

RE:ACTION

Enriching policymaking

How the University's cutting-edge research is helping to shape policy – regionally, nationally and internationally

BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Researchers and policymakers collaborating for cleaner air in Southampton

OLD AGE POVERTY

Addressing inequalities in the pension system

EXAMINING PROTEST

Could a 'Just Riots Theory' help governments respond fairly to disruptive protest?

PREPARING FOR CONCEPTION

How decades of policy engagement is creating change for future parents

WELCOME TO RE:ACTION



The University Strategy encourages us to use the excellence of our research to solve the most complex societal and environmental challenges. One of the key elements to realising this ambition is the translation of our research outcomes into policy interventions that work across society locally, nationally and in some cases globally.

This edition of *Re:action* presents some of these exciting activities, ranging from work informing the prescribing of antidepressants within the NICE guidelines, and Clean Air South's efforts to work with policymakers to improve our local air quality, to Prof. Jonathan Havercroft's work on balancing the tensions in allowing the right to protest while maintaining public order in the UK, USA and Brazil. As ever I am struck by the wonderful diversity of the activities and the range of the policy impacts that have been achieved.

Much of the work presented in this issue has been supported by Public Policy Southampton (PPS). PPS is

a longstanding and strong activity for the University, and I would encourage anyone who believes that their work has potential relevance to public policy to engage with PPS and exploit its expertise to navigate the path to achieving this impact. This is a particularly interesting and rewarding space to work in, and one that I believe will become increasingly important over the coming years.

I very much hope that you enjoy the articles in this edition. As always, comments and feedback are very welcome.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'SM' followed by a long, flowing horizontal stroke that ends in a small loop.

Professor Mark Spearing
Vice-President (Research and Enterprise)

PLEASE SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK



We are keen to receive your feedback about *Re:action*. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions, please send them to riscomms@soton.ac.uk

Re:action is created by Kate Williams and Sophie Lister, Research and Innovation Services



CONTENTS

Making connections with policymakers	4 – 9
Tangible impacts	7 – 9
The evidence for evidence institutes	7
Future mobility: autonomous vehicles and net zero	8
Behavioural insights for public health	9

Greenprint – A framework for a green recovery	10 – 11
--	----------------

No silver bullet: do antidepressants really help chronic pain?	12 – 13
---	----------------

Old age pension or old age poverty – addressing inequalities in the pension system	14 – 17
---	----------------

Supporting future parents	18 – 21
Tracking the nation's preconception health	20
Preparing for preconception: engaging young people	21

The language of the unheard – can riots ever be justified?	22 – 25
---	----------------

'Scared to speak to anybody': How better communication could help prevent evictions	26 – 27
--	----------------

Mending bone bias	28 – 29
--------------------------	----------------

Change is in the air	30 – 33
Sending a message on wood burner pollution	32
Winchester City Council: Achieving strategic aims through partnership	33

Prompting healthier choices	34 – 35
------------------------------------	----------------

Are men still calling the shots in British cinema?	36 – 39
Exploring affirmative action in Spanish cinema	39

Enriching decision-making with evidence – Centre for the South	40 – 41
---	----------------

Unlocking the potential of our rooftops	42 – 43
--	----------------

Research award highlights	44 – 47
----------------------------------	----------------



MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH POLICYMAKERS

Head of Public Policy Southampton (PPS), Gareth Giles, or Giles as he is known, describes what he and his team do as “public policy knowledge brokerage.”

“Our role is to support researchers to engage with policymakers, and policymakers to engage with researchers. We’re aiming to enable policymakers to have the very best evidence at their fingertips when making decisions which impact all of us.”

Southampton has been pioneering in its “patient investment in policy engagement”, said Giles. PPS, the University’s policy engagement unit, was established in 2012 after Professor of Public Policy Gerry Stoker recognised the increasing weight research funders were placing on policy impact as part of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. The University is now recognised as a leading institution in this maturing aspect of the Impact Agenda.

More widely UK universities’ engagement with policy is inconsistent. A 2017 Government report by Dr Caroline Kenny, *The Role of Research in the UK Parliament*, described it as ‘limited and poor quality’. Parliamentarians and Westminster staff reported that using academic research evidence could be challenging due to ‘lack of accessibility, poor presentation and communication, and limited relevance.’

Poor policy engagement by academics was problematic because evidence submissions to Parliamentary Select Committees and



Gareth Giles

government were dominated by well-resourced trade associations, charities, and NGOs, who have a vested interest in specific outcomes. In contrast, the report argued, academics could provide ‘a balanced and nuanced commentary on the evidence relating to legislation’, helping decision-makers understand the various positions.

PPS’s aim, explained Giles, is to “boost the capabilities and confidence of researchers to engage with decision-makers and ensure that local and national government can easily access in a timely manner the world-leading research conducted here at the University.”

Continued on page 6 →

Making connections with policymakers

Their activities are delivered through a three-pillar approach, based on “co-production” with researchers and policymakers.

Pillar one: evidence supply

Through grey literature review and stakeholder analysis, PPS develops bespoke policy engagement strategies for researchers. These provide analysis of the policy landscape and identify key stakeholders in government and Parliament. Those individuals are then invited to a policy workshop, giving the research team a chance to share research findings and co-produce policy recommendations with the policy audience. For civil servants, emerging evidence can provide a useful insight and encourage them to advocate for that research within the decision-making process.

Effective communications, including PPS's Evidence to Policy blog, Policy|Spotlight videos, and audio podcast series Policy|Pod, play a vital role in making the evidence easily discoverable for policymakers. (These can be found on the ‘Support for Policymakers’ page on Public Policy Southampton's website, link below). Through search engine optimisation and active social media accounts PPS ensures the visibility of Southampton research in organic searches.

Pillar two: evidence demand

Giles refers to this as the “known unknowns” – the things that Government is aware that it needs to know more about.

Government asks for evidence through publishing Areas of Research Interest (ARIs) and consultations known as Green or White Papers. Both ARIs and White Papers (which set out the Government's plans and ask for responses from stakeholders) offer potential openings for policy engagement from researchers. PPS helps identify relevant consultations, working with academics to refine their responses or develop accessible documentation to show how their research can help understand a problem. The team also supports researchers making written submissions to Select Committee Inquiries or Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology ‘POST Notes’, or attending Parliament to give oral evidence.

PPS sifts consultations and inquiries from the UK Government, the Senedd and the Scottish Parliament, as well as Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council, to understand the questions being asked. As well as horizon-scanning, this enables the team to match the questions with expertise at the University. This is aided by the recent appointment of specialist policy officers in the faculties of Environmental and Life Sciences,

“We recognise that the policy engagement journey is different for everyone. For researchers, we can be a companion on that journey: whether through plugging them into our networks, providing placement opportunities, or funding.”

Gareth Giles

Arts and Humanities, and Medicine, as well as the Web Science Institute, Sustainability and Resilience Institute, Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities and Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute.

Secondments provide a less formal, more in-depth route to policy engagement.

“We have good relationships with many civil servants, which allows us to identify areas that they need to know more about. We can help shape their policy question into research questions which can be addressed through secondments,” explained Giles.

Secondments give PhD students and researchers the chance to experience a politically led organisation, use their practical research skills, and build their networks. Civil servants can bring state-of-the-art research skills into their decision-making at no extra financial cost. For PPS, secondments are an opportunity to build credibility and goodwill with the civil servant, often leading to future opportunities for Southampton academics.

Pillar three: capacity raising

This includes policy engagement training, knowledge exchange activities, and placement opportunities.

The Public Policy Southampton Membership scheme, open to all University researchers, offers its 500+ members regular targeted updates on evidence-to-policy opportunities, policy impact activities and access to contacts in national and local government.

Open to doctoral students or Postdoctoral Fellows, PPS's Policy|Associates scheme is a

paid opportunity to support a variety of UKRI-funded projects with stakeholder analysis and policy synthesis, with full training given. Policy|Associates is nationally recognised as an innovative example of creating opportunities which address skills gaps from PGRs and capacity gaps for government.

As vice-chair of the University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN) – a 120-member sector body of which Southampton was founding chair – Giles is also helping to address sector-wide competencies, professional accreditation, and the development of career pathways. Recognising the greater emphasis on policy impact in the REF 2029, many universities are examining their capabilities. Through the UPEN Mentorship programme Giles offers other institutions advice from Southampton's experience on establishing and developing their public policy units.

Critical friend

“We recognise that the policy engagement journey is different for everyone,” said Giles. “For researchers, we can be a companion on that journey: whether through plugging them into our networks, providing placement opportunities, or funding.”

Successful policy engagement is subject to many variables outside the University's control and sometimes comes many years after the original research concluded. PPS can help equip researchers with the necessary qualities for the journey, explained Giles:

“Creativity in generating engagement opportunities; tenacity when their policy engagement plan gets knocked off course by a change in the political winds; and the ability to think beyond today or the current award.”

For civil servants and local government officers, PPS offers them access to trusted specialists.

Giles concluded, “Southampton's long-term investment in public policy knowledge brokerage means that we have a depth of contacts and credibility, combined with the reputation as a full-spectrum Russell Group university, to be able to offer the dispassionate, non-political analysis of a critical friend, to say ‘here's what the evidence says are the potential consequences of the policy decision being considered’.”

 **Read more about Public Policy Southampton:**
www.southampton.ac.uk/publicpolicy

TANGIBLE IMPACTS

PPS's range of internship, placement, and secondment programmes give students and researchers opportunities to use their practical skills and build networks, gain experience of a politically driven environment, and a sense of influencing the policy agenda.

For more information on the opportunities available, visit the PPS website.

THE EVIDENCE FOR EVIDENCE INSTITUTES

Adam Meylan-Stevenson, a PhD candidate in Politics, researches the politics and ethics of air pollution policy – with a particular focus on restrictions of individual liberty and the ethical implications of policies like the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Looking at how political theory relates to public policy, he became interested in a career in this area and accepted an internship with the Open Innovation Team (OIT).

This unique cross-government unit operates like an in-house consultancy for the Civil Service. The team takes on commissions from departments within the government on the full spectrum of policy work.

“The opportunity to take on multiple policy projects within my internship was a key motivation for me,” said Adam. “I have a rough idea that I’d like to work in the Ministry of Justice, but I recognised that being involved in multiple policy spheres whilst undertaking the internship would be valuable.”

His main assignment – commissioned by the Paul Ramsay Foundation – was to explore the development of evidence institutes, organisations that focus on the collection, synthesis, analysis, and dissemination of evidence-related policy. Adam helped to conduct a review of the literature on policy-making in the UK, US, Canada and Australia, as well as interviewing academic experts including 2019 Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee, and policy officials. The report

supported by this work shows how evidence institutes can effectively influence decision-making to improve services for citizens, achieve better outcomes, and save money.

The second project entailed an investigation for the Ministry of Justice focused on how digital technology can be used in prisons. The work identified implications for any future roll-out of technology across the prison estate, with potential benefits including improving prisoners’ confidence in IT and their relationships with people on the outside.

After his successful internship, Adam completed 4 months of contract work for the OIT on a project for Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra) on how the government can help businesses improve their energy efficiency and reduce their energy usage.

“A PhD is undoubtedly a long and difficult journey, but taking three months out to work in the Civil Service was a blessing,” said Adam. “I am eager to use what I have learned to help shape the future of public policy.”

➤ **Download the *Evidence Institutes: Lessons for Australia from the UK, US and Canada* report**

www.paulramsayfoundation.org.au/news-resources/evidence-institutes-lessons-for-australia-from-the-uk-us-and-canada



“The opportunity to take on multiple policy projects within my internship was a key motivation for me.”

Adam Meylan-Stevenson



“When I started my PhD at the Centre for Risk Research in 2018, I was concerned with risks that Artificial Intelligence can pose to our lives.”

Seyed Toliyat

FUTURE MOBILITY: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND NET ZERO

“When I started my PhD at the Centre for Risk Research in 2018, I was concerned with risks that Artificial Intelligence can pose to our lives,” said former PhD candidate Seyed Toliyat, who now works at Stirling University. “This motivated me to focus my research on the safety risks of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs) as one of the foremost applications of AI in a complex socio-technical system.”

After PPS asked him to help respond to a 2021 Call for Evidence on the future of autonomous vehicles in the UK, Seyed became interested in the link between evidence-based policymaking and academic research. This encouraged him to embrace the opportunity of a placement at the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV).

CCAV was established in 2015 and is a joint unit between Department for Transport (DfT) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Consolidating a wide range of expertise from industry and academia, CCAV is shaping the safe and secure introduction of self-driving vehicles and services on UK roads.

The advent of this future has raised questions about various aspects of future mobility – from safety and security to sustainability and equality. Seyed’s placement saw him focusing on the effect of CAVs on carbon emissions and the net zero strategy, taking

part in a semi-systematic literature review to identify what the impact might be. He worked with economists at CCAV to look into the mechanisms which influence key performance indicators, such as Vehicle Miles Travelled (a measurement of the total travel by a vehicle in an area over a defined period of time), vehicle occupancy rate and CO₂ per mile.

The researchers were then able to prioritise these mechanisms based on their impact and begin building an evidence base for shaping policy. Their findings are outlined in a paper published earlier this year, ‘Investigating the impacts of connected and automated vehicles on road carbon emissions: A semi-systematic literature review’.

