

CRESC News

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Continuity CRESC Penny Harvey Convening Director

Despite the fact that this is likely to be our last official CRESC newsletter we have no intention of producing a valedictory account of what we have achieved over the past ten years. In many ways our greatest success has been to sustain the intellectual energy and curiosity that motivates our varied research activities in the broad field of social and cultural change and as we come to the end of our core funding we find that we are as busy as ever with new projects and partnerships.

We have been fortunate in securing basic financial support from the University of Manchester and the Open University for a three year period of transition in which our current projects will gradually accommodate to new institutional settings, and find new sources of financial support. In this issue of the newsletter each of our six research themes offers a short account of some of these new research directions. Many of our projects will continue to be based at the Open University and the University of Manchester. However, over the past year or so the majority of our researchers have taken up permanent posts in other UK universities. In this way CRESC networks and interests have become firmly embedded in our wider social science and humanities community.

Beyond the possibility of giving us time to reflect and write up the formal account of CRESC's activities and outputs, the support from our host institutions will also allow us to hold annual lectures, and fund our core themes to continue to run events that bring together academics and non-academic practitioners around issues of common concern. In addition, and most importantly, we will be able to maintain our website as a place where information on CRESC outputs and events can be updated and made accessible and we hope that you will visit us there, and continue to engage with and participate in our research activities. The website will also keep alive the link to two key CRESC initiatives.

The Journal of Cultural Economy is now firmly established as an autonomous journal which we expect to flourish for many years to come. Also, the Routledge book series *Culture, Economy and the Social* has gone from strength to strength with twenty titles published and over a dozen more in the pipeline (www.cresc.ac.uk/publications).



Photograph courtesy of the winner of the CRESC 2014 Photography Competition, Jan Brodslev Olsen.

Our 2014 annual conference (www.cresc.ac.uk/events) tackles the theme of power, culture and social framing. The three plenary sessions showcase key debates that CRESC research has contributed to over the years, involving partnerships and collaborations beyond the confines of the University. In the first of these 'The End of the 30 Year Experiment', Philip Augar, Aditya Chakraborty, Steve Francis and Nick Pearce will discuss the contemporary implications of the Thatcher/Blair project. Our second session 'Framing the Social: Culture, Power and Policy' welcomes Tessa Jowell, Mike Savage and Tony Bennett to reflect on the changing role and the power of culture. Our final plenary session 'Framing Urban Infrastructures' tackles the issue of design, public space and urban futures with contributions from Roger Milburn, Anna Minton and Sarah Green. Each of these debates addresses pressing concerns that our on-going research initiatives continue to engage and develop.

In similar vein our 2014 annual lecture (see details on the back page of the newsletter) sets out to think through some of the implications of the referendum on Scottish independence. We assume that the media will have covered the specifics of this vote in considerable detail and from diverse perspectives. Our idea was to extend the debate to think more broadly about nation states, regionalism, decentralization, mobility, identity and participation - all of which are key areas of CRESC research. This year our

'lecture' will take the form of a round-table discussion and will be held in Manchester.

Without saying goodbye we can of course say thank you - to the ESRC for our core funding, to the Universities of Manchester and the Open University for their continuing support, to the members of our advisory board, and particularly to Nikolas Rose and to Nigel Thrift for their time and energy in chairing that board. We would also like to thank key members of our administrative team who have made it possible to hold together an unusually diverse array of projects, events, staff members, visits and research accounts. Josine Opmeer, Susan Hogan, Karen Ho and most recently Claire Hyde and Heather Whitaker made CRESC possible, as did the original vision of Mike Savage, Tony Bennett and Karel Williams in setting an intellectual agenda that was absolutely open to modification. We all look forward to seeing what it becomes in the coming years. Above all we are grateful for the continuing interest and engagement of all those who have found their way onto the CRESC mailing list thanks to their involvement in our conferences, workshops and research projects.

