

Health Policy Research Unit

- International collaboration
- A year in print
- Funding successes
- Prize-winning research
- Research dissemination for a lay audience

Welcome note

Professor Rob Baggott and Dr Sally Ruane are delighted to issue this newsletter which provides an update on activities within the Health Policy Research Unit during 2006. Although it cannot provide a comprehensive account of the members' research activities, it does give an overview of their achievements. If you would like further information our contact details are given on the back cover.



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International collaboration



Following on from their successful analysis of health consumer groups in the UK policy process, **Professor Rob Baggott**, **Dr Kathryn Jones** and **Professor Judith Allsop** are building a network of European collaborators with a view to developing a European perspective.

An exploratory workshop was held at the Institute for Sociology, University of Vienna in February 2006. The workshop awarded by the European Science Foundation was attended by 22 delegates from 10 European countries including Germany, The Netherlands, Poland and the Czech Republic.

The workshop will provide direction for a future research programme on patient and health consumer groups across Europe. A report of the workshop is available: Forster, R. and Baggott, R. (2006) Health Consumer Groups and Policy Making in Europe: A Comparative and Pan-European Perspective. A Scientific Report. Strasbourg: European Science Foundation.

www.esf.org/generic/2428/05281Report.pdf

A successful Colloquium, organised by unit member **Professor Lorraine Culley** and **Floor van Rooij** from the University of Amsterdam, was held in Nottingham, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council 'Science in Society' Programme and the Society for Reproductive and Infant Psychology. Academics and practitioners from a number of European countries, including Germany, Israel and Ireland attended the colloquium on Ethnicity and Reproductive Technologies to explore multi-disciplinary approaches to researching new reproductive technologies in the context of multi-ethnic societies. A report of the proceedings and ideas on a possible future network and inter-disciplinary research agenda will be produced as a result of the event.

Further details on the colloquium are available from www.sci-soc.net/SciSoc/NoticeBoard/Events/Ethnicity+and+reproductive+technologies.htm

Research dissemination for a lay audience

In addition to the many academic conference presentations undertaken, Unit members continue to explore ways of disseminating high quality research to diverse audiences. **Dr Sally Ruane** has responded to several invitations to facilitate debate and critical reflection on current health service reforms.

This included participation in the Socialist Health Association Series on Choice, Markets, Competition in the NHS, where she shared a platform with Dr Tony Jewell, President of the Association of Directors of Public Health and Ms Melanie Johnson, former Minister for Public Health.

Research involving collaboration across three UK universities, under the leadership of **Professor Lorraine Culley**, was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council 'Science in Society' Programme.

The research project entitled 'Public Perceptions of Gamete Donation in British South Asian Communities' has explored the ways in which new reproductive technologies in general, and gamete donation in particular, are perceived in South Asian communities in Britain. Further information can be found at www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk

A community engagement event, organised by the HPRU, was held at the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre, Leicester, in March 2006 to disseminate the preliminary findings from the research, present information on infertility and assisted conception,

provide contacts for support groups and obtain further discussion points from workshop delegates. It was chaired by Bini Gataure of the Ujala Resource Centre, Leicester and Dr Allan Pacey of the University of Sheffield addressed participants.

Professor Lorraine Culley presented the research findings and time was then given to group discussion between the diverse selection of delegates, including lay people, nurses, researchers, educators, counsellors and equality and diversity managers. Representatives from Infertility Network UK, the National Gamete Donation Trust, Leicester Adoption Agency and Donor Conception Network spoke of the work and support they provide for childless couples, in the context of minority ethnic communities.

The event was also an opportunity to promote the resources from Professor Culley's previous project, A Study of the Provision of Infertility Services to South Asian Communities. These include a leaflet and CD 'Trying for a Baby' – available in Gujarati, Bengali, Urdu and Punjabi, together with a booklet for healthcare professionals on Infertility and South Asian Patients.

