Prof Anthea Innes, Dr Andrew Clark, Prof Anya Ahmed and Dr Gemma Lace-Costigan - University of Salford dementia and ageing hub showcase
CARe EVENTS

Welfare conditionality: Sanctions, support and behaviour change - Final findings launch in Salford

In July the University of Salford hosted an event presenting the final findings from the five-year ESRC funded Welfare Conditionality: Sanctions, support and behaviour change project. This project has created an international and interdisciplinary focal point for research on welfare conditionality, providing a new and wide-ranging evidence base on the impact and ethicality of welfare conditionality across a range of policy areas.

Introduced by Dean of Research, Professor Karl Dayson, the University of Salford’s Dr Lisa Scullion and Dr Katy Jones presented key project findings alongside Principal Investigator, Professor Peter Dwyer (University of York). This was followed by a panel response from Matthew Ainsworth (Greater Manchester Combined Authority), Catherine Connors (Salford City Council), and Irene Musker (Department for Work and Pensions). The event provided a unique opportunity to discuss the research findings, and consider how they can feed into the work and welfare agenda across Greater Manchester.

Please see the project website for more details www.welfareconditionality.ac.uk, or contact Dr Lisa Scullion at l.scullion@salford.ac.uk.

CARe PROJECT UPDATES

We have a thriving portfolio of research within CARe, delivered within our research groups and by colleagues from across the Centre. Our work takes place locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, and generates over £1million of research income which we invest in our mission of bringing about positive social change through engaged research and practice. The following segment highlights just some of the projects that we are working on. For more details please see www.salford.ac.uk/research/care/homepage

Innovative research into the use of Social Media in midwifery and motherhood to be rolled out following funding success

Developed as part of her doctoral research at the University of Salford, Dr Rose McCarthy is to lead on the expansion of Facemums – an innovative and participatory project that explores the impact of midwife moderated social media based groups for pregnant women and new mothers. Health Education England (HEE) have provided an additional £600,000 to rollout the findings to a number of regions. The project team comprises of Dr Rose McCarthy, and her original doctoral supervisors Dr Lesley Choucri and Prof Alison Brettle. Prof Ben Light also joins the team.

Cambridge Political Economy Trust funding secured for collaborative Work and Wellbeing project

Dr Daiga Kamerade (in collaboration with Dr Burchell and Dr Coutts from the University of Cambridge) has secured a research grant of approximately £200,000 from the Cambridge Political Economy Trust. The project - “The employment dosage: How much work is needed for health and wellbeing?” - will run from 2018-2020 and aims to examine what is the minimum ‘dose’ of paid work that is necessary to get the psycho-social benefits of employment, the extent to which this ‘minimum’ number of hours varies depending on the psychologically-beneficial content of a job, and the extent to which it varies by occupation and demographics.
Social Prescribing

CARe researchers have been working hard to develop links and partnerships with a range of organisations involved in the provision, prescription or funding of social prescribing across Greater Manchester. The work around social prescribing ranges from the evaluation of systems and processes to the way in which it can be provided through nature based interventions and the relationships developed with many of the key Health and Nature Based Wellbeing sector (Green Gym, RHS, Thrive, City Farms and Social Gardens, Sustain).

Work in this area has been thriving in recent months and, to provide a sense of the breadth of this research activity, the team’s top ten highlights are as follows:

1 / Hosted the first International Social Prescribing Network Research conference
2 / Social prescribing plenaries held with partners across Greater Manchester, regional and national
3 / Completed Greater Manchester wide mapping survey of social prescribing
4 / Completed deep dive evaluation of social prescribing in Salford
5 / Feedback of social prescribing mapping research to key Greater Manchester Person- and Community-Centred Approaches conference
6 / New evaluation work is taking place with a special education needs school to evaluate the green curriculum as a nature based intervention
7 / The team are being commissioned by Salford CVS to undertake a longitudinal evaluation of the social prescribing model across Salford
8 / Links and membership generated with the GM Third Sector Research Network
9 / Collaborations with the newly established social prescribing hub - developing research ideas and teaching and learning opportunities through unique placement developments
10 / Ongoing work with the Royal Horticultural Society to influence schools and young people involvement in gardens and gardening through social prescribing