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Remaking Capitalism

Karel Williams

Remaking capitalism is the formal title of CRESC theme 1 and also a programme for the core team which has over the second five years of CRESC shifted into an increasingly active kind of research. From academic books like the *Financialization and Strategy* (2008) book about a new concept, they have shifted into writing a new kind of public interest report about financialization at work in sectors like banking, meat supply and railways. These reports were researched in partnership with non-academics; demonstrated the x ray like potential of follow the money research; argued politically that knowledge framing supported the power of business elites; reached broad non-academic audiences; and were increasingly concerned with socially responsible policy alternatives.

All this became possible because the conjuncture changed after 2008 with the onset of a financial crisis. That provided material for thousands of academic articles and books. Our own book on *After the Great Complacency* (2011) was distinctive because it led us towards the conclusion that finance was effectively un-reformable. The immediate obstacle was the small policy elite which controlled financial policy making and prevented outside challenge to the policy mix of timid measures for banking reform and bold non-standard monetary policies like Quantitative Easing for economic revival. The underlying problem was that, as a recent Bank for International Settlements report nicely illustrates, the central banking elites who question non-standard monetary policies all share an entirely orthodox view of the economy where the objectives of GDP growth and more jobs are to be achieved by structural reform.

Hence the current phase of work which broadens the focus to challenge the economic assumptions of the whole post-1979 period. The argument here is that an abstract, generalised preference for competition and markets fails to engage sector specifics and, in combination with structural reform, results in private profit and social waste. Our current book *End of the Experiment?* (2014) presents the post 1979 period as a failed experiment and illustrates this with cases studies of mundane activities like retail banking, dairy and telecomms. This book goes well beyond conventional current ideas of industrial policy as a bolt on for key sectors and it is intended as the opening move in a longer game.



Truism by Jenny Holzer on Wanas Wall

Our starting point is the need for a new and accessible language for thinking about the heterogeneity of an economy which consists of different zones. Hence the concern with the “foundational economy” employing around 40% of the workforce on mundane activities distributed according to population. Our next step is to illustrate the mismanagement of the foundational economy in a politically relevant way through making connections between what is happening in different sectors. This we will do by developing a critique of government outsourcing in health, education and welfare. The first instalment is our next *Manchester Capitalism* short book which shows how outsourcing offers private capital lucrative contracts which in everything from adult care to waste management inhibit innovation and siphon cash upwards.

The outreach of such arguments depends on outputs and partnerships. We continue to innovate in format by publishing *The End of the Experiment* as the first in a new *Manchester Capitalism* series of cheap, short paperbacks and ebooks; and are bringing the public interest report to new audiences with Andrew Bowman’s high profile intervention in the South African platinum strike. Continued momentum then depends on building academic networks and non-academic partnerships. Hence the current application for funding for an international network on the foundational economy; and the dialogue with partners like Enfield Council, the Federation of Small Businesses

(Wales) and trade unionists about shared projects where our concerns overlap and change can be levered.

We are obtaining funding for academic projects that sharpen our economic analysis of the limits of industrial policy intervention at a point in a world of chain interconnections. Hence, Julie Froud leads a new funded project on textile reshoring and Adam Leaver is co-investigator on a research council project about food supply chains. But our distinctive focus is on public interest work where the pressing national question is: given the blockages in Whitehall and Westminster, can we change agendas so that local and regional government champion radical policy experiments which are up-scaleable?

Our strategy for 2014-15 is to concentrate on the weakest link because the prospects of change are best in “loser” regions and in policy areas where existing policies have manifestly failed. Hence, with the FSB Wales, we will be working on alternative industrial policies for disadvantaged regions like Wales which falls further behind on all the standard measures. We will also be working in partnership with Enfield’s Social Care department, and in tandem with a Welsh Cardiff project at the WISERD centre on adult social care, which is a major challenge for an ageing society that presently outsources its problem to private firms which both pay low wages and deliver low quality care.

Urban Experiments

Sophie Watson

A new research project- Consuming Waters- funded by Thames Water was launched in July in the Urban Experiments theme group. This project in collaboration with Thames Water and in association with Groundwork- a large environmental charity- is being run by Sophie Watson in association with her research assistant Kellie Payne. The research involves shadowing Groundwork in their home visits to households to advise on how to consume less water through changing domestic and washing practices and through installing water saving devices.