If you are interested in obtaining any of these resources, please contact:

Nicky Hudson

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Parliamentary launch

Completing a research project which had attracted almost £100,000 in funding from the NHS Information Agency/National Electronic Library for Health, **Professor Mark Johnson** has established, in collaboration with colleagues at Warwick University, a specialist electronic library in ethnicity and health. The library was launched in November at the Houses of Parliament and is now live on the web at www.library.nhs.uk/ethnicity. Part of the specialist library's role is to map future research needs for government and other bodies. For more information about the library or to offer materials to be reviewed for inclusion, contact Professor Mark Johnson at mrdj@dmu.ac.uk.



Supporting training and education

In a project entitled 'Multi-Skilled Healthcare Assistant Support', **Professor Denis Anthony** investigated the usefulness of an online course in supporting the learning of health care assistants in the first year of a diploma in nursing. Funded by Charnwood and NW Leicestershire Primary Care Trust, the report made practical recommendations for enriching the learning of students through greater and more creative use of online learning in both classroom and placement based activities. For more information about the report, contact danthony@dmu.ac.uk.

Research by Unit members formed the basis of a presentation at the 7th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Conference: Transforming Healthcare through Research, Education and Technology, Trinity College, Dublin. The paper by **Dr Sue Dyson**, **Professor Lorraine Culley**, **Ms Nicky Genders** and **Dr Peter Norrie** was entitled: Cultural Sensitivity of Pre-registration Nursing Programmes: An Exploration of the Experiences of South Asian Students on Pre-registration Nursing Programmes in a UK University.

Improving local palliative care services



Professor Lorraine Culley and **Ms Nicky Hudson** have been funded by a local Primary Care Trust to evaluate parents, carers and young people's perspectives of palliative care service provision. The evaluation aimed to understand the perspectives of users of new services for children with life-limiting conditions. The evaluation demonstrates that overall there is a high level of satisfaction with the services accessed, and a positive response to the professionals providing care. However, the research highlighted a small number of areas for improvement including: the need for an increase in respite provision, better facilities for young people, and better provision of services to those living in rural locations.

Contact Professor Culley for further details:

T: (0116) 257 7753

E: lac@dmu.ac.uk

Both **Dr Julie Fish** and **Professor Mark Johnson** participated in a Hospice Study Day held at LOROS, the Leicestershire hospice, in June. Dr Fish spoke on the topic of *What is Sexuality in Palliative Care?* and Professor Johnson on *Culture and Death: Preparing for Multicultural Palliative Care*.

Professor Denis Anthony, with **Ms Debbie Lewis**, produced a report entitled: *A Report for the Community Clinical Nurse Specialist Team (Palliative Care) South Leicestershire Primary Care Trust and the Leicestershire Organisation for the Relief of Suffering (LOROS)*.

Funding successes

Around ten new externally funded projects under the leadership of Unit members have commenced since January 2006. Amongst these is **Dr Dyson's** work with young people on Sickle Cell Disease and **Professor Fitzgerald's** work on the operation of networks in health care organisations.

Dr Simon Dyson's project, entitled 'Education of Minority Ethnic Pupils: Young People with Sickle Cell Disease' has received over £200,000 from the Economic and Social Research Council. Simon is working with Unit colleagues, Dr Lorraine Culley, Dr Sue Dyson and Dr Hala Abuateya as well as colleagues at York and Loughborough Universities.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the collective name for a number of inherited blood conditions that mainly affect people of African, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Mediterranean descent. SCD can result in chronic and acute pain, and strokes. The known number of children with SCD will increase from the current estimate of 5,000 over the next decade as all newborn infants and most pregnant mothers will be screened for SCD. However, the impact of sickle cell on the educational experiences of young people is an under-researched area.

The project aims to examine educational policies on SCD at local authority and school level and explore the educational experiences of those living with SCD. It will include an Internet survey of existing educational policies and depth interviews with pupils with SCD.