For more information about our work on social prescribing contact Dr Michelle Howarth at: m.l.howarth2@salford.ac.uk

CARe researchers at forefront of Fuel Poverty research

Researchers from the Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) are leading on the development and evaluation of a number of key UK projects and network activities focused on better understanding fuel poverty and how it can be alleviated. A key part of the work of SHUSU’s Sustainability and Society sub-group, led by Dr Graeme Sherriff, there are currently three core projects underway:

1 / Eaga Charitable Trust Legacy Project

The Eaga Charitable Trust (Eaga CT) is an independent grant giving trust supporting work that contributes to understanding and addressing the causes and effects of fuel poverty, including health impacts. Over the Eaga CT’s 25 years, the organisation has helped to fund more than 120 fuel poverty focused research projects including a large number of bursaries to support the next generation of fuel poverty scholars. SHUSU is delivering a project to bring together this work into an accessible archive that will be used by a range of audiences including researchers, policymakers and practitioners, and will be available by the end of 2018.

2 / Evaluation of ‘Gluasad Comhla’ (the ‘Moving together’ project)

SHUSU have been selected as the research partners in a European Aspiring Communities funded project to be delivered by Tighean Innse Gall (TIG), a well-established organisation who provide energy advice and energy efficiency measures to households living in or at risk of rural fuel poverty in the Outer Hebrides. The research, which reports in mid-2019, will use this case study to contribute to understanding how complex issues can be addressed through community approaches and, particularly, with regard to remote and rural contexts.

3 / The Fuel Poverty Research Network turns two years old!

Working with colleagues from the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, Dr Graeme Sherriff and SHUSU PhD candidate, Danielle Butler, continue as co-founders to lead the UK’s Fuel Poverty Research Network as it enters its third year. Established in 2015, the network provides a collaborative, cross-sectoral forum for the users and producers of fuel poverty research. Membership has doubled in size since the first year, and it maintains an international presence with active members based in the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Chile, Australia and New Zealand. This academic year, the network has held two events: one in Newcastle in partnership with National Energy Action, and one in Bristol in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

To find out more about the work of the FPRN, and to join the Jiscmail list, you can visit the website at www.fuelpovertyresearch.net.
PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND NEW ROLES

Dr Eunice Ayodeji, Lecturer in Mental Health in the School of Health & Society, has been appointed to a prestigious National Institute for Health and Care Excellence committee. She will be the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Nurse committee member for Depression in Childhood. NICE guidelines are evidence-based recommendations for health and care in England, though often adopted more widely. They help practitioners to provide the most effective care and services for diagnostic groups or specific conditions. Mental health problems, including depression, in childhood can have lifelong and devastating effects, contributing to the UK’s rising rate of teenage suicide.

Dr Laura Connelly had an article published in The Independent titled ‘Everyone has the right to work without fear of violence, so why should sex workers be any different?’. Available at: www.independent.co.uk/voices/international-day-to-end-violence-against-sex-workers-right-to-be-free-from-violence-a8115241.html

Dr Tina Patel published an online article for the Birmingham Mail titled: Research Shows That Instagram Braggers Could Be Making it Easier for Thieves. Available at: youtalk-insurance.com/broker-news/research-shows-that-instagram-braggers-could-be-making-it-easier-for-thieves.

Maria Grant has been awarded a Fellowship of CILIP, the Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals. Fellowship is the highest professional qualification awarded by the Chartered Institute and is evidence that Maria has achieved a high personal standard of performance and impact on the profession.

Dr Graeme Sherriff was interviewed on Al Jazeera News, 3 March 2018, about Fuel Poverty (contacted as part of Fuel Poverty Research Network).

Dr Daiga Kamerāde and Dr Lisa Scullion had an article published with the article: Military veterans should not be subject to benefits sanctions – new study. Available at: theconversation.com/military-veterans-should-not-be-subject-to-benefits-sanctions-new-study-95168

Dr Daiga Kamerāde appeared on BBC Radio Merseyside in November 2017 to discuss jobs in the UK.

CARe IN THE NEWS

Andrew Rowland featured in a “CV” item in The British Medical Journal featuring highlights of a doctor’s career to inspire younger doctors. The piece included references to Andrew’s projects as a Honorary Professor with Salford.