Seyed said that a combination of autonomous and electric vehicles could significantly reduce road transport emissions, potentially revolutionising the transport sector. “This opens up new avenues for future research and further explorations to inform policymaking and development of infrastructure.”

➤ Read the *Investigating the impacts of connected and automated vehicles on road carbon emissions: A semi-systematic literature review*
www.publications.evolvingcities.org/proc-icec/article/view/58





BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

“I’ve had the privilege of experiencing (and enjoying) several placements and internships in both central and local government,” said Senior Policy Associate and PhD candidate Chloe Webb. “However, when I came across the term ‘behavioural insight’, I had a feeling that my background in social psychology would align with this area of policy.”

Behavioural insight teams within organisations apply principles from psychology and other social sciences to help design and implement interventions that encourage positive behaviour change. Chloe joined the Insight and Engagement team at Hampshire County Council, where she took on a large range of responsibilities over a five-month placement.

These included helping to create a Microsoft Excel tool to support behaviour change practitioners in using behavioural science to tackle problems; and setting up a new report into the key issue of onboarding new Adult Health and Care recruits. Both these projects were presented to senior officials at strategy

meetings. “I realised I have a real passion for the field of public health,” said Chloe. “I particularly enjoyed having direct contact with target groups.”

This contact came through assisting with focus groups on topics including teen smoking and ‘sandwich carers’ – people caring both for children and elderly relatives. Here Chloe was struck by the “invaluable insights” generated through data-gathering techniques “very different to the quantitative methods I was used to in my PhD research.”

“It was incredibly satisfying to witness the tangible impact that this research had on local communities and beyond in real time,” said Chloe, reflecting on her placement. Seeing positive feedback and high-quality output from these projects “really highlighted the significance of evidence-based policymaking that combines academic findings with an understanding of behaviour change. I can see why such teams are growing and why their value is being recognised and utilised more widely.”



“It was incredibly satisfying to witness the tangible impact that this research had on local communities and beyond in real time.”

Chloe Webb

GREENPRINT – A FRAMEWORK FOR A GREEN RECOVERY

The University is playing a central role in an initiative that is boosting collaboration between key decision-makers in the Central South region to develop a ‘greenprint’, or shared vision, for achieving a sustainable future.

Greenprint is chaired by Alison Barnes, the Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority, and works closely with the Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH), the Universities of Southampton and Portsmouth, and other partners. Greenprint’s purpose is to find collaborative sustainable solutions to today’s social, economic, and environmental challenges. The initiative is helping to define the region’s priorities, maintain momentum, and measure progress.

The University of Southampton is providing expertise and support through Public Policy Southampton (PPS) and the Centre for the

South. PPS Policy Associates have helped to develop five priorities for a green recovery and determine ten actions to underpin a Greenprint Framework, as well as running consultations with experts and a pilot project with Portsmouth City Council.

Greenprint’s five agreed priorities for a green recovery for the South Central region are:

- 1. Net zero with nature** – providing the leadership necessary to reduce carbon emissions, taking a more integrated and holistic approach by working with nature to build a zero carbon economy and zero carbon communities.
- 2. Natural health service** – improving physical and mental health and wellbeing and tackling health inequalities through greater access to our world-class natural environments and bringing nature into our urban communities.
- 3. World-class blue/green environments** – protecting, restoring and improving our distinctive, high-quality blue and green environments, enabling the natural capital and ecosystem services they offer us to contribute fully to a strong economy and a healthy, inclusive society.



4. Creating great places through quality in design and build – encouraging an innovative approach to creating high quality, inclusive and sustainable places for people and nature, adopting a low-carbon, sustainable approach which will make the region an exemplar.

5. Centre for excellence in green skills and jobs – tackle local skills gaps and economic inequalities by building a future workforce which can seize the opportunities offered by innovation in key sectors of our economy, including zero carbon economy, land management and the visitor economy.

The Greenprint network is engaging with others across the region to establish a framework to define outcomes, metrics and measurements, giving councils, businesses and organisations a platform to collaborate and a starting point for meaningful and long-lasting action. Partners share expertise and experiences and reflect on progress at quarterly workshops.

The inaugural Greenprint Conference was held at the University of Southampton in June 2023. Attended by more than 100 business, community, local authority, and education leaders, the event explored the challenges and opportunities for developing green skills in the region.



 **Find out more about Greenprint in this short video:**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vs5lhTL_01c

NO SILVER BULLET: DO ANTIDEPRESSANTS REALLY HELP CHRONIC PAIN?

Chronic pain, which affects around one in five people in the UK, can confound physicians like nothing else. Interventions from the realms of surgery, physiotherapy, pharmacology and psychology often fail to have a long-term impact, and the very things which doctors are trained to do – solve problems, administer cures – seem out of reach.



176 TRIALS

Over the course of two years, the findings from 176 trials were scrutinised, which included almost 30,000 patients taking 27 different antidepressants.



“We need to look more widely at how we can enhance people’s lives through factors like social support. We need to hear and validate patients’ experiences, and empower them to manage their pain.”

Professor Tamar Pincus

To help patients live with ongoing pain, GPs commonly prescribe drugs for pain-reduction. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends antidepressants, the most common being amitriptyline with over 15 million prescriptions a year – despite there being no agreed-upon explanation as to how antidepressants work to alleviate pain.

“These drugs are specifically being prescribed for pain, not for mood,” said Professor Tamar Pincus, Dean of the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences, and researcher into chronic pain. “We wanted to know, are they actually effective?”

Poor data

Tamar and her team undertook an ambitious task: to carry out the largest ever systematic review of the data around antidepressants and chronic pain. Partnering with Cochrane, a global network which sets the gold standard for independent and transparent health data reviews, they used network meta-analysis, a technique which allows evidence across studies to be compared simultaneously. Over the course of two years, they scrutinised findings from 176 trials, which included almost 30,000 patients taking 27 different antidepressants.

“The results were shocking!” said Tamar. “In effect, the data is so poor that we cannot claim to know anything about most of the drugs. The trials were so small that we can’t trust them. None of the trials for amitriptyline reached the size threshold that we and Cochrane required for reliability, which is at least 200 people in each arm of the study.”

Only one drug came out well from the review: duloxetine. “Here the trials were much larger and extended across people with three

different types of common pain condition.” These were fibromyalgia, neuropathic and musculoskeletal pain. “What was surprising about duloxetine is that the effect was similar across the three groups. And a regular dose of 60 milligrams had the same effect as a high dose of 120 milligrams.”

These findings are good news for physicians and their patients, Tamar said. “Duloxetine isn’t currently used much in the NHS apart from for neuropathic pain, but now we know it has utility for other groups of patients too. It can reduce pain by up to 50% – and doctors can prescribe at a lower dose, which means fewer side effects.”

Changing guidelines

NICE’s most recent set of recommendations was published in 2021, which means that it’s too soon for an overhaul, Tamar said. But she and her team have been able to negotiate changes to the clinical summary, the advice on best practice which many primary care practitioners will access. “They’ve moved duloxetine to the top of the list of antidepressants, which sounds like a small thing but actually it does make it more likely that a GP would go for it first. And they’ve explicitly stated that 60 milligrams is equally effective, so fewer people will be taking more than they need.”

Bodies in Scotland and Belgium are already working to incorporate Tamar’s findings, and she’s hopeful that NICE will respond more fully when the next review cycle comes around. “Without a doubt, as time goes on, our review is going to impact on guidelines,” she said. “And of course, we’ve highlighted the need for further, larger studies – the University of Southampton could be well-positioned to carry out a big amitriptyline trial in the near future.”

Holistic picture

Tamar doesn’t want patients who are currently finding other antidepressants effective for their chronic pain to be alarmed by the study results. “Every individual responds to different things. And I certainly wouldn’t ever recommend going cold turkey from antidepressants.” But as a researcher with 30 years’ experience in the field, she thinks the study is indicative that our approach to chronic pain treatment needs a big-picture overhaul.

“People want these drugs to be a silver bullet, but really, they’re more of a sticking-plaster. That’s not the fault of any individual doctor, it’s symptomatic of an overstretched health service where there’s no time or money to treat people holistically.” Tamar’s wider work combines psychology with physiology to focus on non-pharmaceutical interventions. She trains physiotherapists worldwide in psychologically informed practice, and is developing approaches to improving communication between medical practitioners and pain patients.

“We need to look more widely at how we can enhance people’s lives through factors like social support. We need to hear and validate patients’ experiences, and empower them to manage their pain.”

Professor Tamar Pincus’s project ‘HTA Systematic review with mixed treatment comparisons meta analysis of anti-depressant treatment for adults with chronic pain’ was funded by NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) Central Commissioning Facility.

OLD AGE PENSION OR OLD AGE POVERTY – ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES IN THE PENSION SYSTEM

Financial resilience and security are important for people of all backgrounds and communities, particularly as we age. For some older individuals from minority ethnic communities, later life comes with a higher risk of poverty compared to their white British counterparts.

“This research shows that there are complex reasons for pension inequality. There can be no ‘one size fits all pension policy’.”

Professor Athina Vlachantoni

“We know there are inequalities between ethnic groups in terms of how they benefit from the pension system,” said Professor Athina Vlachantoni from the Centre for Research on Ageing in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Athina’s latest research project is hearing directly from midlife and older people from a broad range of communities in Southampton, to better understand the factors behind pension inequality.

Project partners include the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Age UK Southampton, Southampton City Council, The People’s Pension, Citizens Advice Southampton, and the Pensions Policy Institute.

“We wanted to give policymakers a real flavour of how people plan for later life,” said Athina. “Working with these stakeholders has ensured that our research directly addresses questions which policymakers and others are interested in.”

Athina’s previous work on pensions has focused on statistical analysis but, she explained, there are significant gaps in the data. DWP statistics group different ethnicities, such as Pakistani or Bangladeshi, or black Caribbean and black African, together under headings such as ‘Asian’ or ‘Black’, obscuring any differences in culture or experience. Meanwhile, the government’s pension projection model, used to understand future pension provision, does not include ethnicity.

By combining Athina’s statistical expertise with Winchester School of Art Professor Yuanyuan Yin’s public engagement research methodologies, the project is enriching existing knowledge around pension inequalities, filling gaps in the data, and informing policymakers.

Research participants are invited to take photos to describe what late-life financial planning means to them, followed by an interview led by Research Fellow Dr Spela Mocnik. “Finances can be a sensitive topic,”



explained Athina. “Using this ‘photo-voice’ technique can give people time to reflect on the issues before having a face-to-face interview.

“Our aim is to place the perspective of ethnic minority individuals from different age groups at the heart of our research to inform the design of inclusive pension policies.”

Invisible to the pension system

Earlier work by Athina and Professor Jane Falkingham from the University’s ESRC Centre for Population Change, highlighted that people from Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities faced the highest risk of not having pension protection across their life-course.

Working-age people from these communities were less likely to be members of an occupational pension scheme than people from other minority or white British communities. This means that once they were over State Pension age, they were less likely to receive a State Pension and more likely to

receive Pension Credit to help with their living costs due to their low income.

Interviews are helping the team to understand more about the factors that contribute to this.

“There may be many reasons why a person decides whether to pay into a workplace pension scheme, from the type of job they do, to how much they earn, or whether they are self-employed,” commented Athina.

“It starts in the labour market, but we also know that some of the gap in pension protection is due to cultural reasons, and those often intersect with gender.”

The statistical analysis, led by Research Fellow Dr Saddaf Naaz Akhtar, shows that some ethnic minority communities are less likely to expect women to have a job. If they do, they are more likely to work part-time and be poorly paid. They are often self-employed or working in a family business, sometimes unpaid, and therefore invisible to the formal pension system.

“We find a hierarchy and Bangladeshi women are the least likely to have pension protection, while white British men are most likely to be protected.”

Cultural differences

Engaging directly with individuals from different communities is adding nuance to what researchers know about their differing experience of later life financial planning.

The research is finding that in some minority ethnic communities, older men tend to retain control of household finances.

In white British communities the need to pay for social care, which sometimes forces people to sell their homes, is affecting the expectation that individuals may be able to pass on some of their wealth to their children. While in other communities, the expectation is that the family will take care of an older person financially or otherwise.

Continued on page 16 →

Old age pension or old age poverty

Interviews have also shown that trust in financial institutions and systems varies between communities. One older Indian man had no investments in the UK but was investing in India because he was confident that family there would keep an eye on his investments.

“That comment was context specific, because interest rates in this country have been low in recent years, but it showed us that not everyone trusts the formal pension system,” said Athina.

The next generation

The project team has also been holding events with Year 11 pupils from Cantell School in Southampton, to ask what financial resilience meant to them.

At the school, where students are ethnically diverse, the team found that around half of the young people showed an awareness of the importance of saving for old age.

Research already shows that people from minority ethnic communities who are in midlife now, as opposed to later life, are more likely to be in a two-income household. They are also more likely to have an occupational pension, and fewer children.

“To hear 16-year-olds talk about saving and its benefits suggests that we are seeing those changes feeding through to the younger generation,” said Athina.

Athina and the team plan to work with more schools.

“We want to make sure these conversations are happening, and that they go home and talk about it with parents or friends.”