Thames Water are in the process of installing smart water meters across the whole London and outer London region over the next fifteen years, with the initial roll out in Bexley and Greenwich where the current research is being conducted. As households move from the current standardised water rates to metered water rates, some households' water costs are set to rise, while others will fall or remain the same. In advance of the roll out of smart meters, which will enable the water authority to follow different water uses on an hour by hour basis, as well as detect leaks at a specific property, Thames is conducting this Pilot study. For a household, it will be possible to similarly log on to their computer and understand their water uses in very precise ways. Households so far have shown a varied response to the introduction of metering, which is part of the concern of the project. At the same time there appears to be considerable variation between households and within households on their use of water, washing and laundry practices. There is a similar variation in response to the introduction of water saving devices. This project seeks to unravel and explore this variation of responses and practices across households according to different socio-cultural backgrounds and other social and ethnic differences. The project is a pilot project to be completed with a report to Thames Water by the end of the year, and with the possibility of leading to a larger project on smart cities and water practices at a future date.

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Public Space

Urban Experiments' concern with public space continued over the summer period with the involvement of Sophie Watson in the Vienna University summer school on public spaces for post graduate students from across the world, where she gave a key note lecture and conducted graduate student workshops.

City Materialities/City Securities.

A public lecture was held at the Royal College of Physicians in London where Professor Sophie Body-Gendrot from the Sorbonne and

Professor Harvey Molotch from New York University spoke on different aspects of city securities. This was followed on the next day by a one day conference exploring different aspects of city materialities and securities in greater depth.

Curating the Activist Object

Penny Harvey

The research group 'Infrastructures of Social Change' is currently working on three broad (and overlapping) projects that articulate our interests in material politics; the transformative promise of technological innovation and new data forms; and the theories and practices of social change that emerge in the encounters between expert practice (particularly in relation to design, planning and construction) and the more contingent and uncertain engagements of everyday life.

At the most general level we are tracing the politics and the poetics of infrastructural forms. This work on infrastructures will form an integral part of a major forthcoming collection on Infrastructures and Social Complexity co-edited by Penny Harvey, Casper Bruun Jensen and Atsuro Morita. Andrew Bowman and Yannis Kallianos are also currently putting together a special issue that will offer a critical perspective on the politics and economics of infrastructural development initiatives. We also have a sub-group working on the infrastructural promise of 'big data'. This work has been developed by Penny Harvey, Camilla Lewis and Yannis Kallianos in collaboration with the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority. We plan to take this project forward in association with Hannah Knox, who has moved from CRESC to take up a lectureship in Digital Anthropology and Material Culture at University College London – via our common interests in urban design, environmental politics, expertise and the politics of informational practices. Finally Adolfo Estallega and Yannis Kallianos, together with other members of our research group have developed an ambitious collaboration with a group of artists, activists and academic researchers to work through the possibilities of archiving, documenting and curating activist objects. It is this latter project that we present here.

In September 2013 CRESC researchers responded to the invitation of the Victoria & Albert Museum to think around the notion of activist objects. The Victoria & Albert Museum were working towards their current exhibition on Disobedient Objects and we had recently completed a substantial edited volume on Objects and Materials (Routledge 2013) that explored the ways which objects and materials shape, unsettle and exceed human worlds. We held a workshop at the V&A from which two main issues emerged; the first concerned the political agency and



Image by www.flickr.com/photos/dnlb2 Danie Bobadilla – Sin Sistema. www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/ Creative Commons License By-NC-SA.

nature of the 'activist' and subsequently 'disobedient' objects. What makes an object activist? How are objects politically activated in different contexts and situations? To what extent do these objects enable (or disable) different political actions? The second issue had to do with the process of re-contextualizing such objects as an exhibition, and particularly in an institution as established as the Victoria & Albert Museum. How to collect and exhibit objects without disarming their distinctive political nature? What kind of transformations takes place when an activist object becomes part of a museum collection? Is an object's political potential necessarily deactivated in such contexts? We were particularly interested in the fragile political condition of these objects and in exploring the tension that emerges between the institutional practices of archiving and documenting and the political nature of the things collected.