Dr Graeme Sherriff participated in a roundtable discussion on wellbeing for publication in Building Services Magazine.

CARe received various press attention (including Manchester Evening News, BBC Manchester, Financial Times) following the release of a report on the Private Rented Sector led by Dr Lisa Scullion.

Dr Lisa Scullion was interviewed by BBC Radio Manchester and Armed Forces Radio in April 2018 regarding the FiMT (Forces in Mind Trust) report, and also had an article printed in the Lancashire Evening Post in April 2018.

Dr Toni Wood’s autism research articles were cited in the House of Commons debate for ‘Treatment of adults with autism by the criminal justice system’, Westminster Hall, Tuesday 30 January 2018.

Dr Laura Connelly had an article published in The Independent titled ‘Everyone has the right to work without fear of violence, so why should sex workers be any different?’.

Dr Daiga Kamerāde and Dr Lisa Scullion had an article published in The Conversation: Welcome to Britain: the land where jobs might be plentiful but are more and more precarious. Available at: theconversation.com/welcome-to-britain-a-land-where-jobs-may-be-plentiful-but-are-more-and-more-precarious-87423


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EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AND POST-GRADUATE SUCCESSES

Dr Laura Connelly, lecturer in Criminology and member of the Connected Lives, Diverse Realities research group, was involved in the important University of Leicester event, ‘Teaching Sex Work Studies’, which considered the complex interplay of ethics and sensitivity when teaching about gender, violence and sexuality. She also gave a paper on migrant sex work at the The British Society of Criminology annual conference in July.

First year PhD student Diana Hepworth was awarded the University Prize for Academic Excellence in the Postgraduate Society. This was in recognition of achieving the highest dissertation mark given in the history of the course, as well as a distinction overall. She continues her research on autism within the police force and criminal justice system with her PhD project.

PhD student Thomas Hurdsfield, alongside Social Policy lecturer Caroline Jones, secured funding from the Student Experience Enhancement project to run a seven-week course, Confidence Through Comedy. A group of students were mentored by a professional stand-up comedian in order to improve their confidence and develop their public speaking and presentation skills. In the final week the students showcased their newly acquired confidence and comedy stylings to a supportive and enthusiastic audience of fellow students and some of their lecturers.

On 15 July Dr Katy Jones, alongside postgraduate and early career researchers from the Universities of Teeside, Glasgow, Bath and the London School of Economics, hosted the Money, Security and Social Policy (MSSP) network for a themed event focused on working with community partners. The event was one of a series kindly supported by the Social Policy Association’s Opportunity grants scheme, and included presentations from leading Salford academics Dr Lisa Scullion and Dr Daiga Kamerade, key community partners (Citizens Advice, Loaves and Fishes, Salford Unemployed Resource Centre), and doctoral researchers Eileen Cunningham and Joe Pardoe. The next event will take place in November in Edinburgh. For more information see moneysecurityandsocialpolicy.wordpress.com, follow on twitter @MSSP_UK or contact Dr Katy Jones at: k.e.jones@salford.ac.uk

Michael Lomas, PhD student and lecturer in Psychology, was interviewed by Sky News, 12 June 2018, about emerging evidence of the reverse Flynn effect: the gradual decrease of IQ over time.

Dillon Newton secured a one-month scholarship to develop and share his PhD research at Universität Innsbruck (Austria) as part of the multidisciplinary research network “Cultural Encounters – Cultural Conflicts”.

Dr Emilie Whitaker, lecturer in Social Policy, spoke at the inaugural Sociological Review conference in Gateshead in June. In her role as ECR representative for the journal, she first addressed the emotional politics of precariousness before contributing to a plenary on ethnographic praxis with colleagues from Keele and Cardiff Universities.

As part of her interest in alternative ethnographic writing, Dr Emilie Whitaker has had a short piece of sociological fiction published in a leading online-zine hosted by Griffith University in Australia. The issue was guest edited by leading British Sociologist, Les Back, and can be downloaded for free here: softzine.com/edition-3

BOOK CHAPTERS PUBLISHED:


**SCIENTIFIC PAPERS PUBLISHED:**


**POLICY REPORTS PUBLISHED:**


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