

MANCHESTER
1824

The University
of Manchester

CUPS

Centre for Urban
Policy Studies



30 YEARS

1983-2013

of analytically robust, methodologically
rigorous, policy-informing research

www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/cups/

FOREWORD

Professor Brian Robson



Professor Brian Robson
Founding Director

CUPS was initially based in the Geography Department in Manchester, but has always been an essentially multi-disciplinary centre, collaborating with economists, planners and other social scientists from other universities, working with external consultancies (most recently Amion Consulting in Liverpool), and drawing its research assistants from a wide range of disciplines.

Our work has aimed to draw on our academic research expertise and yet address the needs and interests of practical policy makers. I would highlight three major examples that illustrate this. Michael Bradford and I were centrally involved in the first two and Cecilia Wong in the third.

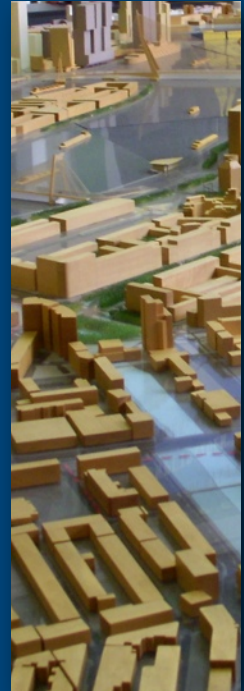
First, is the evaluation of the government's Action for Cities programme. This developed a new framework for evaluating policy (which was fed into the Treasury's Green Book) and was also influential in the government's decision to introduce the Single Regeneration Budget programme to roll together a variety of funding streams.

Second is the development of a new approach to measuring deprivation, the Index of Local Conditions. This introduced the concept of deprivation as a matrix rather than a single value, was used to help

determine resource allocation for deprived areas, and has been the basis of the government's subsequent deprivation indices. Our recent work has argued that not all deprived areas are the same by introducing a four-fold typology based on the different roles that deprived areas play within the churn of the housing market (the subject of a paper given at the 2013 CUPS 30th anniversary conference – I confess to being delighted to have conceived a new idea in my near-dotage!).

Third is the development of the 'Map for England', done for the Royal Town Planning Institute, which pulls together the geographical impacts of a wide range of government policies. It has attracted great interest and provides a powerful argument for government funding departments to be more alive to the spatial implications of their policy and for governments to work towards a national spatial strategy.

Thirty years is a long time for a research centre to survive and thrive. Much of our success has of course been at the hands of CUPS research assistants. We have been very fortunate to have attracted a continuing stream of very able, enthusiastic and hard working researchers, who have gone on to senior posts in universities, central and local government. All of us at CUPS are very grateful for their invaluable contribution and I have no doubt that the CUPS story has many more years of life to run.



1980s



The 1980s saw the establishment of the Centre for Urban Policy Studies in 1983. During this period CUPS developed a reputation for policy relevant research related to housing, the evaluation of urban policy, and the study of neighbourhood deprivation.

RESEARCHERS

Giles Foody, Richard Nutter, Jamie Peck, Rachel Tye, and Alan Steward joined CUPS as researchers during this period.

SELECTED PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Robson, B., Peck, J. and Steward, A. (1983) Resource allocation to housing associations: the North West and the Generalised Needs Index, A Report to the North West Council of the National Federation of Housing Associations.

Robson, B. and Bradford, M.G. (1984) Urban and neighbourhood change: household movement in Greater Manchester and its implications for structure planning, Report to Greater Manchester Council.

Robson, B. (1985) Changing views of the city in British geographical research, *Geographia Polonica*, 51.

Robson, B. (1985) Where is the North? An essay on the North/South divide, Northern Regional Consortium.

Robson, B. (1986) Research issues in the changing urban and regional system, Regional Studies, 20.

Robson, B. (1987) North and South: the devil's door, Town and Country Planning, 56.

Robson, B. (1988) Those inner cities: reconciling the social and economic aims of urban policy, Oxford University Press.