To take these discussions forward we held a second workshop in July 2014. We had searched this time for a more overtly activist institution that was itself critically engaged in working with the challenges of curating as a means of supporting activism. We were very fortunate to find the May Day Rooms both as a venue and as a source of inspiration and ongoing conversation. The May Day Rooms were set up in 2008 at a time of deep financial crisis with the aim of creating an archive that would be used actively, as a social resource

rather than simply serve as a repository of information. The idea was support and enable the articulation of histories from below in connection to specific initiatives to 'fight back' – from our perspective this archive was an active infrastructural form.

At the May Day Room event we looked more directly at practices of collection, archiving, documentation and exhibition. We wanted to test the idea that the activist nature of certain objects could be maintained as an

intrinsic aspect of the process of being documented and archived. Drawing together a group of people engaged in art, activism and academic research we compared our understandings of 'curation', of 'activism' and of the challenges involved in working out how to build an archive that holds open possibilities for activist futures. The topic required us to acknowledge the intrinsic arbitrariness of collecting, and the need to think about the complex histories that shape how particular objects acquire political capacities.

In the process working through these issues we decided to create a website <http://activistobject.wordpress.com>, (thanks to the skills of visiting researcher and web designer Domenico di Siena). We are currently working to see if this website can become an active online exhibition space, itself a political object that could potentially enable other kind of activities and open up a productive discussion concerning the politics of digital objects. In addition, through this framework we hope to establish very strong links with practitioners and other people whose activism involves an active engagement with creating and/or curating 'things' and who are also attempting to think of new ways to engage modes of design, and exhibition that have radical transformational potential. To this end we are currently planning a third event to be held in the Spring of 2015.

When Authorities Meet

John Law and Antonia Walford

The farmers are caught in the cross-fire. Hill farming is economically marginal. Young people are moving away. Incomers are buying property. At the same time environmental authorities, incomers and tourists are worrying about algal bloom. The location is Loweswater in the English Lake District. There's too much phosphorus in the lake. It comes from many sources including farming. Meanwhile within a few decades there will be a worldwide shortage of phosphorus.

The Loweswater study is the work of Claire Waterton of Lancaster University and her colleagues. The issue is: what to do about blue-green algae, and how community-based approaches might resolve differences. Waterton talked about this at a CRESC workshop on 'When Authorities Meet' in July which explored what happens when different forms of authority intersect. What can we say about different forms of authority? How do they overlap? How are the differences handled? Are there better and worse ways of doing this? These were the topics of the workshop.

Waterton's contribution was just one of a dozen workshop papers which explored: approaches to landscape and terrain; different versions of authority in aquaculture, fishing, and the recent badger cull; the racialization or otherwise of genomics; end of life care; environmental and energy futures; the relations between laboratory science and the environment; parliamentary and scientific authorities and nature; and a series of studies of difficult 'north-south' relations including environmental management and healing.

Religion, shamanism, science, economics, daily (for instance farming) practices, health care and engineering – these are all forms of authority. Crucially, each has its own form of expertise and its own form of knowledge. What is self-evident for a shaman or an environmentalist or a priest may look strange – and indeed incomprehensible – to a farmer or an engineer, in part because each draws on its own distinctive methods for knowing the world. Scriptural, technoscientific, apprenticeship and experience, statistical,



parliamentary and administrative – there are many methods for knowing the world, and very often they do not add up.

It's tempting to say that this is new: that in the past, at least in the West, the lines of authority were clearer. This is uncertain: grand narratives about social change are probably too large. Instead it's likely that handling difference including different authorities has been a long-standing human skill. Perhaps holding things together that

forms of authority – or their interaction – are embedded in practices, devices, or methods; and finally, whether some modes of handling difference are better than others.

