

Border Crossings: Implications for Civil Society in a 'Dis'-United Kingdom

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Abstracts

Civilities, local hierarchies and bridging divides in a super-diverse neighbourhood

Dr. Claire Bynner - Research Associate at What Works Scotland, University of Glasgow

With rising inequalities and the lurch to the right in Europe and the US social boundaries are re-forming within post-industrial societies. Perceptions of diversity and community at a local level may have an important role in explaining these emerging civic and political divisions. This article provides insights into the changing nature of collective identity by drawing on evidence from an ethnographic case study of a superdiverse neighbourhood in Glasgow where long-term white and ethnic minority communities reside alongside Central and Eastern European migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, and other recent arrivals. The evidence comprises local data and documentary evidence, participant observations, qualitative and walk-along interviews with residents and local organisations. The study found that the 'threat' of new outsider groups created divisions between neighbours and resulted in a re-ordering of local hierarchies based on the perceived civility and morality of other groups. This paper discusses how notions of being 'civilised' and showing regard for others in public space can create new solidarities and divisions that mirror wider political discourses and divisions. It argues that powerlessness to effect change and improve material conditions at a local level drives a wider political narrative to 'take back control'. The paper concludes with recommendations for action by public and third sector organisations to bridge these divides.

Claire Bynner combines a professional background in the field of community participation and empowerment, with research expertise on place-based approaches, and migration and community cohesion. For her PhD she examined new migration and the emergence of 'superdiverse' neighbourhoods in post-industrial cities. At What Works Scotland she has worked with West Dunbartonshire community planning partnership to research and design participation in community-led action planning and to produce localities data. She recently published the working paper, Rationales for Place-based Approaches in Scotland and has co-designed a Training for Trainers course in Facilitative Leadership. Claire lectures on Public Participation and Governance at University of Glasgow.

Belonging but not belonging? Central and Eastern European young people's civil participation and use of services in the UK

Dr. Christina McMellon - Research Fellow at University of Strathclyde and Dr. Daniela Sime - Reader in Education and Social Policy at University of Strathclyde

The enlargement of the European Union after 2004 has led to significant demographic and social changes across all European nations, with key implications for issues for citizenship, diversity and national identity. With increased mobility, many children and young people have migrated with their families from Central and Eastern Europe to the West. These families have sought to build new lives for themselves in the UK and their children may now have lived in the UK for a majority of their life.

This paper reports on preliminary findings from a national survey carried out with almost 200 Central and Eastern European young people living in the UK since 2004, collected as part of a wider, ESRC-funded study. The presentation focuses upon findings related to young people's civic engagement, exploring a tension between young people's sense of belonging and their lower levels of political engagement and use of services than the broader population of young people in the UK. In the context of current uncertainty about the implications of Brexit for this group and perceived increasing everyday experiences of racism, the paper looks at how civil society could respond to the expressed needs of this specific group of young people.

More information about the research can be found at www.migranyouth.org

Third sector independence: relations with the state in an age of austerity

Dr. Matthew Dutton - Senior Research Fellow at the Employment Research Institute, Edinburgh Napier University

Drawing on qualitative longitudinal research with third sector organisations (TSOs) in Scotland, this paper explores how the independence of TSOs has been affected by changing relationships with local authorities and the Scottish Government in the context of austerity measures introduced by the UK government. The paper has lessons for the way in which TSOs manage and learn from policy divergence and convergence when working with multiple levels of government.

The paper will explore how organisations understand and negotiate the tension between their independence and mission-driven social action, and delivering commissioned and contracted public services. In doing so, it highlights the challenges to independence in a dynamically changing political, policy and financial climate as well as opportunities for organisations to emphasise their distinctive contribution to public service delivery.

As a measure of the independence of TSOs, the authors use the Panel on the Independence of the Voluntary Sector established by the Baring Foundation. The Panel measures independence of purpose, independence of voice and independence of action. The paper uses these dimensions of independence as a framework to understand how TSOs understand and negotiate the tension between their independence and mission-driven social action and delivering commissioned and contracted public services in the context of a policy framework fragmented across local authorities and the Edinburgh and London administrations. The paper finds that the ability of TSOs to influence government thinking may be limited by a lack of core funding and stifled by a commissioning process that encourages competition between TSOs whilst limiting coordination and cooperation between funders and TSOs.