SELECTED RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

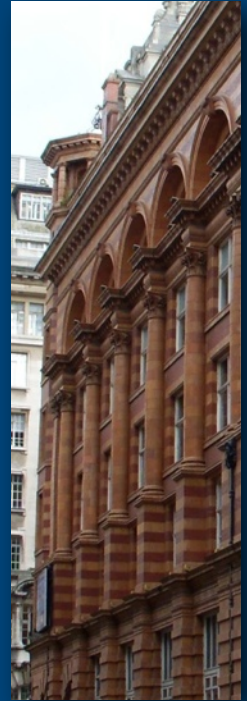
1987 The rehabilitation and privatisation of local authority estates (funded by Manchester University)

1987-1989 Address referencing in Geographical Information Systems (funded by ESRC)

1988 Urban policy and out-of-town shopping centres (funded by Greater Manchester local authorities)

1988 The effectiveness of urban policy (funded by the National Audit Office)

1989-1991 Regional Research Laboratory (funded by ESRC)



1990s



The 1990s saw the publishing of the influential CUPS report for the Department of the Environment on 'Assessing the Impact of Urban Policy'. CUPS research continued to focus on urban policy with a specific emphasis on urban regeneration, the development of deprivation indices, urban governance, economic competitiveness and regional development.

RESEARCHERS

Iain Deas, Anna Fielder, Simon Franklin, Ed Hall, Eric Harrison, Nigel Lawson, Rosie Tomlinson, Rachel Tye, Laura Twomey, and Elaine Warren joined CUPS as researchers during the 1990s.

SELECTED PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Robson, B., Evans, R., Harding, A., Parkinson, M. and Bradford, M.G. (1990) Assessing the impacts of government urban policy: a methodology, Report to the Department of the Environment.

Robson, B., Bradford, M., and Deas, I. (1994) Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland, Policy Planning and Research Unit Occasional Paper 28.

Robson, B., Parkinson, M., Bradford, M.G., et al. (1994) Assessing the impact of urban policy, HMSO.

Robson, B., Deas, I., Twomey, J., and Topham, N. (1995) The impact of Greater Manchester's universities, Manchester University.

Bradford, M.G., Robson, B., and Tye, R. (1995) Constructing an urban deprivation index: the need for flexibility, Environment and Planning A, 27.

Bradford, M., Robson, B., and Deas, I. (1996) Evaluation of the mini Urban Development Corporations, Department of Environment.

Robson, B., Deas, I., and Bradford, M.G. (1999) Beyond the boundaries: vacancy chains and the evaluation of urban development corporations', Environment and Planning A, 31.

SELECTED RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

1990-1993 Evaluating the impact of Government Urban Policy (in collaboration with European Institute for Urban Affairs, John Moores University, Liverpool) (funded by six government departments, led by Department of the Environment)

1992-1993 Index of deprivation in Northern Ireland (funded by Northern Ireland Office)

1994 The impact of local HEIs on Greater Manchester (funded by 4 Manchester HEIs)

1998-2000 Competitiveness, social cohesion and governance in Merseyside and Greater Manchester (with EIUA, Liverpool) (funded by ESRC)



2000s



The directorship of CUPS was passed to Professor Cecilia Wong in May of 2006 following Professor Brian Robson's retirement. In 2008 Professor Brian Robson was awarded an Order of the British Empire for services to urban regeneration. In 2009 the CUPS typology of the functional role of deprived communities was published.

RESEARCHERS

The 2000s saw Magrethe Anderssen, Benito Giordano, Stephen Hincks, Adam Holden, Kitty Lymeropoulou, Micaela Mazzei, Paul O'Hare, Hui Qian, Alasdair Rae, James Rees, Andreas Schulze-Bäing, Brian Webb, Dave Whyte and Kai Zhou join CUPS as researchers.

SELECTED PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Robson, B., Peck, J. and Holden, A. (2000) Regional agencies and area-based regeneration, The Policy Press.