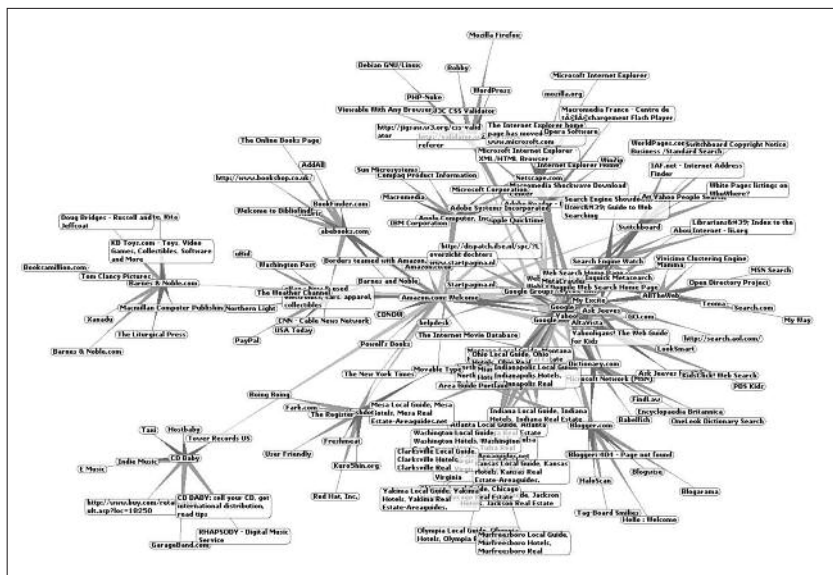
In September, the CRESC 'Social Life of Method' theme will organise a second workshop on 'Transforming Data: drawing otherness into digital debates'. This will build on the overarching themes of the first workshop to look at how difference and heterogeneity are managed and negotiated, and what happens at the edges, interfaces and interstitial spaces where different worlds rub up against one another.

Intersecting with one of the key topics of the CRESC 'Infrastructures and Social Change' research theme, the focus will be on data and digital knowledge practices. At a time when data and the digital are still being heralded as the means to unite, connect and level the world, the Transforming Data workshop is intended to problematize assumptions about

what connectivity or unity might consist in, and to serve as a reminder of the reexistence of difference, heterogeneity, otherness and uncertainty. It will also seek to radically widen the comparative horizon of data studies, by bringing together people who work on data and the digital with those who work on forms of neo-colonialism, or non-Western knowledges (and the interface between the two). In this way, it will comparatively probe

the contemporary data aesthetic and its analytical and imaginative potential and limits, exploring what happens when data and digital worlds are juxtaposed with or thought through Other sorts of knowing and doing, both empirically and experimentally.

A follow-up meeting is planned in order to develop the ideas that emerge from the second workshop and to consolidate collaboration amongst the participants, and edited publications from both workshops will be published as part of the CRESC legacy.



don't really fit is a definition of the human condition? Nevertheless, with the increasing interconnectedness implied by so-called 'globalisation' and new forms of technology it may also be that the clashes between authorities – or their chronic character – are more obvious. And this was the focus of the 'When Authorities Meet' workshop: how difference is managed; how authorities work to sustain (or undermine) power or hegemony; whether it is possible to detect different styles or strategies for thinking about or handling difference; how different

Reframing the Nation

Marie Gillespie

Over the last five years at CRESC, we have reframed research on the nation from the vantage point of theories of diaspora, transnationalism and cosmopolitanism. In empirical case studies on the British Army, the BBC World Service, the British Council, and Black British Jazz, we examined the dynamics of continuity and change in these key institutions and culture industries. A core concern has been to understand how internal and external drivers of change relate, including geopolitical, economic, technological and social change.