Dr. Matthew Dutton is a Senior Research Fellow in the Employment Research Institute based in the Business School at Edinburgh Napier University. His research interests are in employability, health, welfare reform and the welfare to work agenda. Matthew has been the principal investigator on a range of research projects for the Scottish Government, UK Government, Northern Ireland Executive and European Commission. Recent government research reports have included a four-year longitudinal study on the role of the Third Sector in the delivery of public services and a review of employability provision for job-seekers. Matthew has co-authored more than 30 reports on welfare reform, employability provision and policy on supporting the long-term back to the labour market. Matthew has also published in peer-reviewed journals including *Work, Employment and Society*, *Policy Studies and Social Policy* and *Administration*.

Volunteering and third sector engagement in policing: A complex and confusing UK picture

Iain Britton - Head of Citizens in Policing at the Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice at the University of Northampton.

Voluntarism and third sector engagement across policing takes place on a large-scale. Across England and Wales alone, there are estimated to be almost 40,000 volunteers working directly within police organisations and undertaking over five million hours of activity a year. Estimates place wider civic involvement across policing in the UK to be at least in the hundreds of thousands; for example, 'Watch' associations are said to be the largest voluntary organisations by membership in the UK. Yet this huge scale of activity tends to be invisible in wider debates about police reform, and voluntarism in policing tends also to have a low visibility in wider debates about civil society.

The picture of voluntarism and third sector engagement across policing in the UK is a divergent, patchy, confusing, neglected and under-researched one; not only divergent between different jurisdictions within the UK but also across different geographies and police force areas within the same jurisdictions.

The paper will explore the current UK picture for police voluntarism and third sector engagement. In doing so, it will draw from a large-scale programme of research fieldwork being undertaken by the University of Northampton into voluntarism in policing. It will also draw on the findings of a national survey of police volunteers in England and Wales, and a data benchmarking exercise of police voluntarism across England and Wales; in both cases reflecting the England and Wales findings against the contrasting pictures for police voluntarism and third sector engagement in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The paper will also consider the contrasting Governmental policy positions in respect of voluntarism in policing across the UK, and reflect upon the 'separateness' and lack of dialogue in respect of the policy development of the police voluntarism and third sector engagement agenda across the UK. The paper argues this is becoming an increasingly complex and disparate picture, in the context of wider change.

Dr Iain Britton is Head of Citizens in Policing at the Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice at the University of Northampton. He has studied police voluntarism

nationally and internationally, and is leading on the largest-scale programme of research into volunteers in policing undertaken in England and Wales for decades. He was previously Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire, a role in which he championed civic engagement and voluntarism as being core to the DNA of the new Police and Crime Commissioner model. Iain has a particular interest in exploring strategic perspectives on voluntarism and the third sector within senior police leadership and Government, and in researching international comparisons across civic involvement and voluntarism in different national settings.

Jurisdictional differences in charity regulation in the UK: Implications for a post-Brexit third sector

Gareth Morgan - Emeritus Professor of Charity Studies, Sheffield Hallam University and the Kubernesis Partnership LLP - Charity consultants

The author has argued that charitable status and the broader issues of charity regulation are fundamental issues in understanding the nature of the third sector in the UK (e.g. Morgan 2010; 2015b). However, apart from work by legal scholars (e.g. McGregor-Lowndes & O'Halloran, 2010) it is suggested that the fundamental differences of charity regulation between the three UK jurisdictions (England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) are often overlooked by third sector researchers.

The paper will argue that these distinctions, which have increased in recent years as a result of new legislation, are fundamental in understanding the place of charities and the place of non-charitable third sector organisations in the third sector landscape of the UK. This will be illustrated by a focus on four issues which highlight the distinctions: (a) the definition of charity; (b) the requirements for charity registration (c) the main requirements for charity financial reporting (see Morgan 2017); and (d) the latest charitable structure which is now the preferred form for new charities on both sides of the England/Scotland border: the *charitable incorporated organisation* (CIOs in England & Wales; SCIOs in Scotland; and the lack of any current equivalent in Northern Ireland) (Morgan 2015a). The implications for charities operating across more than one UK jurisdiction are particularly complex (Breen *et al* 2009). These issues will be briefly contrasted with the structure of the *community interest company* (CIC), widely used for non-charitable third sector bodies, which has the same legal framework UK-wide.