Robson, B., Deas, I., Bradford, M.G., Wong, C. and Anderssen, M. (2001) Deprivation in London: an alternative to IMD2000, GLA.

Robson, B. and Lymeropoulou, K. (2005) Universities and their regions: a background paper on the UK experience with special reference to Manchester and the North West, DfES.

Robson, B., Barr, R., Lympelopoulou, K. and Rees, J. (2006) Mapping city regions, Working Paper 1: A framework for city regions, ODPM.

Wong, C., Schulze Bäing, A. and Rae, A. (2006) Uniting Britain – The Evidence Base: Spatial Structure and Key Drivers, RTPI.

Wong, C., Baker, M., Hincks, S., Rae, A., Ferrari, E. and Watkins, C. (2008) Outcome Indicators for Spatial Planning in England, RTPI and CLG.

Wong, C., Gibb, K., McGreal, S., Hincks, S., Kingston, R., Leishman, C., Brown, L. and Blair, N. (2009) Housing and Neighbourhood Monitor: UK Report, Policy Press.

Robson, B., Lympelopoulou, K. and Rae, A. (2009) A typology of the functional role of deprived communities, CLG.

SELECTED RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

2001-2006 National evaluation of New Deal for Communities (with Sheffield Hallam) (funded by ODPM).

2003-2006 Monitoring area-based economic strategies in the North West (funded by North West Development Agency)

2005-2006 National framework for city regions (with SURF)(funded by ODPM)

2005-2007 Spatial Plans in Practice (with Baker Associates) (funded by CLG).

2007 Outcome Indicators for Spatial Planning (funded by CLG and RTPI)



2010+

The early part of the 2010s has seen CUPS continue to develop cutting-edge and collaborative research on spatial analysis, infrastructure planning and new approaches to public participation GIS. 2012 saw the publication of 'A Map for England'.

RESEARCHERS

2010 saw Yi Gong, Nicola Headlam, Sarah Payne, Jenni Viitanen, and Vasilis Vlastaras join the Centre as researchers.

SELECTED PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Hincks, S. and Robson, B. (2010) Regenerating Communities First Neighbourhoods in Wales, JRF.

Baker, M., Hincks, S., Gong, Y., Schulze-Bäing, A. and Wong, C. (2010) Recommended housing market area boundaries: implications for spatial planning: Geography of housing market areas in England - paper C., CLG.

Wong, C., Gibb, K., McGreal, S., Webb, B., Leishman, C., Blair, N., Hincks, S. and McIntyre, S. (2011) Housing and Neighbourhoods Monitor 2011 – Fragility and Recovery, JRF.

Wong, C., Baker, M., Hincks, S., Schulze-Bäing, A. and Webb, B. (2012) A Map for England: Spatial Expression of Government Policies and Programmes, RTPI.



SELECTED RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

2012 Enabling a Strategic Approach to Transformational Infrastructure (funded by N8 Research Partnership)

2012-2013 TellUs Public Participation GIS Toolkit (funded by University of Manchester Intellectual Property and Scottish and Southern Energy)

THE FUTURE

Professor Cecilia Wong

Since being established in 1983 CUPS has gained a reputation for policy-relevant research on the evaluation of area-based urban policy initiatives, regional development, spatial planning and housing, and the measurement of neighbourhood dynamics.

It has a large output of published papers and reports, and extremely good links with practitioners and policy-makers in government and public and private agencies. Its research has drawn on both quantitative and qualitative methodologies and it has developed a variety of innovative methods of analysing large datasets.

Looking to the future CUPS will continue to strive to maintain the research and policy rigour it is known for and seek to further contribute to the important urban policy debates of our time.



Professor Cecilia Wong
Executive Director

Centre for Urban Policy Studies
School of Environment and Development
Humanities Bridgeford Street Building
Room 1.34
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

cups@manchester.ac.uk
www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/cups/

Centre for Urban
Policy Studies | **CUPS**