Changing attitudes

The government's Automatic Enrolment system, which sees employees automatically enrolled in a pension scheme at the age of 22 if they earn over £10,000, was an attempt to encourage more people to save for retirement. However, people from some minority ethnic communities, particularly women, may not reach that earnings threshold.

Highlighting that the minimum earning threshold disadvantages some groups, Athina hopes, will prompt further discussion about reducing or removing it.

Southampton City Council is very supportive of the project's efforts to promote greater financial awareness among minority ethnic communities and has been an invaluable partner in helping the team to access harder-to-engage communities.

Achieving pension equality

This research is showing that there are complex reasons for pension inequality. It is also clear that there can be no ‘one size fits all pension policy.’

Reducing the Automatic Enrolment minimum earnings threshold would be one way that the government could open up workplace pensions to more people. Increasing the value of the state pension, educating people about

their pension entitlements, and continuing to push employers to provide workplace pensions could also help to address pensions inequality, Athina suggested.

Regular interaction with the project stakeholders is providing feedback into the design of future pension policies and products.

“As a government the best you can do is ensure that people have a choice,” commented Athina, “giving people options to save for later life in whatever situation they are in – kind of a pro rata pension system, which doesn't exist at the moment.”

The project runs until December 2025 and is still inviting Southampton residents aged 45+, and schools to participate. To find out more please contact Dr Spela Mocnik, on s.mocnik@soton.ac.uk.

For more information about this project, visit the project website:

www.cpc.ac.uk/projects/146/Promoting_inclusivity_in_pension_protection_and_other_forms_of_saving_among_men_and_women_from_black_and_minority_ethnic_communities_in_the_UK_a_mixed_methods_study

This project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 'Inclusive Ageing' call.

“We find a hierarchy – Bangladeshi women are the least likely to have pension protection, while white British men are most likely to be protected.”

Professor Athina Vlachantoni



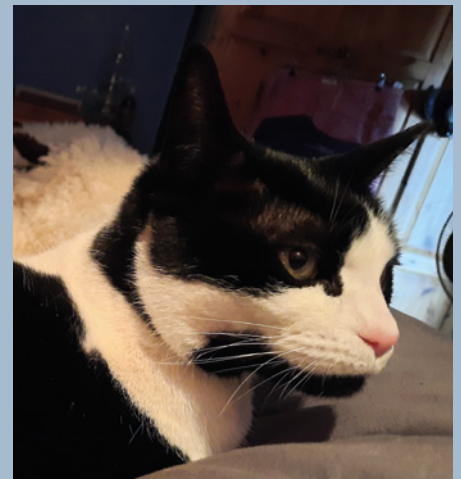
Left to right: Dr Spela Mocnik, Dr Saddaf Akhtar, Ms Runyararo (Tina) Mudzamiri (Cantell School), Professor Yuanyuan Yin, Professor Athina Vlachantoni



“Our weekly shop has become much more frugal, the cost has risen steeply. We do not purchase meat. We also substitute cheaper alternatives for some things we used to buy.”



“Will we require mobility aids? The level of uncertainty about how well one might age is concerning. I do not want to be a burden on our children.”



“When I was unwell and in bed with Covid, for nearly three weeks, the only reason I got up was to feed the cat and go to the toilet. Animals can give us the strength to keep going.”



“Two month’s medication. Thank goodness I have a medical exemption for payment otherwise I might have to choose which to afford.”



“Every week I get a list of groceries to get from my wife. I spend a lot of money on the necessities like this.”



“What do people over 65 worry about? Bills cost.”

SUPPORTING FUTURE PARENTS

Before you are even born, your life chances are being shaped. Before and during pregnancy there are opportunities for future parents to support the development of their eggs or sperm, and of their baby in the womb. These opportunities can bring lifelong benefits for the baby's physical and mental well-being, ability to learn, and economic prospects.

The concept arose from the work of epidemiologist (and former University of Southampton researcher) Professor David Barker FRS CBE in 1986. Decades earlier, there was a belief that the placenta would protect the foetus from harmful medications and 'toxins'. It was not until the thalidomide crisis of the 1960s and the recognition of foetal alcohol syndrome in 1973 that these ideas began to change. Barker and colleagues were the first to prove the connection between development before birth and common health conditions in adulthood. The publication of findings that linked prenatal nutrition with coronary heart disease in later adulthood led to the hypothesis that foetuses adapt to the environment they expect to enter outside the womb.

Professor Keith Godfrey worked under Barker's supervision as an undergraduate medical student, and then during his PhD. He now spearheads his own research at the School of Human Development and Health, "seeking to take David Barker's seminal observations to the next level and identify

the policy and public health implications that flow from them."

Life chances

Keith's research has ranged from looking at the impact of maternal vitamin status before and during pregnancy to finding novel ways of improving early-life nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. This work flows from Barker's original insight: "We now have the scientific evidence that the mother's – and the father's – nutrition, health behaviours and mental health are important in setting up the life chances of the offspring," Keith said.

Even in wealthier countries, achieving good maternal and child health is challenging. Keith was Chief Investigator for the recent NiPPeR study (Nutritional Intervention Preconception and during Pregnancy to maintain healthy glucosE levels and offspRing health), which looked at 1,729 women before and during pregnancy from Southampton, Singapore, and Auckland, New Zealand. The study found that 90 per cent were lacking key vitamins necessary for healthy pregnancies and the

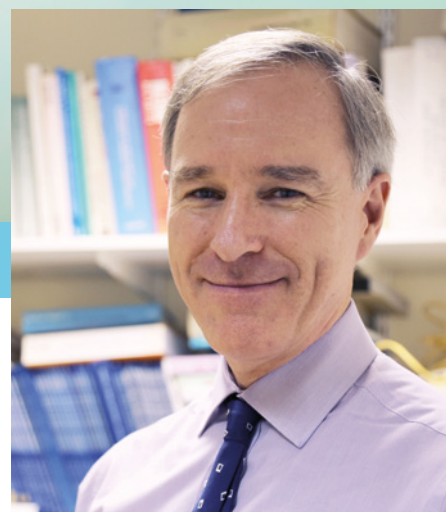
wellbeing of unborn infants; a supplement including enhanced amounts of these vitamins halved the likelihood of the baby being born too early and prevented the infant from gaining excessive weight in the first two years of life.

Of course, it is not only the mother's role that matters. "We now have good evidence that the father has an important influence, not just through behavioural aspects, but also through biological components of the inheritance that is passed to the child through so-called epigenetic processes." Epigenetics is the study of how environmental factors change the way that genes are expressed.

All these findings, said Keith, have led to the question of "what policy measures might be effective in supporting healthier behaviours in both parents."

Window of opportunity

Keith is a founding member and now co-chair of the UK Preconception Partnership, which brings together organisations and



individuals in the field of preconception health to translate their expertise into action. The Partnership works with policymakers in national and local government to identify interventions and initiatives – some of which, said Keith, “are medical or health centred, but many are educational and societal.”

He is part of the governmental Maternity Disparities Taskforce to try and address the “embedded and worsening disparities” which lead to poorer outcomes for women from minoritised groups and those living in deprived areas. The preconception period represents a crucial window of opportunity during which interventions can reduce the transfer of disparities between generations, having an impact far into the future.

Even in purely economic terms, investment in preconception care pays off. Iodine insufficiency before conception, for example, affects 1 in 10 Southampton women and is associated with a 7 IQ point lower ability to learn in their children. Preventing even half of this effect would mean 30,000 fewer

UK children per year needing educational and social support. Calculations suggest that routinely adding iodine to salt, as most countries in Europe already do, could result in an increase in annual UK gross domestic product running to several billion pounds.

Action plan

A policy brief produced by Keith with the Public Policy Southampton team recommends a five-part action plan, which begins with normalising preparation for pregnancy as part of primary healthcare. “Just as this country has systems for vaccination and for health visiting, there needs to be an embedded system of enabling GPs and community pharmacies to support both parents in preparing for pregnancy and parenthood,” Keith explained. “That should include things like reviews of medications, care for long-term conditions, and support for mental health problems and reducing alcohol harms.”

“We now have the scientific evidence that the mother’s – and the father’s – nutrition, health behaviours and mental health are important in setting up the life chances of the offspring.”

Professor Keith Godfrey

Continued on page 20 →

The brief recommends building the capabilities of the healthcare workforce with skills and expertise specifically around preconception care. Other actions include engaging young people with health messages as part of the school curriculum and establishing core national metrics to monitor progress and measure impact (see right, and opposite page).

Another suggested action is around collaborating with employers to provide universal access to preconception health programmes. “These can be taboo subjects for many individuals in relation to their employers,” said Keith. “Enabling people to plan for pregnancy and parenthood and return from pregnancy in a much more collaborative and supportive environment would benefit individuals while also promoting recruitment and retention of valued members of the workforce.”

Long journey

The long journey towards policy impact, nearly forty years after David Barker’s groundbreaking findings, has entailed patience and perseverance. “It’s required using a variety of opportunities to bring the evidence to the attention of policymakers, often in different ways. This has been built on developing trust and relationships over a long period of time.”

But decades into his own career, Keith now has the satisfaction of seeing his work lead to real change. One recent success, after a ten-year research and translational programme, is the national dissemination of new materials providing practical health advice for prospective parents. “That’s all come as a consequence of generating the evidence, articulating it in ways required by policymakers, and working with those who understand how policy is generated.”

The NiPPeR trial and research on maternal vitamin status before and during pregnancy is supported by a range of national and international funders including the UK Medical Research Council and the National Institute for Health and Care Research. Improving nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa is supported by the European Union (Erasmus+ Programme ImpENSA).

TRACKING THE NATION’S PRECONCEPTION HEALTH

Preconception health can only be improved if we’re able to effectively measure it. Dr Danielle Schoenaker from the School of Human Development and Health has been working with the UK Government Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) to develop an annual ‘report card’ which offers a detailed picture – and shows where change needs to happen.

Through a review of national and international guidelines, recommendations and policy reports, Danielle and her team identified 66 indicators which describe and monitor population-level preconception health. These fall across 12 domains including health behaviours, physical and mental health conditions and access to health care. The report card assesses the indicators using national data sources to determine the population’s preconception needs. It can be used at national and local levels to improve patient care, inform and evaluate new interventions and enhance accountability from responsible agencies.

Having been offered a point of entry to OHID via the UK Preconception Partnership, Danielle’s dedication to establishing and maintaining trusted working relationships has helped her to start influencing the policy agenda. “It can be challenging to understand and work within the government system, as they have their own priorities and deadlines which can change at short notice,” she said. “But attending their regular meetings has allowed me to keep advocating for change one little step at a time.”

Being able to work with and advise OHID over multiple years has enabled her to develop a collaboration where both parties benefit. Her success demonstrates the value of having a researcher closely supporting a



government department, which is unique at a national level.

Danielle’s work is having an impact internationally, too. Teams from around the world are interested in deploying the report card idea in their own contexts, and Danielle is now co-leading an international alliance of around 70 people to make this a reality. This led to a connection with the World Health Organization (WHO), who asked for Danielle’s advice in the planning of a consultation meeting on reframing preconception health and care.

Danielle was invited to speak at the WHO meeting about her work on what matters most before pregnancy to members of local communities across eight low-, middle- and high-income countries. These discussions are intended to contribute to a new policy brief and future guidelines which will be instrumental in shaping the field of preconception health and care globally.

Danielle’s work has been funded by the NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre and a Faculty of Medicine Postdoctoral Career Track Award. She was awarded a prestigious NIHR Advanced Fellowship in 2023.

“It can be challenging to understand and work within the government system, as they have their own priorities and deadlines which can change at short notice. But attending their regular meetings has allowed me to keep advocating for change one little step at a time.”

Dr Danielle Schoenaker

PREPARING FOR PRECONCEPTION: ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE



“Our aim is to engage young people with a health agenda – for themselves, but also for the next generation, for the babies that they might have.”

Professor Mary Barker

Our individual journeys towards preconception health start long before we've given any thought to reproducing. In fact, says Professor of Psychology and Behavioural Science Mary Barker, interventions during adolescence (which she defines as ages 10-24) can have a lasting impact.

“Our aim is to engage young people with a health agenda – for themselves, but also for the next generation, for the babies that they might have,” said Mary. She is currently trialling an intervention that combines an education module about the science behind health messages, run by the University's LifeLab, with a day visit to a purpose-built teaching laboratory at Southampton General Hospital; along with teacher training in skills to support behaviour change; and a gamified smartphone app that encourages young people to set and achieve goals to eat better and move more.

