

# Changing Landscapes for the Third Sector

An ESRC-funded Knowledge Exchange Project

**timescapes**  
An ESRC Qualitative Longitudinal Study

**TSRC**  
Informing civil society

ncvo

E·S·R·C  
ECONOMIC  
& SOCIAL  
RESEARCH  
COUNCIL

# Plan for the day

11.00 Introduction

11.20 Karl Wilding: *Here comes the flood? The changing landscape for charities and voluntary action*

12.00 Workshops

13.15 LUNCH

14.00 Workshops

15.15 Bren Neale: *Work in and beyond Changing Landscapes*

15.45 Close

# The 'Changing Landscapes' project

- Aim: to bring together insights from a network of recent qualitative longitudinal research projects in the third sector.
- Undertaken by:
  - Timescapes at the University of Leeds
  - Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) at the University of Birmingham
  - National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).
- Involves:
  - Data sharing and archiving
  - Knowledge exchange (across the network of studies, and with policy-makers and practitioners)
  - Secondary analysis (using data from 'Pathways Through Participation' and 'Real Times'), and
  - Research synthesis of published papers and reports from the studies in the network (c.1200+ pages; 450,000+ words!)

# Network projects

1. *Real Times: an in-depth study of third sector organisations over time*  
(TSRC Birmingham, led by Rob Macmillan)
2. *Pathways Through Participation: What creates and sustains active citizenship?*  
(NCVO, with IVR and Involve, led by Veronique Jochum)
3. *The Opportunities and Challenges of the Changing Public Services Landscape for the Third Sector in Scotland: A Longitudinal Study*  
(Edinburgh/Edinburgh Napier, led by Stephen Osborne)
4. *Third Sector Trends Study*  
(Durham, led by Tony Chapman and Fred Robinson)
5. *Employment Relations in the Voluntary Sector / Personalisation and the Voluntary Sector Workforce*  
(Strathclyde, led by Ian Cunningham)
6. *Recession Watch*  
(Institute for Voluntary Action Research, led by Ben Cairns).

**Unfolding tales of voluntary action**

**One  
'Divine intervention...'**

Case study 'Larch' – a relatively deprived village in the north of England, mid-2010

**Rob Macmillan**  
Third Sector Research Centre

February 2014



**Unfolding tales of voluntary action**

**Two  
'The boss'**

Case study 'Hawthorn' – a family support project in a town in the north of England, mid-2010

**Rob Macmillan**  
Third Sector Research Centre

April 2014



More to come...

# Project themes

1. **Sustainability** – the reproduction and development of organisations, activities and services over time
2. **Independence** - negotiating the tensions between mission and ethos-driven social action, and delivering contracted services
3. **Hybridisation** – the purported trend towards hybrid, innovative and transformational organisational forms and financial models
4. **Participation** – the changing hopes, trajectories, expectations and demands on those taking on unpaid roles in the sector
5. **Inter-organisational relationships** - how organisations relate to others in their specific geographical contexts and service fields
6. **Impact** – the use of tools and frameworks for demonstrating outcomes and effectiveness

# Workshops

1. Sustainability – a holy grail? (*Ian Cunningham*)
2. Independence – is it a myth? (*Matthew Dutton and Valerie Edgell*)
3. Participation - why get involved when we're all exhausted and it makes no difference? (*Veronique Jochum and Angela Ellis Paine*)
4. Inter-organisational relationships – competing and collaborating together? (*Ben Cairns*)
5. Governance – the key ingredient? (*Tony Chapman*)
6. Demonstrating impact – whose drumbeat are we dancing to? (*Rob Macmillan*)