Methodological nationalism – restricting the research focus to the nation – is untenable in an era of globalisation. We developed transnational and multilingual methodologies in novel collaborations with military, media and cultural workers in the UK and beyond. Our work uncovered often concealed intersections between national and cosmopolitan imaginaries and practices. Using a mix of historical and ethnographic methods we worked intensively inside the organisations, using collaborative and participatory methods, to produce a plethora of reports and analyses that have had significant impact on organisational strategy and decision-making, as well as on academic and wider public debate. Our collective work includes several innovative books – *Diasporas and Diplomacy*; *Military Multiculture*; *The Politics of Cultural Work*; *London Calling: Britain, the BBC World Service and the Cold War* – which have increased academic and public understanding of how, over the past century, a multi-ethnic, diasporic workforce has made possible the global reach and ‘soft power’ of key British organisations.

Our work has located national institutions and cosmopolitan working lives in historical perspective. It stresses the continuities of institutional power and inequality, and challenges the epochalism of contemporary thinking about technological change as causal factor. It responds to contemporary events, as in our seminar series on the potential impact of devolution on public service media in the UK. It contributes to crucial public and policy debates on the global economic crisis, changing diversities, and new inequalities and vulnerabilities, as in our international Mediating Religion network, which has examined the new vulnerabilities of religious minorities in Europe and the Middle East, as well as the network power of religious transnationalism.

In work with BBC World Service we have produced analyses of the difference that social media made to the Arab Spring, the Egyptian elections in 2011, the London and Sochi Olympics, and most recently the Ukraine-Russia stand-off. This is part of our ongoing work on the transformation of public spaces and on the changing nature of cultural and political participation enabled by social media. Our work is always interdisciplinary and methodologically experimental. Generation 2012 – a joint CRESC/World Service project – trained a group of citizen journalists and tested the limits of BBC openness. Their investigative reports reframe representations of the London riots in 2011 and the Olympics in 2012 from a distinctively local and cosmopolitan perspective. Our ‘Big Data’ analyses of events brought together teams of computer and social scientists, alongside linguistic and discourse analysts, to tackle the formidable problems of interpretation posed by social media data sets. We have researched how such data is deployed by organisations (while simultaneously researching BBC researchers), in order to illuminate the twin tendencies of surveillance and empowerment that characterise social media and monitoring tools. Our case studies found the much vaunted hype around empowerment via social media to be contradictory, especially when analysed in a transnational optic. The majority of BBC World Service social media users proved to be well-educated males aged 18-35. Rather than engaging in an informed and intelligent ‘global conversation’ about news, their favourite discussion topics included ‘Is chocolate better than sex?’ Yet as one of our female interlocutors based in Cairo pointed out, for many women in the Middle East that too is a progressive, challenging public conversation topic.

With regard to Black British Jazz, a rich history of jazz music-making amongst black Britons reaches back to the earliest days of jazz itself. But we found persistent racism and race inequality in the education system and the music industry, resulting in restricted cultural and economic opportunity for black musicians. The project ‘Place and Creative Identity’ explored how artists in London’s

East End construct and narrate ‘urban regeneration’, with particular attention to their relationship to the 2012 Olympics and translocalism.

In the ‘Military Multiculture’ project we investigated modernisation in the British Army, and its changing position in UK civil society, in the period 1998-2010, paying particular attention to the impact of human rights legislation on the experiences of ethnic minorities and migrants. This study, featuring rare ethnographic insights gathered from inside the military community, has been instrumental in holding the UK armed forces to account as a public institution that has a pivotal part to play in shaping, defining and ritualising symbolic forms of national identity.

Our most recent collaborative project built on our prior CRESC research to investigate the changing cultural value of the BBC World Service and the British Council over the last eight decades, and how cultural value can be assessed and measured. We found that these organisations’ ‘soft power’ abroad remains strong, but is on the wane, reflecting the UK’s declining economic and political significance on the world stage. Our work presents a sustained critique of ‘soft power’ in theory and practice. We contributed to the House of Lords Committee on Soft Power and the BBC Trust’s public consultation on the World Service. Our work showed how cultural value is relational (never independent of political and economic value), perspectival (different for audiences, funders and workers), cumulative (accrues slowly over time) and highly vulnerable (can be quickly and easily lost).