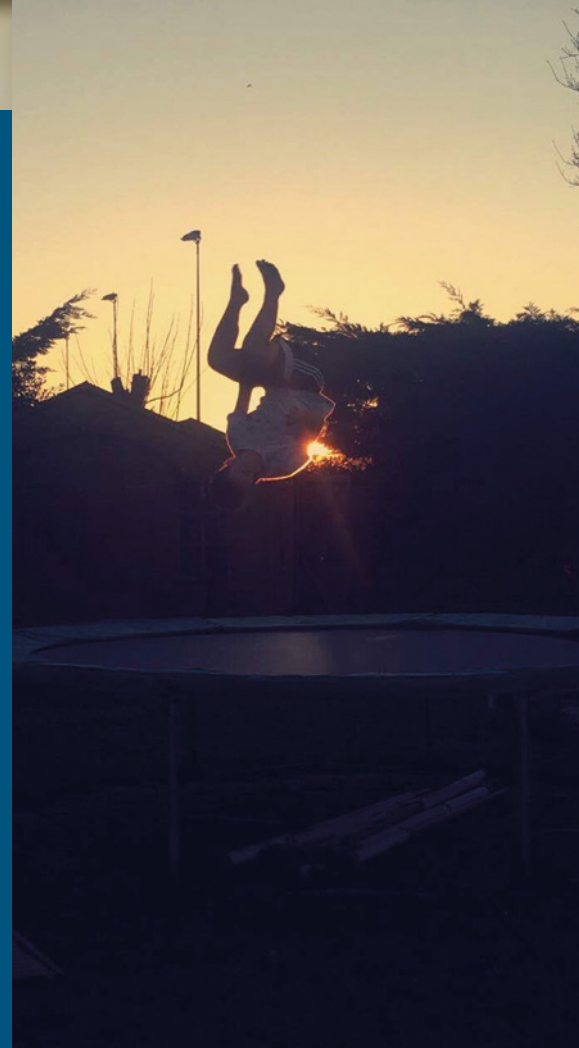
These form part of the ECh-B (Engaging Adolescents in Changing Behaviour) programme, which sets out to find low-cost, sustainable ways of promoting healthier choices in young people, for their own health and that of their future children.

“A lot of what we do is about putting young people at the centre when it comes to choices about their health,” said Mary. To this end, she has been working with others, including a team of young people, on developing a programme which trains adolescents to conduct research about health and well-being.

An additional engagement project, funded by Applied Research Collaboration Wessex, has recruited 16 young people to a ‘youth jury’ to run in mid-July this year which will hold the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) to account in their strategic plan to prioritise young people's health.

“Through this initiative we're feeding young people's opinions, views and needs into health and social care practise in the region,” said Mary. “We are beginning to have direct impact on the way health and social care services are commissioned and delivered based on the skills that we have learned and the engagement programmes we've had with young people.”

Mary's work is largely funded by an NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research.






'Millions March for Gaza' protest in New York, 2 March 2024. Credit: S. Kang

Dr Martin Luther King Jr described riot as “the language of the unheard.” The past few years have seen a global upswell in public protest, from Black Lives Matter and the Me Too movements to demonstrations worldwide in response to the conflict in Gaza.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE UNHEARD – CAN RIOTS EVER BE JUSTIFIED?



Protests in the US about the death in police custody of Freddie Gray in 2015, and Philando Castile, shot by police during a traffic stop in 2016, prompted Professor Jonathan Havercroft (Politics and International Relations) to consider whether rioting could ever be a legitimate political tactic.

His project, *‘Just and Unjust Riots: A Normative Analysis of Militant Protest’*, argues that political rioting, or violent disruptive protest, might be justified under a limited set of conditions: when a politically marginalised group is resisting an unjust form of oppression and means of ending this oppression through ordinary parliamentary means is systematically blocked by a ruling elite.

Having spent much of his career studying warfare including teaching Just War Theory – which looks at what might justify the use of armed warfare in conflicts between states – he questioned why there is no equivalent theory in political science against which to consider riots.

“If you look at some of the recent uprisings in the US, such as Black Lives Matter, I think those are cases where rioting, if not justifiable, is certainly understandable,” he said.

Just riots theory

Unlike in war, where arguments about justifiability should take place prior to its outset, riots are usually spontaneous eruptions of anger. Jonathan argues that a ‘just riot theory’ could help governments to determine an appropriate response to a riot.

“At a minimum, we need such a theory to distinguish between riots after a sports team wins and those protesting police murders of unarmed citizens,” explained Jonathan. “Treating all riots as illegitimate unfairly dismisses the grievances of the unheard, and potentially denies some of the most marginalised members of society the ability to voice their concerns.”

Developing a theory of just riots, Jonathan suggests, would allow us to make judgments about whether particular riots were justified, how the authorities should respond to the rioters’ grievances, and how individual rioters should be punished (or excused).

Jonathan has developed a set of criteria for assessing the legitimacy of political rioting, applying them to recent examples in Europe and North America. They include: ‘Are rioters contesting an unjust law?’ ‘Have rioter’s grievances been systematically blocked through legal and parliamentary means?’ And ‘Are the rioters protesting basic violations of rights?’

Continued on page 24 →

The language of the unheard – can riots ever be justified?



“Treating all riots as illegitimate unfairly dismisses the grievances of the unheard, and potentially denies some of the most marginalised members of society the ability to voice their concerns.”

Professor Jonathan Havercroft

Opposite page:
Protest in support of
Palestine in New York,
22 February 2024.
Credit: S. Kang

Supported by Public Policy Southampton (PPS), Jonathan shared his findings with police officers, parliamentarians, activists and NGOs. At the same time, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill came through the UK Parliament. Jonathan responded to a call for evidence by the Joint Committee for Human Rights.

The bill targeted specific tactics being used by the Black Lives Matter Movement and climate justice groups such as Extinction Rebellion. His submission argued that protesters were likely to develop new tactics in response to the legislation or deliberately break the law en masse, making it impossible for police to restore order.

His submission was cited and quoted in the committee’s report, although not taken up in the final bill.

“No bill is ever a final point in the political process,” commented Jonathan. “The police may try to use the new powers, but we live in a state governed by the rule of law, so I would anticipate judicial challenges. Parts of the Act may be found to be incompatible with human rights law and set aside.”

Policing Protest

Jonathan’s research also explores the tensions between authorities maintaining public order and protecting the human right of public assembly. Working with international partners, his latest project analyses public assembly rights and anti-riot technology being used in policing protests in Brazil, the US, and the UK.

Researchers began by looking at the data available on protests. Political and social scientists and human rights NGOs make extensive use of large databases which collect and code data on conflict and protest based on media reports. Database specialist Professor Anna Feigenbaum

from Bournemouth University is leading an audit of these to identify gaps and biases in the data.

Giving the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests in the US as an example, Jonathan explained: “Not much attention is paid in these databases to who uses violence. If it gets coded as violence, it is not clear if it was initiated by the police or the protesters, what kind of violence or the scale.”

While not defending the action, he points to the burning down of a Minneapolis Police Department building during the riots, describing it as “targeted” and “probably quite a different action” to opportunistic looting.

The team is developing a prototype database. They plan to share it and their findings with NGOs and the big database companies to try to reshape how these databases are used by NGOs, better understand what information NGOs need, and inform future data collection techniques.

Gathering data

The project is also gathering information from protesters in Brazil, the US and the UK, to generate a new dataset of protest.

Based in New York, Dr Susan Kang (John Jay College of Criminal Justice) is leading interviews with activists across the political spectrum to understand their motivations and experiences.

Sixty interviewees have been selected to provide a diverse sample to see if police react differently to protesters based on the subject being protested or the economic background, racial identity, or gender of protesters.

“We are interested in what it is actually possible to collect. Can we ask different questions?” said Jonathan.



Brazilian researcher Dr Kai Kenkel (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro) specialises in military policing. His work led the team to investigate how increasing use of military technologies by police affects how protests are policed.

Using tear gas in warfare is prohibited under multiple international agreements, yet domestic use remains largely unregulated. Exposure can cause blindness, chemical burns, respiratory failure, and even death, yet it and other chemical agents are regularly used in policing protests.

Using Anna Feigenbaum's expertise in 'participant data collection', the project is exploring simple systems and training for activists to catalogue the use of these technologies, and how to gather, share and analyse the data.

It is an aspect of the research that Jonathan believes could have a long-term impact by providing human rights NGOs with evidence.

"If you can identify technologies that shouldn't be used and persuade police forces to use different ones, that could result in a significant reduction in human rights violations and injuries," said Jonathan.

The team is sharing its findings with the UN Special rapporteur for Human Rights to help inform UN reports on public assembly rights and the policing of protests.

Just and Unjust Riots was made possible by a British Academy mid-Career Fellowship. The Policing Protest Project was funded by a British Academy Knowledge Frontiers grant.



'SCARED TO SPEAK TO ANYBODY': HOW BETTER COMMUNICATION COULD HELP PREVENT EVICTIONS

The loss of a home through eviction can be financially and emotionally devastating. And with the cost-of-living crisis placing new pressures on low-income households, it's a situation being faced by increasing numbers of people.

"I discovered from previous research that people actually don't tend to engage in the arrears and repossessions process even though their home is under threat," said Professor of Property Law, Policy & Practice Lisa Whitehouse. Letters pile up on doormats, court summons are ignored – "and there wasn't a lot of research explaining why." Funded by abrdn Financial Fairness Trust, Lisa set out along with Research Fellow Dr Tracey Varnava to fill in the evidence gap.

The project was designed for policy impact from the beginning, with Ministry of Justice (MoJ) representatives on the advisory board and input from legal practitioners and debt advisors. Lisa and Tracey gathered data via a survey of 139 people who had missed rent or mortgage payments, along with conducting court observations and 53 interviews with tenants, mortgage borrowers, and advice service providers. The results are shedding light on why current practises aren't working – and what can be done to help.

"Phonelines would ring and ring"

"Our first finding was that people often don't obtain advice and support when they fall into housing debt," explained Lisa. In fact, 56% of survey respondents did not or were unable to access debt advice from charities, local councils, and online providers.



"Some people were simply going to the wrong place for advice – to their landlord or mortgage lender, who obviously aren't impartial. They'd just get rote responses or demands for repayment," said Lisa. "Others were put off accessing support because of a lack of face-to-face provision. They'd find online support too hard to navigate, while phonelines were overwhelmed and would just ring and ring. Even when people did get through, they'd struggle to articulate their situation. One mortgage borrower told us that once they got into debt, they were scared to speak to anybody."

The shift to a depersonalised approach was also reported by local housing authority officers, who said remote work practices

during and since the pandemic had undermined their relationship with tenants. Covid exacerbated other difficulties too, with furlough, job loss, bereavement and ill-health all impacting tenants' and borrowers' ability to manage their finances.

Hidden factors

The study revealed other hidden factors which complicated people's experiences of housing debt. "Around 80% of people in our study reported that they had a health issue and of those, a large proportion had a mental health issue," said Lisa. "The research demonstrates that this can be cyclical: debt causes mental health issues, which leads to more debt, and so on."

"The main sense we got from the data was just the fear and anxiety that came from the threat of losing your home."

Universal Credit was shown to be more of a hindrance than a help in many situations. Some people found the system impossible to navigate, while others, seeking an advance payment, didn't realise that this functioned as a loan and accrued new debt without realising it.

One significant new finding was the role of communal heating and water charges, where social tenants are asked to pay a fixed monthly rate regardless of how much they have used. "As one of our respondents said, they can't

even put a jumper on and turn the heating off. It completely removes their control and autonomy.” Worse still, since these service charges are considered part of rent, failure to pay can lead to eviction. “As legal academics this is worrying to us. Normally you can’t be evicted for not paying your gas or electric, but communal charges bring eviction in through the back door.”

Amplifying voices

Lisa and Tracey set out their resulting policy recommendations this March at a roundtable in Westminster, which included representatives from the MoJ, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC). “Our particular recommendation is an improvement in communication, particularly from landlords and mortgage lenders,” said Lisa.

“We’ve seen evidence of threatening language and of shaming, which is just counterproductive. Our advice is that a compassionate, individualised response is much more likely to be effective. Staff need to be trained as advisors, not as rent collectors. And they need to recognise that people who



“We’ve seen evidence of threatening language and of shaming, which is just counterproductive. Our advice is that a compassionate, individualised response is much more likely to be effective. Staff need to be trained as advisors, not as rent collectors.”

Professor Lisa Whitehouse

come to them may be vulnerable, particularly because of mental health issues.”

Lisa and Tracey already work closely with Southampton City Council to develop better communication strategies for engaging with their housing tenants, and hope to work with other local authorities and social housing providers once the report has been widely distributed.

The team’s other recommended national policy interventions include installing smart meters to ensure equitable heating charges in social housing, and encouraging people in debt to attend court hearings. “The new government Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service (HLPAS) means that people are now entitled

to free debt advice or legal advice before and on the day of a possession or eviction hearing. So there needs to be a national information campaign about this free support. The evidence shows that if people show up for their hearing, they’re less likely to be evicted.”

The project report has resulted in plans for further talks with DLUHC this summer, and it has been suggested that amendments in the Universal Credit system for reporting income changes will be made, thanks to one survey participant’s input. “This report is the culmination of ten years’ worth of my work in this area,” said Lisa. “It builds on what’s come before, and the networks I’ve already developed with the Ministry of Justice and others. I hope there’s potential for quicker

policy impact now since the groundwork has already happened.”

She is particularly proud that this research brings vulnerable individuals’ stories to those in power. “Academic research can add real value to the work already being undertaken by representative groups like tenant activists. We can bring evidence together which amplifies the voice of a single person who feels powerless and disengaged, and make change thanks to their lived experience.”

abrdn Financial Fairness Trust funds research, policy work and campaigning activities to tackle financial problems and improve living standards for people on low-to-middle incomes in the UK.

