



Sefydliad Ymchwil Cymdeithasol  
ac Economaidd a Data Cymru  
Wales Institute of Social and  
Economic Research and Data



Addysg Uwch Cymru Brwsel

Welsh Higher Education Brussels

**WISERD and WHEB workshop, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

## **The Role of Civil Society in Building a Strong, Dynamic and Cohesive Europe**

**WHEB office, Wales House, 11 Rond-Pont Schuman, Brussels**

In June 2024, members of the European Council will meet to agree the Strategic Agenda for the European Union for 2024-29, that will aim to safeguard a “strong, dynamic, competitive and cohesive Europe in a changing world”. In the declaration from an initial meeting in Granada, Spain, in October 2023, the Council stated that, “we will anticipate potential challenges and seize the opportunities for our Union in the green and digital transitions, in order to ensure the sustainability of our economic model, leaving no one behind”.

In this event, researchers from the WISERD Civil Society Research Centre will make the case for putting civil society at the heart of this agenda, setting out ideas for how civil society organisations and activists can contribute towards these objectives, and how they can be supported in doing so. The contributions will focus on building resilient and inclusive economies, enhancing social cohesion, and managing the digital transition.

The short presentations will draw on research projects funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Horizon 2020, including:

- Case studies on the Foundational Economy in Amsterdam, Zagreb and the UK;
- Analysis of EU policy documents and civil society commentaries on Artificial Intelligence;
- Research with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller organisations in Czechia, England and Wales;
- Comparison on UNICEF frameworks for child-friendly cities in France, England and the USA;
- Quantitative analysis of territorial inequalities across Europe and qualitative research on civil society responses;
- Case studies of civil society action to counter polarisation in Ireland and Wales;
- Research on worker representation and trade union activism in garment industry supply chains in India;
- Innovative work with communities using hyper-local data in Wales.

These WISERD projects have involved researchers at five universities in Wales (Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Swansea, and South Wales) and with partners in the rest of the UK, Europe and globally.

## Workshop programme

Time	Session	Presenter
09:30 – 09.45	Welcome and agenda (including WISERD video)	Prof. Ian Rees Jones
<b>Panel 1: Resilient and Inclusive Economies in the Green and Digital Transitions (09:45 – 10:35)</b>		
09:45 – 09:55	<b>Presentation 1:</b> Foundational Economics and Sustainability in European Cities	Dr Matt Thompson Dr David Beel
09:55 – 10:05	<b>Presentation 2:</b> Securing Worker’s Welfare in Global Supply Chains	Prof. Jean Jenkins
10:05 – 10:15	<b>Presentation 3:</b> Civil society perspectives on AI regulation in the European Union	Prof. Paul Chaney
10:15 – 10:35	Q&A and Discussion	<b>Discussant:</b> Prof. Kevin Morgan
10:35 – 10:50	Break	
<b>Panel 2: Enhancing Social Cohesion (10:50-11:50)</b>		
10:50 – 11:00	<b>Presentation 1:</b> Experiences of migration, diversity, and integration: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller civil society organisations in the Czech Republic and England and Wales	Prof. Martina Feilzer Dr Robin Mann
11:00 – 11:10	<b>Presentation 2:</b> The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Spatial Justice and Tackling Polarisation	Prof. Michael Woods
11:10 – 11:20	<b>Presentation 3:</b> Promoting Child-friendly Cities	Prof. Sally Power
11:20 – 11:30	<b>Presentation 4:</b> Empowering Civil Society with Local Data	Prof. Scott Orford
11:30 – 11:50	Q&A and Discussion	<b>Discussant:</b> Prof. Ian Rees Jones
11:50 – 12:00	Closing Remarks	Prof. Ian Rees Jones
12:00 – 13:00	Working lunch	

## Workshop speakers

[Professor Ian Rees Jones](#) is Director of WISERD and Professor of Sociological Research at Cardiff University. He is interested in processes of social change and impacts on individuals, institutions, and communities. He is a member of the Foundational Economy Collective, collaborating with researchers in Austria, Belgium, and Italy.

[Dr Matt Thompson](#) is a Research Associate with WISERD at Cardiff University and currently Mercator Fellow at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany. He has studied topics including municipalism and the foundational economy in European and UK cities including Amsterdam, Liverpool, London, and Zagreb.

[Dr David Beel](#) is Senior Lecturer in Political Economy at Manchester Metropolitan University. He researches city regions in economic development, labour markets, and the foundational economy.

[Professor Jean Jenkins](#) is Professor of Employment Relations at Cardiff Business School and a Co-Director of WISERD. Her work examines labour rights, social justice, and industrial relations in global supply chains. She leads the Wales TUC's Commission on the Future of Devolution and Work.

[Professor Paul Chaney](#) is Professor of Policy and Politics at Cardiff University and a WISERD Co-Director. His research focuses on analysis of equality, human rights, and civil society in policy, including approaches to new 'rights' issues such as artificial intelligence, covering policy in the European Union, UK, and China.

[Professor Kevin Morgan](#) is Professor of Governance and Development at Cardiff University. He was Special Advisor to the European Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy from 2015 to 2019 and is a member of the European Commission's S4 Scientific Committee and the European Commission's Advisory Group on Smart Specialisation.

[Professor Martina Feilzer](#) is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Bangor University and a WISERD Co-Director. She studied at Tübingen, Edinburgh and Oxford universities before joining Bangor. Her research examines the relationship between the public and criminal justice at local, national, and European levels.

[Dr Robin Mann](#) is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Bangor University and a WISERD Co-Director. His research interests include civic participation, migration and national identity, including work on Wales's Sea border with Ireland, and on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups in the UK and Czechia.

[Professor Michael Woods](#) is Professor of Human Geography at Aberystwyth University and Co-Director of WISERD. He coordinated the Horizon 2020 project IMAJINE on territorial inequalities and spatial justice in Europe and participated in ROBUST on rural development, both of which have informed work on the EU Long Term Vision for Rural Areas. He has been awarded ERC Advanced Grants GLOBAL-RURAL and Rural-Spatial-Justice (funded by UKRI), the latter examining rural discontent and disruptive politics in Europe and the USA. He has

been an invited speaker at the EU Cohesion Policy Conference and the European Week of Cities and Regions.

[Professor Sally Power](#) is a Co-Director of WISERD at Cardiff University and a member of the Scientific Committee for le Laboratoire d'Éducation at ENS Lyon. Her research has focused on relationships between education, civil society, and inequality, with work in France and the UK. She is an expert member of NESET, providing advice to the European Commission Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture.

[Professor Scott Orford](#) is Professor in Spatial Analysis and GIS at Cardiff University, and WISERD's Data Portal and Research Data Coordinator. He is Director of Data for the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence and has been involved with numerous innovative projects with data at different scales, including the Understanding Welsh Places website.