

CHASM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2015

<p>1. Welcomes/Apologies</p> <p>Meeting attended by Brian Pomeroy (BP) (Chair); Karen Rowlingson (KR); Ricky Joseph (RJ); Marcin Kawiński (MK); Richard Ronald (RR); Andy Lymer (AL); Andrew Fisher (AF); Lee Gregory (LG); Penelope Tuck (PT); Jonathan Driffill (JD); Helen Harris (minutes).</p> <p>Apologies received from: Peter Kelly; David Mullins; Michael Sherraden; Susan Smith; David Stephenson; Simon Collinson; Paul Cox; Peter Davies; Dalton Conley; Ed Mayo; Sian Williams; Chris Hamnett; Lindsey Appleyard.</p> <p>BP welcomed everyone to the Meeting. Introductions were made. Apologies to Dalton Conley for not being able to let him join the meeting via Skype, due to technical restrictions.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes from last meeting</p> <p>Minutes from the 2014 Advisory Board meeting were accepted as a true record.</p>	Action
<p>3. CHASM Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key achievements from 2014-2015 <p>Copies of the latest CHASM Annual report (dated June 2015) were circulated, highlighting the key achievements for the past year. BP commented that it was a 'really good showcase' of CHASM's work. KR commented that, due to previous feedback from the Advisory Board, this year's report has focused on the findings from our research rather than saying what we were doing. Comments were welcomed at the meeting or by email.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing activities <p>Monitoring Financial Inclusion research (funded by the Friends Provident Foundation) is a five year project ongoing until 2017. The latest report is in production and will be available in July. Hopefully, there will be the chance of further funding. BP commented that the FRS survey is now not being updated, and wondered if any lobbying could be done. KR reported that Steve McKay is in discussion with representatives from the Bank of England who are keen to do more data collection and research. KR is also in discussion with HSBC.</p> <p>Two of the other major pieces of work are coming to an end, but work on publications and dissemination is ongoing until Christmas.</p> <p>Responsibilities, Ethics and the Financial Crisis research – KR and Lindsey Appleyard will be submitting a bid for follow-on work to the AHRC, to get more impact for the research, partly as one of the findings of the project was that people rely on payday lenders and other lenders as they don't have a cushion to draw on, so it is about how do we get people to save. We have interviews with Credit Unions, HSBC and Lloyds to look at some of those issues, so we want to engage with them to do more impact-related work.</p> <p>Tax research - being undertaken by Andy Lymer - is ongoing.</p> <p>The PhD work we are doing is continuing.</p> <p>Richard Ronald's work on housing wealth is also continuing until 2017.</p>	
<p>4. Future Direction</p> <p>Two papers were circulated for discussion: 'CHASM: the next five years? A discussion paper' and 'CHASM Finances and Staffing'.</p> <p>The mission paper was discussed at the Workshop earlier, and the key points were: there was no wish to close CHASM, people said CHASM was going a really good job</p>	

