

Making an Impact – Valuing the Social and Economic worth of the Voluntary and Community Sector

Liverpool Hope University – 6th June 2018

The Third Sector is increasingly being asked to show impact in tangible and increasingly simplistic ways.

Coalitions, collaborations and partnerships have emerged involving different community organisations, local or national government departments and private companies.

Reasons for success and failure are many and varied but much may have to do with an increasing need to monitor and evaluate the impact of their work.

This interdisciplinary conference hosted by SEARCH, a research centre dedicated to Socio-Economic and Applied Research for Change, aims to bring together academics and practitioners to discuss the ways in which voluntary and community organisations have an impact on their beneficiaries and stakeholders and how such an impact is defined, demonstrated and disseminated.

Strand 1. Community Sport Development

Since the turn of the Millennium, sporting organisations, and football clubs in particular, have been increasingly involved in the delivery of social cohesion and community development initiatives. This strand will bring together emerging themes around the impact of sport as a tool for such programmes.

Strand 2. Developing People's Lives

As austerity continues to impact on local services, the support networks of the country's most vulnerable are continuously changing. Young people and adults live in precarious worlds, often blamed for the social dynamic they are situated in, despite living in worlds dominated by surveillance and

insecurity. This strand will draw together scholarly concerns on the social construction of need and the practicalities of engaging people in the research process.

Strand 3. Social and Physical Environments

Quasi-public space, environmental politics, corporate governance, the challenge to and (re) enforcement of the nation state, a refugee 'crisis', Brexit, (social) media scandals, fake news, identity politics. These are global concerns that have local impacts on the physical world around us and the social spaces through which we live our daily lives. This strand will explore the challenges of measuring impact at the nexus of global and local politics.

Within these strands we would like to invite papers that have a focus on assessing impact in relation, but not limited, to the following topics:

- Partnership Working
- Sport and Social Inclusion
- Professionalisation of Community Sport
- Football Club Community Foundations
- Youth Unemployment
- Economics of Youth Transitions
- Managing Crisis
- Risk and Resilience
- Third Sector Organisations and Identity Politics
- Volunteerism and the Life Course
- Environmental Action
- Social Movements
- Neighbourhood Activism
- Impact and Social Media
- Social Capital, Social Trust and Social Quality
- Measurement and Neo-Liberalism
- Stakeholder Participatory Approaches
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Relations
- Methods and Ethical Concerns



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For more information, please see the conference website: SEARCHconference2018@hope.ac.uk