Professor Louise Fitzgerald, with colleagues at Royal Holloway College, London, has been awarded over £300,000 by the Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO) R&D Programme of the Department of Health to investigate 'Networks in Health Care: A Comparative Study of Their Management, Impact and Performance'. The study focuses on a novel form of organisation, a network form, currently used to organise major areas of care, such as cancer and diabetes. This form of organisation has aroused considerable interest in commercial and private sector organisations, but has rarely been studied in professionalised and public sector organisations. The study is investigating a number of issues relating to the management of networks, including networks among different stakeholder groups.

Further information about HPRU's current projects can be found at www.dmu.ac.uk/hpru.



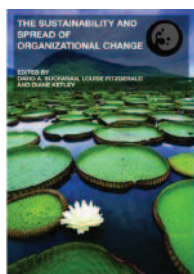
A year in print



Dyson, S.M. and Brown, B. (2006) *Social Theory and Applied Health Research*. Buckingham: Open University Press.



Fish, J. (2006) *Heterosexism in Health and Social Care*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.



Buchanan, D., Fitzgerald, L. and Ketley, D. (eds) (2006) *The Sustainability and Spread of Organizational Change: Modernizing Healthcare*. London: Routledge.

Amongst other published items in 2006, Unit members have published around two dozen journal articles and book chapters. A further twenty items are in the pipeline. A selection of publications are as follows.

Allsop, J. and Jones, K. (2006) 'The Regulation of the Health Care Professions: Towards Greater Partnership between the State, Professions and Citizens in the UK', *Knowledge, Work and Society*, 4(1): 35-58.

Culley, L. and Hudson, N. (2006) 'Disrupted Reproduction and Deviant Bodies: Pronatalism and British South Asian Communities', *International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations*, 5(2): 117-126.

Denscombe, M. (2006) 'Web-Based Questionnaires and the Mode Effect: An Evaluation Based on Completion Rates and Data Contents of Near-Identical Questionnaires Delivered in Different Modes', *Social Science Computer Review*, 24(2): 246-254.

Johnson, M.R.D. (2006) 'Encouraging Communities and Users: Health and Social Care Research with Ethnic Minority Communities', in Nazroo, J. (ed) *Health and Social Research in Multi-ethnic Societies*, London: Routledge.

Low, J. and Murray, K. (2006) 'Lay Acquiescence to Medical Dominance: Reflections on the Active Citizenship Thesis', *Social Theory and Health*, 4(2):109-127.

Publications to watch out for

Baggott, R. (forthcoming) *Understanding Health Policy*, Bristol: Policy Press.

Dyson, S.E. (forthcoming) 'Factors prompting migration of Zimbabwean Nursing Students: A Life-history Study', *International Nursing Review*.

Ruane, S. (forthcoming) 'Acts of Distrust? The Experiences of Support workers in PFI Hospital Schemes', in Law, A. and Mooney, G. (eds) *New Labour/Hard Labour*, Bristol: Policy Press.

Denscombe, M. (2007) 'UK health policy and 'underage' smokers: The case for smoking cessation services', *Health Policy*, 80(1): 69-76.

Further publications can be found on the HPRU website www.dmu.ac.uk/hpru

Prize-winning research

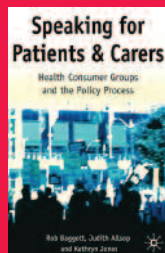
The world class research being conducted by **Professor Fitzgerald** was recognised in August at the annual conference of the Academy of Management, held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and attended by 7,500 people. Along with co-authors, Professor Louise Fitzgerald, Professor of Organisation Development, won the Best Paper Award for a paper published in the *Academy of Management Journal* in 2005 entitled 'The (Non) Spread of Innovations: The Mediating Role of Professionals'. This is an outstanding achievement as it is rare for non-US authors to win this award.

The paper looked at why evidence based innovations did not spread in health care and found that the social and cognitive barriers between different health care professions played an important role.

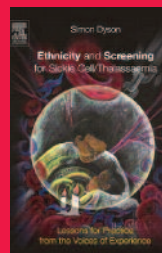
There are important lessons for policy and practice arising in terms of multi-professional education and training.