The three systems of charity law in the UK have many fundamental differences from the legal frameworks for non-profit organisations (NPOs) in most other EU jurisdictions - only Ireland has significant similarities - so it could be argued that such differences create a natural distinction between the UK third sector and NPOs in continental Europe that would not be threatened by Brexit. Moreover, the differences between the three UK jurisdictions are such that further separation through Scottish independence or a new status for Northern Ireland could follow without any major disruption to the mechanisms of charity regulation. Yet, on the other hand, many of the values of the sector are deeply intertwined with the values of the European Union, and many writers concerned with the charity sector have raised significant warnings on the consequences of the UK leaving the UK both before and after the June 2016 referendum (see for example: Sharman, 2016; Cooney & Price 2017).

It will also be argued that the greatest risk for charities in relation to Brexit lies not in regulatory issues, nor in the potential loss of EU funding sources, but in the direct impact on their beneficiaries.

The paper will not offer any fundamental answers to these questions, but it will seek to present some technical details in a wider policy context to assist third sector researchers engaging in these debates.

Gareth G Morgan has been reaching issues of charity regulation on a UK-wide basis for 25 years. From 2007 to 2015 he was Professor of Charity Studies at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) where he led a wide range of research on issues of charity regulation and accounting, and he co-ordinated the cross-faculty Centre for Voluntary Sector Research. As an Emeritus Professor he continues some part-time work at SHU, but most of his time is now as is a partner the The Kubernesis Partnership LLP (Charity Consultants) which, since 2016, has been based both in Yorkshire, England and East Lothian, Scotland.

Community Empowerment: Understanding Scotland's community sector in relation to wider voluntary infrastructure agencies and the policy making process

Katey Tabner - School of Media, Culture and Society, University of the West of Scotland

Scotland's Community Empowerment Act (Scottish Government, 2015) contains legislation to bring local authority owned assets into community ownership. As a result, micro and small community groups (MSCGs) are formalising their structures, assuming responsibility for local service delivery, revenue generation and in many instances working to meet local plans. The changing responsibilities of MSCGs not only represent a flourishing part of the voluntary sector but arguably present new forms of third sector 'hybridity' (Billis, 2010). In Scotland policy measures to assist MSCGs have been developed in partnership with voluntary sector infrastructure agencies and through consultation with broader voluntary and MSCGs. These measures have created an extensive network of infrastructure bodies to work alongside MSCGs as they formalise structures and procedures. The quality of the contribution provided by these voluntary infrastructure bodies will, in many instances, define how communities engage with the task of taking on community assets.

This paper will outline policy divergence between Scotland's Community Empowerment Act and the Localism Act (UK Parliament, 2011) for England and Wales. Drawing on empirical evidence gathered during 2016, it will propose that a 'Scottish Approach' (Cairney, Russell and St Denny, 2016) to policy making has created unique opportunities for third sector infrastructure agencies to inform and implement community empowerment legislation.

Linking the tensions affecting MSCGs during the asset transfer and capacity building process (Conn, 2011; Skerratt and Hall, 2011; Skerratt and Steiner, 2013), it will propose that whilst empowerment policy can redefine publics (Newman and Clarke, 2009) it risks creating tension and competition (Hastings and Matthews, 2015) across civil society, disproportionately benefiting high capacity MSCG's.

The paper will explore the role that Scottish infrastructure agencies have as they work to improve civil society by promoting solidarity and balancing the tensions which occur during the empowerment process.

Katey Tabner, PhD candidate (University of the West of Scotland), has worked extensively as a social researcher within community regeneration and development for over the previous ten years. Since completing a MA in Culture, Globalisation and the City (Goldsmith's College, University of London), Katey has worked as a social researcher for a range of third sector organisations in Scotland including Citizens Advice Scotland, Scottish Social Networks (The Rock Trust) and Scotland's Urban Regeneration Forum. Currently her PhD and professional work examines issues of citizenship, community regeneration, third sector development and the delivery and development of empowerment policy in Scotland. Katey additionally works as a community development coordinator and research associate to continually inform her practice based PhD.

Convergence or divergence across the UK's third sector/civil society – and does it matter?

Panel discussion – panellists to be confirmed

This panel discussion will draw out the themes from the presentations and consider the question of convergence or divergence across the UK in the third sector and civil society.