MENDING BONE BIAS

A scientist who wants to understand bones may start by looking at mice in a laboratory. To keep things simple, they might select mice of a single sex – probably male, since female hormones could complicate the picture. Years down the line, however, this research could result in treatments for humans of both sexes.

Dr Claire Clarkin from the School of Biological Sciences specialises in skeletal sex differences. Men's and women's bones are different throughout life. For instance, bone loss is more common in women after menopause and the sexes are impacted differently by skeletal diseases. Collaborating with colleagues in Engineering to develop new imaging technologies, Claire has been the first to show that blood vessel differences in male and female bones are significant, since blood vessels are critical for processes like bone growth and fracture repair.

“When we're treating bone-related issues we should really be stratifying treatments and thinking about developing sex-specific therapies. However, if you've got a sex bias preclinically, for example if in development of a drug you've just tested it on male mice, then it's probably going to work better in men than it is in women. This is an important health inequality to recognise,” she said.

Beyond binaries

Of course, in the human world there are considerations which go beyond binary sex categories. Unlike laboratory mice, humans are impacted by social, political, and cultural concepts such as gender and race.

To tackle these complexities as she goes about influencing policy, Claire has teamed up with Associate Professor of Politics and Identity Dr Valentina Cardo. “I believe that politics shapes how we experience



Claire (right) and Valentina (second from right) and their team on a visit to Westminster

everyday life,” said Valentina, whose research focuses on questions of power, identity, and difference. “This project was the first time I'd seen how bias can exist at such an early stage in the scientific process.” Her role has been to help translate the biological science into the realm of the political, bringing in an intersectional lens.

“In scientific literature you'd use the term *females*, but in society we think in terms of *women*. Transgender questions further complicate that, as do race, ethnicity ... layering these intersections, you can see how preclinical sex biases can be amplified as you go into society, resulting in marginalised communities that are getting inadequate care.”

Claire's conversations with Valentina have led her to think far more broadly about the implications of preclinical research in the real world, she said. “Animal models are helpful, but you've got to be careful how you interpret that data. Valentina's perspective is making what we do in the lab more relevant and impactful.”

Complex inequalities

Claire and Valentina agree that, since the sex bias they have identified begins in preclinical research, change needs to begin there too. “When preclinical work is giving us more balanced evidence, that will lead to better-informed policy decisions,” said Claire.

They have been working with a range of journals – including the significant international



Children learning about bone structure

Journal of Bone and Mineral Research – to implement 2016 Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines into the publication process. These guidelines, designed to promote systematic reporting of sex and gender in research, include the requirement to state information about the sex of study participants in the article title and abstract. Authors must also report how they took sex and gender into account when designing the study, and disaggregate resulting data by sex.

“Tackling research policy change is comparatively easy, as scientists are open to sorting out experimental bias if funding is available,” reflected Claire. “Wider health inequalities are much more complex.” Their strategy, outlined in the Bias in Bones

policy brief (produced with Public Policy Southampton), also includes improving public health professionals’ understanding of skeletal sex differences, and prioritising the development of personalised, sex-specific medicines and therapy for bone health.

Community conversations

Engaging the public with conversations about skeletal sex differences and health disparities is another essential piece of the puzzle. Claire has also worked with Edinburgh-based artist Louise Fraser to coproduce creative tools such as the ‘bone crayon’, which helps people visualise the hidden complexities of their bones, represented in the crayon by different layers and colours. “A more creative approach engages people with complex information

“It’s important for children to understand at an early age that girls’ and boys’ bones are actually different.”

Dr Claire Clarkin

in a fun and active way, through the physical movements of drawing, exploring the bone crayon through sculptural excavation and our senses of colour, texture, and smell.”

Louise has also developed a ‘Studio lab’ – a portable creative space which can be wheeled into hospitals, schools and community events such as the University’s Science and Engineering Festival (SOTSEF). This lab allows accessible exploration of skeletal samples, 3D printed bone scans, bone crayons and large tufted models of bone cells. “It’s important for children to understand at an early age that girls’ and boys’ bones are actually different,” said Claire. “Whether it’s fracturing their own bones falling off a trampoline, or hearing about Granny and Granddad’s bones, they are a really engaged group of people to talk to.”

Developing trusted relationships with a diverse range of communities has helped yield insights into people’s lived experiences. These experiences in turn can go on to inform the research and evidence to inform health policies. “I think the truly interesting conversations happen off-campus!” said Claire. “Often as researchers we’re only talking to people in our own scientific community. But public engagement allows you to have a broader reach – and ensures that what you’re talking about is actually relevant.”

Unusually, this kind of public and policy engagement sits alongside scientific research in the work of Claire’s PhD students.

“Normally when you do a PhD you’re in a bubble,” observed Valentina. “But I think it should be compulsory to understand how your discipline impacts not only on other disciplines, but local communities and nationally at government level too.”

Dr Clarkin and Dr Cardo’s work on tackling bone bias has been supported by funders including the British Science Association Community Buddies Scheme, the University of Southampton’s Interdisciplinary Pump Priming and Public Engagement with Research funds, the Centre for the South’s New Things Fund, and the FELs Higher Education Innovation KEE Fund.

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Twenty years of respiratory research at the University of Southampton have helped to establish that air pollution can be hugely damaging to health. About 40,000 deaths in the UK are attributed to air pollution exposure each year, with connections to cancer, asthma, stroke and heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and changes linked to dementia. The costs to health services and business add up to more than £20 billion annually.

The high-profile work of Professor Stephen Holgate from the School of Clinical and Experimental Sciences has helped to push air pollution up the national agenda, informing the government's Clean Air Strategy 2019 and altering the course of a historic 2020 legal case around the link between air pollution and the death of a young child with asthma.

All of this feels particularly pertinent in a city which was last year ranked fourth-worst in the UK for air pollution, with Southampton residents reportedly inhaling the equivalent of 162 indirectly smoked cigarettes per year.

Now, a new initiative is bringing together researchers with the policymakers who can drive real change across the South.

Wide-ranging expertise

The Clean Air South network grew from a partnership between the Sustainability and Resilience Institute (SRI), Director Civic

University Sue Littlemore, the Future Towns Innovation Hub, and Wessex Health Partners (WHP). "It's a regional forum where we've invited academics, businesspeople and health practitioners to connect with decision-makers," said Professor Craig Hutton, Director of the SRI, which was established in 2023. "We're listening to the questions that decision-makers are asking and drawing together the threads of our ideas and research."

"Clean Air South is an outstanding exemplar of what it means for us to be a Civic University," said Sue, whose role is to maximise the University's positive impact on the Central South. "It fuses our research strengths with the priorities of diverse regional partners to seize a significant opportunity to transform the health and well-being of our population."

As well as bringing in perspectives from across the region, the network draws on a



Professor Craig Hutton

broad range of expertise from within the University itself. "It's impactful even just bringing together Southampton researchers to better understand each other's work and what the synergies could be," said Grace Compton, Specialist Policy Officer for the SRI. Academic perspectives from social and environmental contexts have been key additions to technical contributions from medical, data, weather, and climate experts, added Craig. "The University's unique selling point is our knowledge of how communities operate and interact, and how to fold their opinions into decision-making processes."



Sue Littlemore



Grace Compton



Christine McGrath

Culture of collaboration

“One of our real successes so far is the breadth of different local policymakers who have become involved,” said Grace. “That’s thanks to the fact that the University is already well-established within the local policy landscape – and thanks to the involvement of WHP, who have brought in their contacts from various local authority public health and environmental policy teams.”

WHP is a strategic alliance of organisations across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Dorset, including Integrated Care Boards, top

Universities (including Southampton) and leading NHS organisations. These partners, who work together to improve population health in Wessex and beyond, recognise air quality as a particular challenge in the region. “There is already so much good work happening in this space, so Clean Air South hasn’t been about starting something from scratch,” said WHP Managing Director Christine McGrath. “We’re pulling together what’s already out there and making it stronger.”

In addition to local authority representatives, WHP was able to draw on a wealth of

connections from the voluntary care and community sectors. “We were keen to have representation from across the whole of Wessex so we could ensure all of those populations were factored into the discussions,” added WHP programme co-ordinator Nina Barratt. “The openness of the conversations so far has been excellent, and everybody’s really keen to make the network successful.”

Continued on page 32 →

SENDING A MESSAGE ON WOOD BURNER POLLUTION

Dr Christina Vanderwel from the School of Engineering had been struggling to gain traction with policymakers on the issue of air pollution for years. “Now suddenly this year everything has come together, and the councils have all identified this as a priority.” This shift in political climate, she explained, was not within her control – but she is determined to make the most of it. “Clean Air South is the obvious place to reinforce these connections and make sure we do targeted work that has impact.”

Christina has been working in partnership with Southampton, Eastleigh, Winchester and New Forest councils to find out how domestic wood burning is affecting air quality. Collecting data from sensors across the region, the team looked at levels of particulate matter (fine particles which can be inhaled), nitrogen dioxide, nitrogen oxide and ozone gas, all of which can cause health issues.

They determined that air quality was worse in the evenings: when the sun sets, the atmosphere becomes more stable, and pollution in the air remains and accumulates. Pollution peaks were worse during winter, and higher on weekends than weekdays, indicating that rush-hour traffic emissions are not directly responsible. The data suggests that winter evenings, the most likely time for people to be using home wood-burners, are actually the worst times to do so.

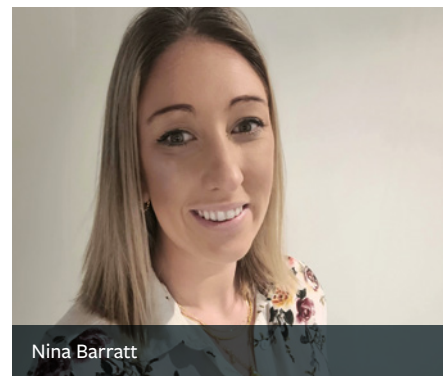


Dr Christina Vanderwel

“Another thing we’ve learned is how much air quality is a regional effect,” Christina said. “Events in Southampton, like the fire near St Mary’s stadium in March this year, can be picked up on sensors as far as Winchester. So councils working together is especially important.”

In the past, councils have received public push-back to the Burn Better campaign, which asked people to rethink their wood-burning habits. Christina is now working with Public Policy Southampton (PPS) to equip councils to communicate the evidence from her research: “The University can provide an unbiased viewpoint which helps send a clear message.”

Dr Vanderwel’s work on this project has been funded by her UKRI Future Leaders fellowship. Research interns were funded by the Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon Comfort, and a further internship is being supported by the PPS New Things fund.



Nina Barratt

Continued from page 31

According to Christine, the willingness of Clean Air South’s participants to work together indicates a shift towards a culture of collaboration. “In the not-too-distant past, organisations’ structures and systems were geared towards competition. But Covid helped illustrate that collaboration achieves more, faster. The evidence shows that working together results in higher quality research and innovation, and that’s now reflected in what funders are looking for.”

Focusing conversations

Clean Air South’s inaugural workshop in January this year used the DPSIR (drivers, pressures, states, impacts and responses) framework to focus conversations, explained SRI Collaboration Manager Jon Lawn, who co-ordinated the day.

Drivers are the human and natural factors driving a change in an environment; *pressures* are the stresses that these cause; *states* are the resulting conditions of the environment, and *impacts* are the biological, economic, and social effects. “At the end we collated common themes and the research questions to be developed for future funding bids,” explained Jon.

“We were able to identify that probably a really underserved area of the research was around social context and vulnerability,” said Craig. “How factors like gender, age and income might affect your exposure to pollution – and how we need to be aware when we’re mapping pollution that not everyone is equally impacted.” Taking these factors into account could lead to a much more nuanced policy approach.

Proposed ‘responses’ emerging from the session included a project on the health



Jon Lawn

benefits of transitioning to net zero, and another around extreme temperatures and access to blue and green spaces. These bids and others will now be developed by the network in preparation for future funding calls, with Clean Air South's next workshop planned for this summer.

Bold action

"Those who cause the majority of air pollution are not necessarily those who have to live with the consequences of it," said Grace. "One of our goals is to support policymakers to enact stronger policies or drivers for behaviour change that can help protect the most affected or support them to adapt and respond."

Air pollution is a particularly challenging area in which to enact change due to the complexity of different drivers and how they interact. Air quality, of course, doesn't respect local authority boundaries, and it can be hard to determine who is responsible for what. The network, said Grace, will help to make action "more coordinated and collaborative."

"We hope that, as a result of the research partnerships formed through Clean Air South, local authorities can be bolder because they've got the evidence that taking bold action will have a strong positive impact."

If you are from an organisation in the Wessex region with interest or expertise in air quality, or an individual with lived experience of air pollution's effects, the Clean Air South Network would love to hear from you.

Contact enquiries@wessexhp.org.uk.

 **University of Southampton staff can contact**
sri@soton.ac.uk to find out more



WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL: ACHIEVING STRATEGIC AIMS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

The Southeast of England is one of the most populous areas of the country, with human activity producing high levels of pollutants. Among their many other responsibilities, local councils are charged by central government with monitoring and improving pollution levels.

"We are developing an air quality strategy to set out what actions we propose to take up to 2030," said David Ingram, Service Lead for Public Protection at Winchester City Council (WCC). "So we're in the process of learning which actions will help affect positive improvements in air quality." Strategies include reducing traffic flows through pollution hotspots, the adoption of smoke control areas, and encouraging people to use sustainable transport options.