The Chair of the Awards Panel, Professor Jean Bartunek, highlighted the rigorous and creative use of a qualitative methodology in the paper in her speech of nomination. The paper in question is: Ferlie, E., Fitzgerald, L., Wood, M. and Hawkins, C. (2005) 'The (Non) Spread of Innovations: The Mediating Role of Professionals', *Academy of Management Journal*, 48(1): 117-134.

Two books written by HPRU members were among the six books short listed for the 2006 Sociology of Health and Illness book prize.



Professor Rob Baggott, Professor Judith Allsop and Dr Kathryn Jones were nominated for '*Speaking for Patients and Carers: Health Consumer Groups and the Policy Process*', Basingstoke: Palgrave. Published 2005.



Dr Simon Dyson for '*Ethnicity and Screening for Sickle Cell/Thalassaemia - Lessons for Practice from the Voices of Experience*', Oxford: Elsevier Churchill Livingstone. Published 2005.

De Montfort University research has impact

In 2004 **Professor Rob Baggott** and **Dr Kathryn Jones** from the Health Policy Research Unit and Dr Tim Brown and Ros Lishman (nee Hunt) from the Centre for Comparative Housing Research carried out a review of literature on the impact of Overcrowding in Health and Education for the ODPM (now Department for Communities and Local Government) – see www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1155484

Since then the research has been widely quoted by Members of Parliament in debates on housing in both the Commons and the Lords. It has also been used by Shelter in its campaigns to tackle overcrowding and has been quoted by the Greater London Assembly and the London Mayor in the housing strategy for London.

Partly as a result of the research, the DCLG published a discussion paper on tackling overcrowding in England in

July 2006 – see www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501587

In 2005 **Professor Judith Allsop** and **Dr Kathryn Jones** were commissioned by the Chief Medical Officer to undertake research on international medical regulation. The report, Quality Assurance in Medical Regulation in an International Context, is available from the following link www.lincoln.ac.uk/policystudies/Research/docs/CMOReport.pdf

This research informed the CMO's report Good Doctors, Safer Patients, published in July 2006 and forms the basis of chapter 6 of the report: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4137232&chk=KW63va

Appointments

Professor Rob Baggott, HPRU Director, has been appointed to the East Midlands committee for the Research for Patient Benefit Programme, run by the National Institute for Health Research.

Professor Martyn Denscombe has joined the editorial boards of International Journal of Multiple Research Approaches and Sociological Research Online and Dr Lorraine Culley has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Research in Nursing (Sage).

Professor Mark Johnson has been appointed as a Specialist Advisor to the Commission for Racial Equality.

Dr Rod Griffin has been appointed as a member of the Northamptonshire Mental Health Act Code of Practice Group.

Dr Kathryn Jones has been invited to join the UK Sustainable Development Commission's (SDC) Stakeholder Panel. It is a virtual panel of 1,000 people from a range of backgrounds who will debate issues as diverse as nuclear power, green schools and health management. The panel's deliberations will inform the work of the SDC. The first session of the panel is looking at how progress should be defined and measured in the twenty first century.

In brief...

Professor Rob Baggott has published a report entitled '*Alcohol Strategy and the Drinks Industry: A Partnership for Prevention?*' for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The research examined the views of those within the drinks industry on its role in prevention, partnership and self-regulation, how it had changed in recent years and how it might evolve in the future. It also examined the perspectives of other stakeholders (including medical, police, social worker and probation organisations, civic organisations, voluntary organisations, local authority bodies and government departments and agencies) on the industry's role in relation to the alcohol strategy. The report can be found at www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/1973.asp

Dr Sally Ruane was invited to give written and oral evidence to the Health Select Committee in its investigation into Independent Sector Treatment

Centres. The committee's report can be found at www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmhealth/934/93402.htm

Congratulations to Ms Katherine Hooper, former HPRU Administrator, who graduated in the MA Applied Health Studies (Research Pathway) after completing a dissertation examining the reasons for the abolition of Community Health Councils.