<p>over the last five years. But there were some views that we need to review the mission and the way CHASM operates. There are changes ahead: KR has a new role as College Director of Research which will make it difficult for her to lead CHASM. Agreed: AL has agreed to take the Director role for the next year in the first instance, with KR becoming Deputy Director.</p> <p>KR reported that Lindsey Appleyard has been offered a permanent post at Coventry University. She has been a key person in CHASM so that raises an issue for us in terms of staffing. KR and AL will discuss this further.</p> <p>KR reported that The University of Birmingham is looking at Centres to contain a larger mass of people – we need to look at ways to let CHASM grow. This could be achieved by bringing in colleagues from Law, Geography and Psychology but still retaining some focus, because if we are too broad in terms of our theme, it won't be so meaningful.</p> <p>BP asked about the current level of CHASM funding. KR reported that funding from funding bodies is a lot more difficult, but not impossible. Some of CHASM's big projects are coming to an end so there will be a gap and we need to think where do we go and how we will fund the work.</p> <p>Private sector funding is a possibility but it is more difficult – there is no set process - contacts are helpful as they will come straight to you.</p> <p>AL reported that CHASM has not done much commissioned research as there are constraints on doing that. There is a lot of work being undertaken in the University on how it build relationships with local, national and international businesses and how we ensure our research is linked to the agendas of those 'businesses'.</p> <p>BP reported that Mastercard, some insurers and Thinktanks fund research. Possibility of partnering with a Thinktank. AL to speak to BP about this.</p> <p>KR reported that it is good to have bigger projects, but when you are working on them fully, it's hard to take on small pieces of research because of capacity.</p> <p>The discussion of the Mission Statement from the morning's Workshop suggested that CHASM should not change fundamentally. RJ suggested that we need to seek potential partnerships and themes and develop a strapline to crystallize what we do. CHASM needs to engage with colleagues effectively (both internal and external).</p> <p>AF reported that CHASM needs to quantify the progress that has been made.</p> <p>KR reported that CHASM's profile is well respected. Brand 'CHASM' is known in the social policy, academic world but more so in the policy and practice world, as we engage with stakeholders outside of the University. We do not present so much to the academic community.</p> <p>KR reported on the SPA conference last year where CHASM held a symposium to highlight our work to the academic audience. The website has over 60 briefing papers and bulletins, but we have made less contribution to academic publications as yet, though many are now in the pipeline.</p> <p>PT commented on an idea of imagining that it's 2020 and what do we want the annual report to look like for the previous five years?</p> <p>KR - What are the blockages? There are lots of ideas around, but it's not translating into major change.</p> <p>Engaging with practice and practitioners.</p> <p>Govt officials/media/policy commission/PG tax and welfare government.</p> <p>There are lots of calls on academics' time: teaching/supervision/research/publications/impact. Need to spend time on engagement. UoB want to give academics more time for impact.</p> <p>AL reflected that there were some clear things that come out of this morning of what people were talking about. There were some interesting challenges around differentiation - who are the other people that are working in this space? What are you doing that's different? And what are you doing that's complementary? Also thinking about your place within the institution here - are others doing work that you could link into? And talking about measurability - because that's what gets the interest. Politicians</p>	<p>KR/ AL</p> <p>AL/ BP</p>
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<p>are interested in things that they can point the change on, so if you can demonstrate change, you'll get their interest, if the press are interested - 'we did this, it changed that by this much'. That's a challenge for us in social research that can be difficult to do but it's not impossible. If thinktanks can do in a social research space, then so can we. You just have to play the game a little, using caveats and exemptions. Some people don't know what CHASM means, so the extra strapline will be good to help redefine us.</p> <p>JG suggested a strapline around 'household wealth and wellbeing'.</p> <p>BP commented that the road CHASM is on is a long way from being exhausted. It's not like the topics you're focusing on, that everything's been said. They are still open issues so let's keep on those lines.</p> <p>RR - Keep CHASM but have more tangible titles like pensions, financial security, housing assets, things that are more connected to the things you are applying for funding. They are great conceptual schemes but I don't see how we can lead very well.</p> <p>KR - So comes back to what we are talking about earlier, leadership, and being able to push that work forward. On the pensions workstream, we haven't had leadership there. We would have like to have done more work there. We have to build around the people that we have and what they want to do, as well as what we'd like to do.</p>	
<p>5. Advisory Board Membership</p> <p>It was noted that Susan Smith and Ed Mayo have stepped down from the CHASM Advisory Board – they were both thanked for their input and support.</p> <p>Jonathan Driffill and Lee Gregory were welcomed as new members.</p> <p>KR reported that CHASM is looking for new members, especially in the policy and practice area, who have the time to devote to CHASM.</p> <p>BP suggested that CHASM do not make the best use of Advisory Board members. Suggested that meetings could take place more frequently, bring them in on research, help with projects and funding, get them to write a yearly briefing paper, and to hold events with an expert panel of Advisory Board members in London to showcase themes/events. Action point: Advisory Board members asked to consider the types of events that could be organised and that they could contribute to. KR and AL to discuss further.</p> <p>Current membership was discussed. A number of people were suggested.</p>	<p>KR/ AL</p>
<p>6. Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>7. Date/location of next meeting – to be confirmed</p> <p>Suggested that next year's meeting takes place in London in the Summer. Suggested that this could be a rebranding/relaunch of CHASM.</p> <p>KR to discuss further with RR on working with Amsterdam colleagues.</p>	