With limited time and budget for the council to focus on any one single issue, partnerships like Clean Air South are key to achieving strategic aims, said David. "I believe that there is a huge opportunity for local authorities and university establishments to work together to achieve collective benefit. There's a huge resource within the university sector to assist us and in turn we can assist in developing research projects." David's team have worked with Dr Christina Vanderwel (see opposite page) to carry out research around the impact of domestic wood burning, with the University offering WCC low-cost options for air quality monitoring as well as "the intellectual power to harvest and analyse that data".



David Ingram

An important piece of the puzzle is shifting opinion and behaviour within the local community; Christina's project is helping WCC to send out a data-driven message that will have a real impact. "Air quality is an emotive subject, with strong feelings on all sides. We can't adopt a blame culture – we have to bring everybody with us, and the University's credibility helps with that."

David sees the potential of the Clean Air South network to facilitate further research into effective clean air strategy, as well as in the area of public engagement specifically. "Academic partnerships could help us investigate how we best engage with our communities, and what messaging is likely to affect the greatest level of benefit."

Professor Shelley Cobb's *Calling the Shots* project revealed entrenched discrimination and marginalisation of women in the British film industry and resulted in industry bodies taking action to address gender and ethnic balance. But concerns are growing that recent global crises have diverted attention from these issues and halted progress since the project concluded.

ARE MEN STILL CALLING THE SHOTS IN BRITISH CINEMA?

Calling the Shots, which concluded in 2018, coincided with increased global focus on gender equality and diversity which peaked with the Me Too and Black Lives Matter movements in the late 2010s. With the film industry under scrutiny, the project set out to investigate what was distinctive about the work of women in British cinema and what obstacles they faced.

Shelley, together with Professor Linda Ruth Williams (now at the University of Exeter), and Dr Natalie Wreyford (now at Kings College London), analysed data from British films from 2003- 2015. They recorded the number of women in six key 'behind the scenes' roles on each film: director, writer, cinematographer, editor, producer and executive producer.

The team also interviewed 59 women filmmakers, including directors Amma Asante (*Belle*), Gurinder Chadha (*Bend It Like Beckham*), and producer Sarah Curtis (*Mrs Brown; Run, Fatboy, Run; The Awakening*).

Structural issues

Their analysis showed that across 3,452 films in production in the UK in that period, only 14 per cent of all directors and seven per cent of all cinematographers were women. Furthermore, just one per cent of all directors and 0.3 per cent of cinematographers were women of colour.

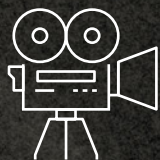
The fact that 50 per cent of filmmaking students in the UK are women makes these findings all the more striking. "Something happens between training and getting into the industry," said Shelley.

Both the data and interviews pointed to structural issues within the film industry which reflect those of wider society. The industry's 'gig economy' is typified by insecurity of income, absence of worker protections, unsociable hours, and lack of childcare provision, all of which make maintaining a family life challenging.

Despite the widespread belief that the industry is a meritocracy, hiring decisions are often buttressed by what Shelley terms 'homophily', or the tendency of people to bond with others who are like them. In a financially risky business, she explained, one of the few ways of reducing risk is to stick with something similar to what has been successful before – whether that is making another costume drama or hiring the same type of director.

In an industry dominated by white men, those white men will tend to hire other white men or, if they are going to hire women, they will hire white women. "There is risk aversion in terms of what you make, and also in who you get to make it," commented Shelley.

Continued on page 36 →



14%

Calling the Shots found that just 14 per cent of all directors and seven per cent of all cinematographers were women.

Are men still calling the shots in British cinema?



“Authority in our culture is very masculinised.”

Professor Shelley Cobb

“Authority in our culture is very masculinised. We assume men or very masculine people take on roles of authority, and that is particularly true in the way directors are construed. Think of Scorsese, Tarantino, Ken Loach, or Kenneth Branagh – they all fit our idea of what authority looks like.”

“Women, and particularly women of colour, do not fit our image of what counts as authority.”

Despite previous efforts to address the problem, such as training or shadowing schemes, the data showed there was no long-term improvement in gender equality in British cinema. The problem, said Shelley, is that “you’re trying to fix the people who are constantly being told to fix themselves. What you are not doing is intervening with the people who make the decisions or with the structures of decision-making.”

Influencing the industry

The team spoke about their findings at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, the British Film Institute (BFI), on BBC Radio 4 Woman’s Hour and at various UK universities. In May 2018 they presented at the 71st Cannes Film Festival as well as hosting the Women’s Film and Television History Network fourth biennial conference. Their data has been

quoted frequently in media coverage of inequality in the film industry. The research is publicly available on the Calling the Shots website.

Calling the Shots gave the BFI (a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK’s lead organisation for film and the moving image) the evidence it needed to take action. The organisation decided to adopt new gender and diversity targets for directors, writers and producers of films supported by their Film Fund.

These targets included:

- a 50-50 gender balance in supported filmmakers
- 20% target for minority ethnic filmmakers
- 9% target for LGBTQ-identifying filmmakers
- 7% target for filmmakers with a disability.

The BFI has since extended their targets to include class and caregivers.

What has changed?

Reflecting on the Calling the Shots research today, Shelley said, “The BFI is meeting and sometimes exceeding its targets, and it continues to set an example.” Before adopting these targets, the BFI had already instituted diversity standards for projects in receipt of BFI Funding, which were taken up by BAFTA and the American Academy.

However, unlike Calling the Shots, which analysed both gender and ethnicity across multiple roles, the BFI’s diversity standards and the targets policy fail to take account of intersectionality. This could result in an incomplete picture of how individuals may be doubly marginalised on the basis of gender and ethnicity, although the BFI is working to improve this.

Without commissioning films and overseeing productions from beginning to end, and with no leverage with the UK independent sector, international co-productions, or American films that use British industry facilities, there are limits to what the BFI can achieve.

Change across the wider British film industry remains incremental at best. The BFI’s annual yearbook, which includes statistics for all British films, shows that women still only make up around 30% of people in director and writer roles.

“I am concerned that we are in a moment where the attention has come off gender equality and diversity,” said Shelley. “For structural, long-lasting change we need action on multiple fronts.”

Addressing sexual, racial, and disability-related harassment and the issues around the industry’s gig economy are likely to require change at societal and government level. But the film industry can and should do more to change its culture, which assumes that filmmaking requires “late nights and early mornings, where you never get a break until the film is over.”

Shelley is determined to use the Calling the Shots findings to shift the dial. The project continues to promote discussions and further research, including outside the UK. She plans to use the data and the interviews to support filmmaking teachers in encouraging students to “pay attention to these things from the beginning.”

In influencing industry training Shelley hopes that Calling the Shots can have a lasting impact on the film industry, helping to alter the attitudes of the people who will be commissioning films and choosing directors and producers in the future.

For more information about Calling the Shots visit the project website:

www.callingtheshots138740090.wordpress.com

The project was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and assisted by project partners the BFI, Broadcasting Entertainment Communications and Theatre Union (BECTU), Women in Film & TV (UK), Harbour Lights Cinema and the Shetland Film Festival.

“I am concerned that we are in a moment where the attention has come off gender equality and diversity.”

Professor Shelley Cobb

CALLING THE SHOTS KEY FINDINGS

- across 3,452 UK films in production between 2003 and 2015, just 14% of directors and 7% of cinematographers were women.
- just 1% of all directors and 0.3% of cinematographers were women of colour.
- overall inclusion of women in UK films was worse than in the top 250 films released in the USA.
- women made up 24% of directors on co-productions with other countries, but just 11% on domestic UK films.
- a quarter of the 203 British films in production in 2015 had no women in any of the six key production roles (director, writer, producer, executive producer, cinematographer, and editor).

EXPLORING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN SPANISH CINEMA

In her new book, *Spanish Film Policies and Gender* (Routledge 2024), Dr Jara Fernandez-Meneses (Film Studies) examines how government policies enacted between 1980 and 2010 have affected gender equality in the Spanish film industry.

“Gender inequality has been a key characteristic of the Spanish film industry throughout those 30 years,” said Jara.

Her research found that, like film industries across the Western world, Spanish cinema is organised around gender. Women have a major presence in roles such as hairdressing, make-up and wardrobe, but are largely absent in roles like director of photography.

“I also looked at the continuity of women working in the industry,” Jara explained, “and I found that many of them made one or two films, but fewer were able to establish lasting careers.”

In 2007 Spain became one of very few countries to pass legislation requiring affirmative action to increase the number of women in the film industry, as part of a wider law aimed at tackling gender inequality across Spanish society. So, has this changed things?

“During the ‘80s and ‘90s gender equality was not even discussed, by policymakers or film professionals,” said Jara. Things have improved since 2007 but “you find a lot of producers incorporating women just in order to access state funding.”

Positions of power such as director are still dominated by men and roles remain heavily gendered. “The imbalance is still there,” commented Jara. “it’s getting better, but it’s not solved.”

Jara is working with Professor Shelley Cobb on *Calling the Shots: gender equality in the film industry, a transnational approach*, which explores what the Spanish and British film industries might learn from each other.

They recently presented their data at the BFI in London and the Spanish Film Academy in Madrid, and took part in public round table discussions. The events examined the differences in the political and institutional levers for achieving equality; what has been implemented and what has been achieved; and how differing political contexts demand specific types of actions and activism.

‘Calling the Shots: gender inequality in the film industry, a transnational approach’, is funded by the AHRC Impact Acceleration Account.



“I also looked at the continuity of women working in the industry, and I found that many of them made one or two films, but fewer were able to establish lasting careers.”

Dr Jara Fernandez-Meneses

PROMPTING HEALTHIER CHOICES

Obesity rates in the UK have increased steadily since the 1990s, despite successive governments' efforts to tackle the problem. A Southampton-led study is exploring whether the environment in which we shop could hold the key to unlocking this growing problem.

According to the Health Survey for England 2021, 26% of adults in England are now obese and a further 38% are overweight. One in ten 4- and 5-year-olds are living with obesity, rising to 23.4% for 10 to 11-year-olds (National Child Measurement Programme 2021/22). Annually, obesity-related illnesses cost the NHS in England around £6.1billion (Department of Health and Social Care, 2019).

The issue receives widespread media attention, and most of us are aware of high-profile public health campaigns to encourage us to eat better. So why do we make the food choices we make? And can people be supported to make better choices?

The University of Southampton's WRAPPED study is exploring these questions and sharing findings with the policymakers trying to change things.

Healthier shopping environments

The WRAPPED study – Women's Responses to Adjusted Product Placement and its Effects on Diet – is led by Professor Christina Vogel (Adjunct Professor of Food Policy at the University of Southampton, and Professor of Food Policy at City, University of London), and Professor Janis Baird (Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, University of Southampton). The project, funded by the NIHR Public Health Research Programme, has evaluated the impact of product placement in supermarkets on diets and product sales.

Christina's earlier research looked at the environmental determinants that affect food purchasing decisions by women, who still do the majority of household food shopping in the UK. She considered factors such as the children's centre they visit, the supermarkets they use, and the shops and takeaways they



“Our pilot showed that removing confectionery from checkouts and the end of aisles, and placing an expanded fruit and vegetable section near store entrances, prompts customers to make healthier choices.”

Professor Christina Vogel

pass daily. Her research showed that the in-store environment where women did their main shop had the strongest influence on their choices, particularly for women from disadvantaged backgrounds with lower educational attainment levels.

For the WRAPPED study, which began in 2016, researchers collaborated on an in-store pilot study with a well-known discount supermarket chain used regularly by lower income families. In three stores product placement was altered to create a healthier

store layout. Another three stores with unchanged layouts were used as a control. Researchers monitored store sales as well as customers' purchasing and dietary patterns.

“Our pilot showed that removing confectionery from checkouts and the end of aisles opposite, as well as placing an expanded fruit and vegetable section near store entrances, prompts customers to make healthier food purchases,” explained Christina.

Confectionery sales decreased by approximately 1,500 portions per week in each store with the altered layout, while weekly fruit and vegetable sales increased by around 10,000 portions per store.

The largest in-store trial to date

With this evidence the WRAPPED team convinced the retail chain to support what became the largest supermarket trial to date to assess the health impact of product placement. The 36-store trial focused on the fruit and vegetable element of the study. In 18 stores an expanded produce section was moved to the front. The other 18 stores remained the same as a control.

The research team surveyed more than 500 women who regularly shopped at one of the study stores, once before the layout changed in the intervention stores and three times afterwards. Women answered questions about the food they and their children ate, and their views on the supermarket environment. The women were also asked to share the food purchasing information from their loyalty cards, and the supermarket chain provided store sales data during the study period.

The team looked for differences in food purchasing patterns between the women



shopping at stores with the healthier layout and those using the unchanged stores.

Although the study's findings are not yet published, Christina commented, "We have seen some interesting results that could help inform the refinement of existing regulations. We are looking forward to sharing our findings when they have been peer-reviewed."

Policy-relevant research

The pilot study results, and earlier research, formed part of the evidence that encouraged the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to introduce The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021. The legislation restricts the promotion of high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) foods in 'prominent locations' such as store entrances or checkouts.

