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Understanding Institutional Change – A Gender Perspective E-Newsletter, Issue 1, June 2013



Welcome to the first issue of the Understanding Institutional change (UIC) e-newsletter. It is our one year anniversary this month and we thought that establishing a bi-yearly e-newsletter would be a useful way of keeping our Advisory Board members, friends and associates updated on our progress to date, research goals and outcomes and news from the project team. It has been an active first year for the Project. Laura McLeod, the Research Associate on Work Package 1 took up her post in August 2012, and Rachel Johnson (RA on WP2) and Lisa Jenkins (Project Co-ordinator) were both appointed in November 2012. Since then we have been busy getting two research packages on 'newness' started as well as creating the website, and we held our first agenda-setting project workshop in January 2013. The team will be expanding significantly in the autumn as we are in the middle of appointing the PhD student who will be part of WP3 (on layering) and the RA who will work on Informal Institutions as part of WP5. For more details of all these activities see the project website.

We hope you find it useful!

Georgina, Laura, Rachel and Lisa



Launch event - 11 January 2013

On January 11th the UIC team held its first workshop to explain and explore the aims of the Understanding Institutional Change project. The research team's current members met with University of Manchester colleagues, the advisory board and other 'critical friends' to present and discuss initial research plans. The workshop sessions discussed the overall aims of the UIC project, the research strands that are exploring 'new' institutions, and work that will examine the Police and Crime Commissioners and gender equality policies in Higher Education.

There was a lively and wide-ranging discussion throughout the day focusing on the conceptual tools that could be used by the UIC project. Major discussion points emerged including definitions of institutions, gender, and how change might be gendered, and the impact of these definitions on the research agenda.



Next UIC workshop

7th and 8th November 2013

We will be holding a two day workshop in November at Chancellors hotel in Manchester. This workshop will focus on 'gendering' new institutions and institutional design. Post conflict constitution building will form one of the themes and the workshop will include participants who have been active in processes of institutional design.

The workshop programme will be circulated soon. Please let Lisa Jenkins know if you would be interested in attending.



Forthcoming Conference Participation

The project team (both internal and external members) will be giving papers on a Political Studies Association sponsored panel entitled 'Understanding Newness and Institutional Change: A Gender Perspective' at the American Political Science Association annual convention to be held in Chicago in August 2013; and they will be participating in a panel at the ECPR General Conference in Bordeaux in September 2013 entitled 'What's new?, How new? : Gender and Institutional Change'.

Events attended/papers given

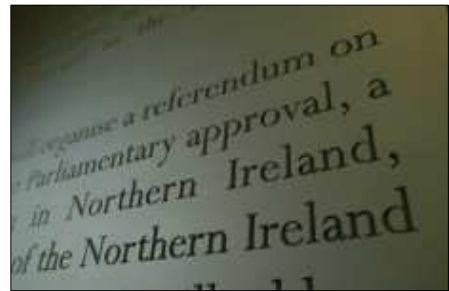
- Georgina Waylen and Rachel Johnson attended the Women and Constitutional Futures: 'Gender equality matters in a New Scotland' seminar in Edinburgh on 14/15th February. Georgina gave a paper on 'Constitutional "engineering" and gender equality: international lessons and cautionary tales'
- Georgina, Laura and Rachel all gave papers at the 3rd European Conference on Politics and Gender which was held in Barcelona on 21-22nd March. Georgina's paper was entitled 'Informal Institutions, Institutional Change and Gender Equality'. Laura delivered 'Emotional Futures: Hoping for Female and Feminine Bodies in Post-Conflict Institution Building'; and Laura and Rachel's jointly authored paper was entitled "'But the Future's mine": Gendering Institutional Displacement'.
- Laura McLeod took part in a panel on Local Ownership, Conflict and Development at a workshop on Gender and Local Ownership hosted by British Academy and the University of Essex on 6th June, 2013 at the British Academy, London.



Work package updates

Work Package 1: Exploring post-conflict institutional displacement at the national level

Since August 2012, Laura McLeod has been working as the Research Associate on Work Package 1, exploring post-conflict institutional displacement at the national level, focusing on post-conflict constitutional peace settlements in Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina and South Africa. Laura's research will focus on Northern Ireland and Bosnia-Herzegovina, contrasting the role played by females and feminists throughout the negotiation processes for the Good Friday Agreement and the Dayton Peace Accords. This will shed light on the importance of gender expectations at times of institutional change, and specifically where displacement occurs. She is currently developing a working paper about gender and institutional change in Bosnia-Herzegovina 1994-2014, focusing on the constitutional negotiations. Her work in South Africa will complement that already being carried out by other members of the project team. Over the next five months, Laura will carry out the first round of field research in all three cases. Georgina Waylen has started researching the multi-party negotiations that led up to the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland and that formed part of the transition to democracy in South Africa (in conjunction with International IDEA's 'Lessons Learned From Leaders' project).



Work Package 2: New Institutions: a Multi-Level Comparison



Rachel Johnson joined the project as Research Associate on Work Package 2, New Institutions: a Multi-Level Comparison, in November 2012. Rachel's research will focus primarily upon the national case study of institutional change: the South African Constitutional Court as a newly established institution in contrast to the South African Parliament, an old institution adapted to new purposes, both during the country's transition to democracy in the mid-1990s. The multi-level comparison

of new institutions will take the form of collaborative research with external team member Fiona Mackay, University of Edinburgh (a parliament to parliament comparison of the Scottish Parliament and the South African Parliament) and external team member Louise Chappell, University of New South Wales (a court to court comparison of the South African Constitutional Court and the International Criminal Court).

Rachel will visit the Scottish Parliament and the International Criminal Court over the summer. And a first round of fieldwork in South Africa is planned for September-October 2013.

Work Package 3: Institutional Layering at the Micro-level

As part of this Work Package, Georgina Waylen is beginning some research that will compare how equalities policies (understood as a layered institution) have been implemented in two different UK universities focusing primarily on gender and disability. Francesca Gains (Manchester) and Vivien Lowndes (Nottingham) are also planning some research on the newly created Police and Crime Commissioners that will be linked to the project. The project team will be joined in September by a PhD student working on an aspect of this work package.



Recent Team Publications Relevant to the Project

Louise Chappell and Georgina Waylen (2013), 'Gender and the Hidden Life of Institutions', *Public Administration*, DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9299.2012.02104.x Available on early view.

R.E. Johnson, 'Disrupting the South African parliament: Performing Opposition 1994-2010', *Democratization*, Vol. 20, Issue 3: 478-500. DOI: 10.1080/13510347.2013.786546.

Fiona Mackay and R.A.W Rhodes (2013), 'Gender, Greedy Institutions and the Departmental Court', *Public Administration*, DOI: 10.1111/padm.12012. Available on early view.



Staff update

Dr Faith Armitage has been appointed as a new Research Associate for the project and she will be starting on 1st September 2013. Faith has previously worked as a Research Fellow at Birkbeck College, University of London, as part of the Leverhulme Gendered Ceremony and Ritual in Parliaments Programme and she will be working on Work Package 5 looking at informal institutions in the UK and South African parliaments.

Blog

We are establishing a regular blog on our website to update readers on our research progress and discuss interesting topics related to our research. Please get in touch if you would like to write a guest blog post.