Our latest innovation is a theoretically grounded and empirically informed ‘Cultural Value Model’: a device for conceptualising, analysing and assessing value, using a multidimensional, composite, visual method. It is designed for planning, monitoring and evaluating projects and organisations over time, alongside existing performance indicators and impact measures. It is currently being tested and developed further in partnership projects at the BBC World Service, the British Council, and the Swedish Institute, reflecting the international impact of our ‘Reframing the Nation’ themed research.



Full details of publications are on the CRESC and related websites – see:
www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/diasporas/
www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/blackbritishjazz/
www.mediatingreligion.org/
www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/diasporas/cvp/cultural-value-framework

Trajectories of Participation and Inequality

(CRESC Theme 5)

Andrew Miles and Mark Taylor

Researchers in Theme 5 share an interest in the relationships between culture, identity and power. This interest has been pursued through various strands of work that have explored the complexity and contested nature of social and cultural participation, with a particular emphasis on their spatial and temporal dynamics and their boundary-making effects. Here, our work has sought to intervene in key debates within the social sciences but in ways that also resonate in the fields of cultural practice and policy. This dual focus is underscored by a commitment to an interdisciplinary and mixed methods approach to our research.

Post CRESC, Theme 5's work will be carried forward by three projects in particular. Starting with The Great British Class Survey (GBCS), this project made a considerable impact when its new seven-class model of social class - based on Pierre Bourdieu's 'capitals' approach to stratification and utilizing an innovative combination of quantitative methods - was first published in April 2013. The story was carried by frontline broadcast, press and social media around the world, and has simultaneously sparked a contentious debate within Sociology. This also gave a further boost to the number of people taking the survey, which now stands at over 320,000.

The GBCS research team, consisting of Theme 5 researchers Niall Cunningham, Fiona Devine, Andrew Miles and Mark Taylor together with colleagues from the LSE, and York, has now presented work from the project at more than 30 conferences and workshops. Scientific development has continued with a second wave of analysis and papers based on this have been prepared for a special issue of *Sociological Review* on the subject of British elites, to be published in 2015, and a mainstream book about contemporary social class and inequality to be published by Penguin. The GBCS data are also being prepared for deposit at the UK Data Service, so that researchers from across the social science community will be able to use it for their own analyses. One spin-off from the GBCS project has been the formation of the Stratification and Culture Research Network, of which Theme 5 leader, Andrew Miles, and former CRESC director, Mike Savage, are co-founders. This network has run a series of workshops across the country, including events on aesthetics, taste, precarity, and emerging cultural capital, with a special issue of *Poetics* on the latter due for

publication in 2016. More details of this network can be found at stratificationandculture.wordpress.com.

With colleagues at the universities of Leicester, Exeter and Warwick, five members of Theme 5 - Andrew Miles, Abigail Gilmore, Mark Taylor, Jill Ebrey and Susan Oman - are working on 'Understanding Everyday Participation: Articulating Cultural Values' (UEP), a project funded by the AHRC's cross-council Connected Communities scheme, which is led from Manchester and runs until 2017. In a challenge to the deficit model of participation that has helped to inform the canonisation and funding of particular cultural forms and activities by the state, this project is undertaking a radical re-evaluation of the relationship between participation and cultural value; firstly by examining the meanings and stakes people attach to hobbies, pastimes and informal involvements, and secondly by exploring the interplay between participation, time and place. The project's partner group includes a range of prominent cultural and third sector organisations, including Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

UEP research is currently at various stages of progress in three 'cultural ecosystem' case studies in Manchester-Salford, Aberdeen, and Gateshead, with work due to commence in Dartmoor, Peterborough and the Western Isles from 2015 onwards. In each of the ecosystems, there is a 12-month programme of empirical activity involving the mapping of cultural assets, two waves of household interviews, a series of focus groups, an ethnography, a social network analysis and local historical research. This work is being supplemented by further analysis of existing national and local participation data to help frame the findings from our qualitative work for policy audiences and by a structure for stakeholder engagement in order to influence policy formation. For the purposes of direct comparison, the interviews are using a common frame, which draws on previous CRESC research projects. In contrast, the ethnographic work involves a different context in each case study area. In Manchester and Salford, this has focused on parks and open spaces and on charity shops; in Gateshead, on the facilitated participation



of looked after young people; and in Aberdeen, on social and leisure clubs. An edited collection on historical understandings of participation is currently in progress and initial findings from the project's empirical work will be published in a double issue of *Cultural Trends* in 2016. More details on this research can be found at everydayparticipation.org.