WRAPPED researchers were interested in how this legislation was perceived. They interviewed 108 stakeholders, including retailers, manufacturers, suppliers, health advocates such as NGOs, local government policymakers, consumers, and council enforcement officers.

The regulations were "welcomed as a good first step," said Christina, but there were "concerns about inconsistent implementation and enforcement."

Soon after they were introduced, compliance was found to be high among supermarkets, but less so among home variety stores (stocking a mix of discount homewares and food). These are heavily used by low-income families and this difference risks exacerbating existing health inequalities, as well as being commercially unfair.

Local authority trading standards and environmental health teams were given the job

of ensuring compliance with the regulations, but the government only provided just over £100,000 between 317 councils to resource enforcement. Council teams often lack the capacity and the specialist training needed. Anecdotal evidence suggests that compliance is now falling more widely, due to commercial pressures and limited enforcement.

The findings have been fed back to the DHSC, and Christina gave evidence on the regulations to the House of Lords Select Committee on Food, Obesity and the Environment in March 2024.

The promotions component of the 2021 legislation, addressing things like BOGOF offers ('buy one, get one free'), is yet to be brought in. A ban on advertising HFSS foods on television before 9pm and online has also been delayed.

Support to sell healthier products

Three-quarters of convenience stores are not covered by the new legislation, despite being relied upon by many low-income families. WRAPPED researchers are now investigating alternative policies for this sector in a new NIHR Public Health Research Programme-funded project, called ECON.

"Smaller stores and independent takeaways need support to promote and sell healthier products, whether through tax arrangements or subsidies," explained Christina, "and work is needed with the supply chain to ensure that healthier products are available for them to stock."

New rules for Scotland

The team has also been in conversation with Public Health Scotland about their plans for evaluation of new food promotion and placement legislation there.

The draft regulations close a number of the loopholes in the English rules, including one of the most exploited: the use of mobile bin or pallet displays to sell HFSS products. Unlike in England, all 'out-of-home' food outlets, such as restaurants, takeaways, coffee shops and vending machines, will need to comply. Less positively, the new legislation looks unlikely to be accompanied by sufficient resources for enforcement.

Where next for food policy?

The results of the WRAPPED study pilot suggest that bans on prominent placement of HFSS foods across retail outlets could be beneficial for population diet.

The team's wider research is helping to understand the impact of policy on consumers, producers and retailers.

"I hope that the new government brings in the promotions and advertising elements in England soon," Christina concluded. "And I would like to see proper resourcing and training for enforcement, and refinement of the legislation to close loopholes and allow for future additions such as the requirement for a fresh produce section near store entrances."

The WRAPPED study is conducted by the MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit at the University of Southampton and funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR).

Find out more:

<https://www.mrc.soton.ac.uk/cohorts/wrapped-womens-responses-to-adjusted-product-placement-and-its-effects-on-diet>

ENRICHING DECISION-MAKING WITH EVIDENCE



Established in 2023, the Centre for the South (CftS) is a policy institute working within the University of Southampton. It was founded to develop accessible and evidence-based policy insights, in partnership with local authorities and the private and voluntary sectors.



“Our aim with everything we do is to build networks around issues of importance to the region, connect different groups together and give people access to the evidence.”

Hannah Dagleish

The CftS draws on the University’s research expertise to tackle local challenges and find pragmatic solutions for the Central South, as a key part of the University’s commitment to being a civic partner for the region.

Stakeholder research, including interviews with local authority, private and voluntary sector leaders, helped CftS establish six priorities for the Central South:

- Skills, lifelong learning, and work
- Identity and pride in place
- Access to nature, to green and blue spaces
- Infrastructures and net zero
- Mental health and health inequalities
- Power structures and devolution

The CftS’s small team of policy and knowledge exchange professionals is led by co-directors Dianna Smith (Associate Professor in Geography), Gareth Giles (Head of Public Policy Southampton) and John Boswell (Professor of Politics).

The Centre’s work brings academics and their research findings closer to community leaders and policymakers through collaborative projects, events, webinars and insight papers.

Funding support

The New Things Fund is an internally awarded funding programme, shared with Public Policy Southampton, designed to stimulate place-based policy engagement in the region. CftS’s New Things Fund call requires project proposals to align with at least one of CftS’s six priorities and involve an external policy partner.

“We have supported ten diverse projects this year,” said CftS Knowledge Exchange Fellow Hannah Dagleish, “from mapping the food system in Southampton with public health specialists from Southampton City Council, to co-producing guidance for supporting looked-after young people as they move towards independence, with charity Step by Step, and collaborating with Swim the Wight CIC to help protect and monitor the Isle of Wight’s coastal waters while improving access.”

Each of the projects will produce a policy brief which can have recommendations applicable regionally, nationally and even internationally.

Additional funding has enabled CftS to support Southampton Voluntary Services in offering workshops, including one on co-



Left to right: Hannah Dalgliesh, Ruby Fox, John Boswell, Dianna Smith, Gareth Giles, Pooja Pandey

production with local communities. It has also supported the Southampton Climate Action Network to run events on community wealth building and ‘doughnut economics’ (a visual framework for sustainable development), which led to the development of a short documentary, *Local is the New Global*.

Insights and webinars

Insight papers by University of Southampton experts will provide policy audiences with access to the latest research evidence in each of the CftS’s six priority themes.


In the first, published in May, Professor John Boswell looks at devolution for the Central South, exploring the sticking points encountered in more than 10 years of trying to secure a devolution deal for the region, and how progress might be made. The second insight paper, by Professor Dianna Smith, will focus on health inequalities.

Health and mental health inequalities are also the focus of a monthly CftS webinar series. The panel discussions feature subject specialists from the University and partner organisations including the NHS and Solent Mind. Sessions so far have looked at addressing health disparities, access to mental health support, and community engagement for health equity, attracting

audiences from local authorities, community groups, the NHS and health organisations.

Webinars are planned for the CftS’s other priority areas, with the aim of prompting discussion, building networks, and providing access to the latest research and expertise.

“Our aim with everything we do is to build networks around issues of importance to the region, connect different groups together and give people access to the evidence,” explained Hannah.

 **For more information on the Centre for the South, visit their website:**
www.centreforthesouth.co.uk

Or sign up to the CftS newsletter:

<https://centreforthesouth.us22.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f7e4b77321fd931b51a284bae&id=c32e2f2a3a>

You can read Professor John Boswell’s insight paper, *Shaping a Devolution Deal for the Central South*, here:

www.centreforthesouth.co.uk/activities/shaping-a-devolution-deal-for-the-central-south-insight-paper

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR ROOFTOPS

Solar energy has a vital role to play in replacing increasingly expensive fossil fuels and helping us reach net zero (when carbon dioxide is no longer added to the atmosphere faster than it is absorbed). Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels convert the sun's energy into electricity, which is either used locally or exported to the electricity network.

With the pressing need to expand renewable energy, large-scale energy producers want to cover the biggest possible area with solar panels, at the lowest possible cost. This is resulting in increasing numbers of planning applications for 'solar farms' on green fields.

Local communities often oppose these installations on the grounds that they intrude on the landscape and can result in the loss of productive farmland. So where should new solar panels go?

Funding from the Centre for the South's New Things Fund has enabled Dr Luke Blunden

and Ellis Ridett of the University's Energy and Climate Change Division to respond to countryside charity CPRE's request for help in assessing the potential of siting solar panels on rooftops across Hampshire and Sussex.

"We are combining data generated by LIDAR, a 3D mapping technology, with software which estimates how much solar radiation is falling on individual surfaces at any hour of the year, taking into account shading from other buildings or trees," explained Luke. "This allows us to produce a detailed estimate of the total potential capacity for rooftop solar energy generation across each planning area."

CPRE aims to use the resulting solar infrastructure map to show councillors, planners and other policymakers how much scope there is for rooftop solar and encourage policy change to enable large-scale installation.

The charity also hopes to use the mapping with communities to identify 'quick win' projects with real potential – to help residents, businesses, schools and others get solar onto their own roofs, cutting carbon pollution and energy bills.

Policy engagement

The University of Southampton and CPRE hosted a *Rooftop Solar Conference* on 14 June to introduce around 60 policymakers, planners, climate community groups, and the solar industry, to the huge potential of rooftop solar and the solar infrastructure mapping capabilities.

Opened by Dr Alan Whitehead, MP for Southampton Test until he retired in May 2024, the event encouraged decision-makers to think about the policy and other changes that are needed to deliver large-scale rooftop solar installation.



"We are combining data generated by LIDAR, a 3D mapping technology, with software which estimates how much solar radiation is falling on individual surfaces at any hour of the year, taking into account shading from other buildings or trees."

Dr Luke Blunden

 **Find out more:**
www.centreforthesouth.co.uk/activities/rooftop-renewables



RESEARCH AWARD HIGHLIGHTS

FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dr Nicholas Karn; School of Humanities

The Production of Forgery at Westminster Abbey, 1000-1150
British Academy; £1,520 over 12 months

Dr David Cox; School of Humanities

Conjuring Race: Perceptions of Black Magic in Nineteenth-Century America
British Academy; £126,597 over 12 months

Dr Sami Everett; Winchester School of Art

Jewish-Muslim Entanglements in Europe & the Mediterranean
British Council; £9,750 over 9 months

Dr Olu Jenzen; Winchester School of Art

Creativity, Community & Resilience
AHRC; £478,833 over 24 months

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Prof Dame Wendy Hall; School of Electronics and Computer Science

AI for Productive Research & Innovation in eElectronics (APRIL) Hub
EPSRC; £64,074 over 60 months

Prof Dame Wendy Hall; School of Electronics and Computer Science

Just Outcomes: How can AI make people's lives better
Nuffield Foundation; £36,070 over 6 months

Prof S P Beeby; School of Electronics and Computer Science

Sustainable Textile Electronics
UKRI (Research England) – EU Horizon guarantee scheme; £382,063 over 48 months

Dr James Gates; Optoelectronics Research Centre

Photonic Ultra-high-Q REsonators
EPSRC; £1,275,038 over 48 months

Prof Simon Hettrick; School of Electronics and Computer Science

Software Sustainability Institute Phase 4
AHRC; £1,896,102 over 48 months, part of £7.7m awarded to the Software Sustainability Institute Phase 4.

Dr Stuart Middleton; School of Electronics and Computer Science

Data Rescue Africa (DR-Africa)
Met Office; £263,207 over 36 months

Prof Stefano Moretti; School of Physics and Astronomy

Stephen Hawking Fellowship – Precision, novelty, and theoretical uncertainties in physics beyond the Standard Model
EPSRC; £493,144 over 36 months

Dr Lindsay-Marie Armstrong; School of Engineering

IDRIC Bridging 12 months
EPSRC; £13,083 over 12 months

Dr Monica Ratoi; School of Engineering

Lubrication by Lamellar Liquid Crystals – An in-situ investigation of thin films with Brewster Angle microscopy technology
EPSRC; £641,587 over 36 months

Prof Jordan Cheer; School of Engineering

BAE Systems/RAEng Research Chair in Smart Acoustic Control Technologies
Royal Academy of Engineering; £2,150,251 over 60 months

Prof Graham Reed; Optoelectronics Research Centre

The CORNERSTONE Photonics Innovation Centre (C-PIC)
EPSRC; £11,782,397 over 60 months

Dr Yongqiang Liu; School of Engineering

Wastewater ammonium recovery by a novel carrier-modified nanostructured layered sodium vanadosilicate adsorbent and micromechanism
Royal Society; £12,000 over 24 months

Dr Minkwan Kim; School of Engineering

Improvement of Cube-de-ALPS ignition system and printing/manufacturing methods
European Space Agency; £153,846 over 9 months

Dr Adrian Nightingale; School of Engineering

Next generation passive sampling for monitoring organic contaminants in water
Natural Environment Research Council (NERC); £360,848 over 24 months

Prof Poshak Gandhi; School of Physics and Astronomy

State-of-the-art constraints on rapid time-domain accretion physics with JWST
Royal Society; £108,728 over 9 months

Prof Sebastian Hoenig; School of Physics and Astronomy

The SMBH mass factory
European Commission; £2,098,602 over 60 months

Dr Stephanie Gauthier; School of Engineering

Liveable cities: Knowledge exchange on assessing the impact of climate
resilience interventions on urban climate and public health
Worldwide Universities Network; £9,950 over 12 months

Miss Erika Cortese; School of Physics and Astronomy

New generation Cavity QED: a tool for sculpting quantum states
EPSRC Stephen Hawking Postdoctoral Fellowship;
£347,768 over 36 months

Dr Mehdi Kashani; School of Engineering

Horizon Europe – MSCA-PF-2023- DISC: Demountable, Resilient, and Sustainable
Construction Technology for Next-Generation Biologically Inspired Buildings
UKRI (Research England) – EU Horizon guarantee Scheme;
£206,086 over 24 months

Dr Imogen Gingell; School of Physics and Astronomy

Energy Partition and Non-Stationarity At Collisionless Shocks In The Next Era Of
Multi-point Space Physics
Royal Society; £674,947 over 36 months

**Dr Jennifer Williams and Prof Gopal Ramchurn; School of Electronics
and Computer Science**

National Edge AI Hub for Real Data: Edge Intelligence for Cyber-disturbances
and Data Quality
EPSRC; £505,058 over 60 months

