

Knowledge Exchange Forum

Research Programme on developing methods for evidencing social enterprise as a community health initiative

Thursday 14th May 2015

Yunus Centre for Social Business & Health, Level 3 Buchanan House,
Glasgow Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow, G4 0BA

Programme

- 9:00 Registration and tea/coffee
- 9:30 Welcome and introduction - Alan Kay
- 9:35 Programme update - Cam Donaldson
- 10:00 Parallel and participatory group seminars

Meeting Room

Group 1 (Project 1: History of social enterprise): Facilitated by Gill Murray and Carole McCallum (University Archivist)

This workshop will invite you into the world of the archive, learning more about how the Social Enterprise Collection (Scotland) was formed, some of the skills required in archival work and how historical documents become research data.

Seminar Room

Group 2 (Projects 2 and 4: Contemporary analysis of social enterprise): Facilitated by Bobby Macaulay and Clemmie Hill O'Connor

This workshop will offer an insight into two distinct approaches to research currently being applied within the CommonHealth programme; content analysis and participant observation. The session will include practical examples of both approaches with a chance to experience the research process first-hand.

- 12:00 Knowledge exchange 'marketplace'. Attendees will approach and chat to other people who attended the other groups and find out what was discussed.
- 12:25 Thanks and what will happen next. The facilitators will write up a short report on each group seminar with key points. This will be circulated.
- 12.30 Lunch and finish at 1:30pm

Research Outline

The Knowledge Exchange Forum is part of a 5-year programme, co-funded by the Medical Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. This programme aims to develop methods to evaluate new pathways to health creation and health inequalities reduction arising from social enterprise.

This programme will be delivered in a series of 8 projects. Projects 1 and 2 will focus on conceptual work, exploring the literature and evidence base for social enterprise as a public health intervention.

Beginning in year 3, projects 3-5 will work alongside social enterprises to draw together a set of case studies to explore the concepts from projects 1 and 2.

Projects 6 and 7 will conduct evaluations with two well-established Scottish social enterprises. Project 8 will draw together the work from Projects 1-7 to explore broader issues, and how these might relate to the rest of the UK.

Guiding principles

- Collaborate between academic research, policy making and social enterprise practice.
- Adopt an open and transparent approach to research and dissemination.
- Encourage active dialogue between researchers and sector partners.
- Build an atmosphere of trust among researchers, participants and partners for future developments.

Outcomes

- Building capacity in all sectors.
- Developing knowledge and understanding of social enterprise between sectors.
- Shaping a new way of looking at social enterprise and the contribution it can make to health and wellbeing.
- Contributing to cohesive academic - practitioner discourse to help influence policy.

Live Projects

Project 1 (2014-16): An historical perspective on social enterprise as a public health intervention

This project started in March 2014 and will conclude in November 2016. In that time it will address three central research questions about social enterprise in Scotland from the late 1970s until c. 2010:

- How has social enterprise been defined and how has this changed over time?
- How has success been defined and outcomes measured by social enterprises in this period of study?
- During this period, what missions have been stated by social enterprises and how do they relate to notions of health and well-being?

The project will be the first to make use of the Social Enterprise Collection (Scotland) and will combine this archival research with oral history interviews. The recordings of these interviews will be added to the collection at the end of the study. Time has been allocated in the project to prepare John Pearce's personal papers ready for cataloguing. Thus, the project has practical outputs, developing and growing the archival collection, as well as intellectual research outputs, which include a research blog and journal articles.

Project 2 (2014-16): A contemporary analysis of social enterprise as a public health intervention

Within the project there are three main streams of research:

- What are the theoretical overlaps between social enterprise and public health?
- What do social enterprises do, and what effect does that have on people's health?
- Do the answers to these two questions reflect the experiences of communities interacting with social enterprises?

The above questions will be answered through the conducting of numerous qualitative interviews with respondents ranging from the heads of national organisations to service users of social enterprises. In addition, formal evaluations of the impacts of social enterprises will be analysed to consider which particular processes may lead to which health impacts. The results of this research will be distributed through journal articles and a more informal research blog.

Project 4 (2014-16): Passage from India

This project is the first of the case study based studies within the CommonHealth programme of work. The project will be focused on the work of WEvolution, an organisation supporting the creation Self Reliant Groups (SRGs). These are groups of people, predominantly women, meeting regularly providing a space for peer support, participating in savings and loans activities and sharing and learning new skills with a view to start small enterprises.

This project will address the following questions using a combination of participant observation, questionnaires and in-depth interviews:

- What are the facilitators and barriers to the development of SRGs?
- What is the impact of SRG membership on health and wellbeing?
- Are there specific characteristics and processes of SRGs that can be linked to impacts on health and wellbeing?



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www.commonhealth.uk

commonhealthresearch.wordpress.com

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