The EPSRC-funded 'Step-Change' project, which investigates travel and transport, is the third major piece of research from within Theme 5 that will continue during CRESC's legacy period. This project is examining people's transport and travel behaviour in order to better understand how these might change in the future and from this to develop new modeling paradigms to support more sustainable practices. It brings together Theme 5 researchers (Niamh Moore and Andrew Miles, to be joined by Camilla Lewis from September 2014) in an innovative cross-disciplinary collaboration with transport planning and modeling academics from the Institute for Transport Studies (ITS) at the University of Leeds and the School of Civil Engineering at the University of Birmingham.

At the empirical core of this project is a qualitative panel study involving 240 people living in contrasting areas of Manchester and Leeds, which is exploring how people's travel choices and mobilities are embedded in everyday activities and relationships. In October 2014, a second wave of in-depth interviews with the panel members will begin, to be followed by ethnographic work and a third set of interviews in 2015. Running alongside this will be a series of focus groups and interviews with transport planners and policymakers from the two local authorities concerned and from the Department for Transport. A further strand of work will focus on a study of historical changes in transport and travel behaviour based on field reports and diaries held in the Mass Observation Archive. Early findings from the project, for example on 'mobility biographies', have been published in an edited volume and in journal articles, and a project book is planned for 2016. For more information on Step-Change, go to changing-mobilities.org.uk



CRESC Annual Lecture 2014: The Unsettled State

Tuesday 28th October 2014, Lecture Theatre G6, Manchester Business School
5:30pm – 7:00pm followed by a drinks reception

Speakers include:

Mark Drakeford, Minister for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government

Susana Narotzky, Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Barcelona

Stewart Purvis, Professor of TV Journalism, City University London

Bill Schwartz, Professor of Modern Literature & History, Queen Mary University of London



The Scottish referendum on independence takes place on 18th September 2014. Whatever the outcome of this vote, the event marks a period of intense debate and reflection on the relationship between national identities and processes of decentralization.

Many other European states have also been actively involved in re-scaling the state – instituting diverse forms of regional autonomy – some peacefully agreed upon, others highly conflictual. The question as to whether Scotland should be an independent country raises questions around the possibilities of legal and fiscal autonomy in a world of globalized capital flows, shared environmental concerns, and the rapid circulations of social media. There are important questions about whether regional autonomy and political decentralisation can counter the economic trajectories of internal differentiation and increased inequality; and there are also questions about the role of media representations, arts, literature and cultural practices in reframing people's sense of national belonging.

The CRESC Annual Lecture debates the unsettling effects of independence movements. Taking place shortly after the Scottish referendum, a panel of distinguished speakers will reflect on the shifting character of national identity in Europe and explore its consequences. Questions they will explore will include the following:

- how independence movements articulate understandings of and aspirations for reformed democracy and mobilise media and communications for specific ends;
- whether greater autonomy will deliver more of the same economically i.e. increasing competition and entrenched inequalities within and between regions and groups
- how national identity equates to citizenship, and the extent to which civic identities resonate with ethnic, linguistic, religious, and other overlapping but non-territorial forms of identity;
- how national identities work at different scales - intersecting with European, regional, local, and other territorial affiliations;
- the particular historical circumstances in which national identities become important to particular sections of the population, and the forms that demands for independence, or for integration, have taken.

To reserve your place at the CRESC Annual Lecture 2014, please email your name, name of organisation and contact details to: claire.hyde@manchester.ac.uk

This is a free event. Please be aware that places are restricted and are allocated on a first come-first served basis.