Dr Ysobel Baker; School of Chemistry

Can controlling backbone stereochemistry enhance therapeutic morpholino
oligonucleotides?
Royal Society; £68,300 over 18 months

Dr Jie Yuan; School of Engineering

Multi-functional nonlinear tuned vibration energy harvester for intelligent
rotating systems
Royal Society; £9,008 over 21 months

Dr Jie Yuan; School of Engineering

Multi-scale friction interface design for resilient and sustainable dynamical
systems
Royal Academy of Engineering; £54,622 over 12 months

Dr Chengchen Zhang; School of Electronics and Computer Science

Deciphering the nuclease activity of gallium nanoparticles (DNA-GUN)
Royal Society; £69,965 over 18 months

Dr Richard Knighton; School of Chemistry

Molecular and Supramolecular d-f Upconverting Phosphors
Royal Society; £64,902 over 18 months

Dr Samantha Cockings; School of Geography and Environmental Science

Provision of population datasets and tools to assist population level exposure
estimates for radiation, chemical and environmental hazards
UK Health Security Agency; £19,632 over 1 month

Dr Samantha Cockings; School of Geography and Environmental Science

ONS Geospatial Research
Office For National Statistics; £39,840 over 3 months

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Dr Michelle Myall; School of Health Sciences

Promoting uptake of the DALLI toolkit: maximising impact to enhance the
identification and response to domestic abuse for people living with a life-
limiting illness
Marie Curie Impact Funding Scheme; £9,911 over 12 months

Dr Michelle Myall; School of Health Sciences

“Making the invisible visible”: identifying and responding to carers who
experience domestic abuse from end of life care recipients
Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme; £149,508 over 24 months

Dr Hanna Kovshoff; School of Psychology

Why are so many autistic girls absent from mainstream secondary school?
Knowledge co-production with autistic girls and their families
British Academy; £9,969 over 18 months

**Prof Phil Williamson and Professor Amrit Mudher; School of Biological
Sciences**

Pushing the Limits of High-Field Solid-State NMR Technology: Enhancing
Applications to Advanced Materials, the Life Sciences and Pharmaceuticals
EPSRC; £18,646 over 36 months

Dr Ivo Tews; School of Biological Sciences

New horizons in computational structural biology with CCP4: multiple states,
models and methods, use of AI and validation
BBSRC; £219,431 over 48 months, as part of a £1.56M collective grant award

Prof Anne-Sophie Darlington; School of Health Sciences

Chloe's Card
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust; £13,429 over 18 months

Prof Lynn Calman; School of Health Sciences

KETO-LUNG: assessing the impact of the adoption of a continuous ketogenic
diet on the efficacy of combination chemo-immunotherapy using paclitaxel/
carboplatin/pembrolizumab in advanced squamous cell cancer of the lung
Cancer Research UK; £27,264 over 36 months, part of a total award of
£685,000 with the University of Birmingham.

Dr Stephanie Barker; School of Psychology

The Homeless Period: Understanding experiences and how to menstruate while
homeless with dignity
British Academy; £9,915 over 6 months

Dr Kate Lippiett and Prof Mari Carmen Portillo; School of Health Sciences

Empowering general practice nurses to provide person-centred care for
patients living with chronic respiratory disease
The Burdett Trust for Nursing; £57,115 over 12 months

Prof Mari Carmen Portillo and Dr Beth Clark; School of Health Sciences

Hampshire Isle of Wight ICB WASP and CVD prevention
Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB; £69,827 over 18 months

Dr Yihua Wang; School of Biological Sciences

Establishment of a UK–China collaborative network of scientists and clinicians
working on radiation-induced lung fibrosis
Royal Society; £11,943 over 24 months

Dr Salah Elias; School of Biological Sciences

Multi-Parameter Flow Cytometry for Deep Molecular Phenotyping of Cell State
Across the Life Course
BBSRC; £670,638 over 12 months

Dr Rhiannon Joslin; School of Health Sciences

Person-centred physiotherapy for young people experiencing musculoskeletal
pain
Medical Research Foundation; £147,347 over 24 months

Research award highlights

Prof Max Crispin; School of Biological Sciences

Deep Learning-base Protein Design of HIV-1 Env GP 120 Core Immunogens for CD4 Binding Site Germline Targeting

National Institutes of Health – USA; £69,723 over 24 months

Dr Christopher Tomsett; School of Geography and Environmental Science

Investigating the scalability of remotely sensed traits-based approaches to monitor vegetation within the river corridor.

British Society for Geomorphology; £3,902 over 12 months

Dr Gordon Inglis; School of Ocean and Earth Science

Is rock organic carbon oxidation a missing driver of geological climate change?

Royal Society; £659,273 over 36 months

Dr Emily Brookes; School of Biological Sciences

Uncovering the epigenetic mechanisms shaping the brain after early life adversity

The Academy of Medical Sciences; £124,977 over 24 months

Dr Rishika Mukhopadhyay and Dr Jen Dickinson; School of Geography and Environmental Science

Heritage revival through diaspora engagement: India-UK diasporic worlding practice

British Academy; £282,795 over 24 months

Dr Rishika Mukhopadhyay; School of Geography and Environmental Science

Heritage-Border Complexes and the Future of Eurasia

Organised by: Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU). Funded by: Cultural Heritage Administration, Republic of Korea; £7,963 over 6 months

Dr Lauren Nadler; School of Ocean and Earth Science

Physiological advantages of fish schooling

Royal Society; £69,471 over 18 months

Dr Guido Maiello; School of Psychology

Optimization and Application of Continuous Psychophysics for Rapid Assessment of Clinical Populations – A Pilot Study in Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Fight for Sight; £14,953 over 12 months

Dr Swati Midha; School of Biological Sciences

Exploitation of humanised in vitro models towards the stratification of mechanical loading in female Osteoarthritis

Wessex Medical Research; £19,981 over 24 months

Dr Han Wang; School of Geography and Environmental Science

Tackling planning delays and housing under-supply across England: Can inter-municipal cooperation between local planning authorities help?

UKRI Creating Opportunities Evaluation Development Fund; £109,171 over 12 months

Dr Luis Yanez Guerra; School of Biological Sciences

PepTides, tracing the evolution of neurotransmission in using corals as a model

Royal Society; £56,892 over 18 months

Dr Elia Apostolopoulou; School of Geography and Environmental Science

Prefigure: Prototypes for addressing the housing-energy-nexus

UKRI (Research England) – EU Horizon guarantee Scheme; £188,814 over 36 months

Dr Veronica Zamora-Gutierrez; School of Biological Sciences

Differentiation and genetic diversity of pitaya cultivars (*Stenocereus queretaroensis*): implications for food security and agricultural management

British Cactus and Succulent Society; £2,000 over 12 months

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Prof Keith Godfrey; Human Development and Health

Ravita Taheem – NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement Award Application

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £81,120 over 24 months

Prof John Holloway; Human Development and Health

ZeNCure – Enhancing Non-Communicable Disease Research Excellence through Zebrafish Capacity Building

UKRI (Research England) – EU Horizon guarantee Scheme; £131,730 over 36 months

Prof Delphine Boche; Clinical and Experimental Sciences

Spontaneous CAA-related inflammation as a model for A β immunotherapy-induced side effects (ARIA)

Alzheimers Research UK; £69,099 over 24 months

Prof Janis Baird; Human Development and Health

Southampton's Health Determinants Research Collaboration

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £95,997 over 60 months, as part of £5m awarded to Southampton City Council

Prof Andrew Lotery; Clinical and Experimental Sciences

Deciphering AMD by Deep Phenotyping: The SUMMIT study (Macular Disease Society)

Macular Disease Society; £249,659 over 48 months

Dr Claire Jackson; Clinical and Experimental Sciences

Uplifting genetic detection of rare lung diseases; a novel diagnostic pipeline utilising RNA-seq analysis

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity; £232,842 over 36 months

Dr Claire Jackson; Clinical and Experimental Sciences

Uplifting genetic detection of rare lung diseases; a novel diagnostic pipeline utilising RNA-seq analysis

AAIR Charity; £10,000 over 30 months

Prof Andy Davies; Cancer Sciences

CR UK Clinical Academic Training Programme Review 2023

Cancer Research UK; £1,502,260 over 84 months

Prof Sean Lim; Cancer Sciences

In-depth T-cell analysis of individuals with haematological malignancies within STRAVINSKY (TUNE)

Blood Cancer UK; £277,425 over 36 months

Dr Jonathan West; Cancer Sciences

Time Travel: Flow sculpting for everyone to make movies of proteins in action

BBSRC Transformative Research Technologies; £184,308 over 12 months

Dr Kinda Ibrahim; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement Award

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £87,478 over 24 months

Prof Gareth Griffiths; Cancer Sciences

Single blinded randomised controlled study to evaluate non-inferiority of HIPEC with mitomycin C 10 mg/m² for 60 mins versus HIPEC with mitomycin C 35mg/m² for 90 mins in the treatment of PMP from perforated epithelial mucinous tumours of the appendix

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; £1,328,680 over 63 months

Dr Stephen Lim; Human Development and Health

REFRESH study: nutRition intervEntions For malnourished older adults in care Homes – A parallel, superiority, assessor blinded, three-arm cluster randomised controlled trial.

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £14,218 over 48 months as part of a £2.7M grant shared with the University of Plymouth

Dr Kate Greenwell; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

Couples' experiences of living with low back pain: qualitative interviews with people with low back pain and their partners.

National Institute for Health and Care Research (School for Primary Care Research); £61,205 over 15 months

Dr Hajira Dambha-Miller; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

698 – Multimorbidity and extremes of temperature: A scoping review

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £38,234 over 12 months

Dr Hajira Dambha-Miller; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

Developing and optimising an intervention prototype for addressing health and social care need in multimorbidity

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £148,463 over 18 months

Prof Nick Francis; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

Bronchiectasis: Optimising Azithromycin prevention Treatment to reduce exacerbations (BOAT): A double blind pragmatic randomised controlled trial

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £29,117 over 60 months

Dr Sara McKelvie; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

709 – Community Alternatives to aCute Hospitalisation for Older People who have Fallen

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £50,512 over 24 months

Dr Hollie Birkinshaw; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

C110 – SPCR Post-Doctoral Fellowship

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £134,260 over 24 months

Prof Tracey Sach; Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education

BEACON – Best systemic treatments for adults with atopic eczema over the long term: A randomised, assessor-blind trial comparing ciclosporin, methotrexate and dupilumab

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £41,693 over 30 months

Mr Christopher Hurt; Cancer Sciences

CONSCOP2: Randomised controlled trial of contrast enhanced colonoscopy in the reduction of right sided bowel cancer

National Institute for Health and Care Research; £28,650 over 24 months

Mr Christopher Hurt; Cancer Sciences

SCOPE2: Study of chemoradiotherapy in oesophageal cancer including PET response and dose escalation

Cancer Research UK; £24,960 over 33 months

Mr Christopher Hurt; Cancer Sciences

PATHOS: Post-operative adjuvant treatment for HPV-positive tumours

Cancer Research UK; £46,800 over 60 months

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Prof Jackie Wahba; School of Economic, Social and Political Sciences

Levelling Up through Changing Working Patterns and High Skilled Labour Mobility?

ESRC; £239,117 over 10 months

Prof Jacek Brodzki; School of Mathematical Sciences

Mathematical foundations of intelligence: An "Erlangen Programme" for AI

EPSRC; £870,761 over 60 months

Dr Hanh [Blue] Nguyen; Southampton Business School

Creating the Corporate Board Diversity Index (CBDI): A new approach to supporting Carbon Performance

British Academy; £4,439 over 9 months as part of £9521 shared with University of Swansea

Dr Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte; School of Economic, Social and Political Sciences

Lavender Ballots: How queer citizens vote and how to win them over

Leverhulme Trust; £64,668 over 15 months

Dr Trang Vu; Southampton Business School

Working as female entrepreneurs in the Global South. The gains, the losses and the future. Insights into the roles of culture, traditions, spirituality and relative geography.

British Academy; £241,404 over 24 months

Dr Tae-Hee Choi; Southampton Education School

Online Social Network Influence on Policy Effectiveness & Educational Equity

The Education University of Hong Kong; £41,087 over 27 months

Dr Tae-Hee Choi; Southampton Education School

Empowering English language teachers to adopt multilingual pedagogy: the case of Multilingual Nepal


British Council, UK; £30,000 over 12 months

Prof Chris Brown; Southampton Education School

METHodology of Psycho-pedagogical, Big Data and Commercial Video GAMES procedures for the European SKILLS Agenda Implementation

UKRI (Research England) – EU Horizon guarantee scheme; £163,326 over 27 months

This list encompasses a selection of awards logged with University of Southampton Finance from January to April 2024 that are not considered commercially sensitive.



Find out more:
www.southampton.ac.uk/ris

riscomms@soton.ac.uk
+44 (0)23 8052 3095

Research and Innovation Services (RIS) facilitates academic collaborations, research funding bids, industrial interactions and knowledge exchange activities, including commercialisation and business acceleration. RIS also supports research ethics and integrity, research contracting and the REF.



Please recycle this publication
when you have finished with it.