Patient information resources on Osteomalacia in Asian languages have been evaluated in a project funded by the Arthritis Research Campaign and led by **Professor Mark Johnson**. The research used a novel and participatory approach and involved users at all stages to 'test' the usability of materials. The report is available in spring 2007.

PhD Study

Welcome to new MPhil/PhD students supervised by our members...

Susheewa Wichaikull, Comparative Study of Infection Control in Children's Units in Thailand and the UK (with Denis Anthony)

Rosemary Garratt, Connecting with Women: How Midwives Achieve and Maintain Rapport in the Midwife-Mother Relationship (with Lorraine Culley)

Lesley Baldwin, Sexuality: Visibility in Criminal Justice Workplace Settings (with Julie Fish)

Katherine Duffy, Social Inclusion in Europe (with Mark Johnson)

...and congratulations to those successfully completing

Mary Larkin, An Exploration of the Post-caring Experiences of Former Carers, PhD (Lorraine Culley/Sally Ruane)

Jemima Dennis-Antwi, The Social Meanings of Sickle Cell Disease in Ghana: Views from Fathers of Children with SCD, PhD (Simon Dyson)

John Fowler, The Use of Experiential Learning Within Nurse Education, PhD (Mark Johnson)

ESRC Recognition



Congratulations to **Dr Sally Ruane** and colleagues on achieving ESRC recognition for the Masters in Research and subsequent doctoral study in Applied Health Studies and Social Work. Congratulations also to **Professor Martyn Denscombe** for securing ESRC recognition for doctoral students in Management and Business Studies. This means ESRC funding is potentially available to applicants for doctoral study in these fields.

What is the Health Policy Research Unit?

The Health Policy Research Unit consists of academic staff with substantial research interests in the field of health policy. The Unit aims to promote high quality research by:

- Bringing together researchers with a variety of interests, skills and expertise
- Collaborating with other organisations involved in health policy research
- Facilitating the development and submission of research proposals
- Promoting the effective dissemination of research findings.

What do we do?

Collectively the Unit has a wide range of interests which focus on four main areas:

- Public Health – including the social and economic context of health, health and ethnicity, health promotion, health and risk
- The Health Professions – including professional regulation, alternative and complementary therapies
- Public Participation in Health and Health Care – including lay involvement in the health service, complaints in healthcare settings
- Health Service Reform – including reorganisation, restructuring and the management of change in the NHS and public private partnerships.

What we can do for you?

- Undertake commissioned research: staff within the Unit may be commissioned to undertake research on behalf of your organisation
- Undertake collaborative research: the Health Policy Research Unit is willing to form partnerships to undertake high quality research in collaboration with you or your organisation
- Provide consultancy support for research: we can provide advice on any aspect of your research such as: research proposals, appropriate methodologies, analysis of data or dissemination of findings
- Provide MPhil/PhD opportunities: we can provide supervision should you or any member of your organisation wish to study for a higher degree by dissertation (part-time or full-time). Please contact the Unit Administrator in the first instance.

If you are interested in any of these services or would like to find out more about the HPRU, please contact Priti Patel, the Unit Administrator on **+44 (0)116 257 7988** or e-mail **hpru@dmu.ac.uk**. The contact details of individual members of the Unit can also be found via the website.





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This newsletter is available on the HPRU website at www.dmu.ac.uk/hpru

All De Montfort University publications are available in alternative media. This includes via email (.pdf), CD-ROM and DVD-ROM.

You may request a large print, audio or Braille version of any publication and, where possible, this will be supplied to you. It may not be possible to supply all publications in full, due to size.

On these occasions, you will be asked to request specific sections only.

De Montfort University will, in all cases, make every effort to find an appropriate alternative format for all requests. However, in rare cases this may incur a charge. For further information on how we can help, please contact The Enquiry Centre on **08459 45 46 47**, dmu.ac.uk/enquiry or text phone: **+44 (0)116 257 7004**.