News

Keep up to date with the latest news and **events** from around the department and the wide-ranging projects our staff and students get involved with.
More news throughout the School of Government and Society

Latest news

Blog: Devolution's biggest hurdle: Whitehall's culture of comtempt

Written by Chris Game. Labour published its draft 2015 local government manifesto recently. Entitled Labour and localism: perspectives on a new English deal, the core of the deal is a radical new approach to the financing of local government.

Monday 17th February 2014

Blog: It wouldn't be honest! Will closing the high road lead to congestion on the low road?

Written by Alan Doig. Only a few weeks after my recent article on addressing fraud, corruption and conflict-of-interest in local government from the enforcement and public ethics perspectives – the low road and high road approaches – the EU produced an overview report on corruption.

Thursday 13th February 2014

Blog: Directly elected mayors in England: leading local government?

Written by John Fenwick and Howard Elcock. The first directly-elected executive mayors in England took office more than a decade ago. Drawing inspiration from European and American experience, the directly elected mayor appealed to New Labour and Conservative policy-makers alike, offering an apparent solution to perceived problems of weak local leadership and bureaucratic stagnation.

Thursday 13th February 2014

IRiS Podcast: Struggles against subjection: the consequences of the criminalization of migration on migrants' everyday lives

Speaker: Dr Agnieszka Kubal (University of Oxford). Migration, Citizenship and Diversity: Questioning the Boundaries Seminar Series.

Thursday 13th February 2014

Blog: Partnerships and service integration - is it all just hot air?

Written by Axel Kaehne. Since the 1990s, policy makers and academics have had a pet project in public service reform. Over time, they have called it differently but always meant essentially the same: public services collaborating with each other to improve service quality. At some point, it was called partnerships (remember the Partnership Agenda under Tony Blair's government?), then it was service integration, a term particularly popular amongst health care professionals.

Tuesday 11th February 2014

Blog: The 21st century public servant - drivers of change

Written by Maria Katsonis and Helen Sullivan. In 2013 the Melbourne School of Government and the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet began collaborating on a project to explore the roles, skills and characteristics of the 21st century public servant. This blog piece describes some of the key drivers of change we identified, most of which are relevant across a range of contexts, though their impact will be shaped by local political and economic contexts.

Thursday 6th February 2014

Research video: Dr Stephen Jeffares - #Hashtag Politics

Dr Stephen Jeffares talks about his current research on Hashtag Politics.

Wednesday 5th February 2014

Blog: The Big Society lasted 1000 days. Will we ever see ideas of its like again?

Written by Dr Stephen Jeffares. "This is not the first time in the last year we have heard reports of "big ideas" "biting the dust". The same has been levelled at Cameron's purported big idea in politics: The Big Society."

Wednesday 5th February 2014

Blog: Who is in control of the sandbags?

Written by Philip Whiteman and Ian Briggs. "The recent news that the Minister for the Environment, Owen Patterson, has visited flood torn Somerset and the Environment Agency, has had a bit of a tough time in the media. It has started to open up a few interesting questions and issues around who is

actually accountable and who is responsible for flood response."

Tuesday 4th February 2014

Blog: When will they ever learn?

Written by Catherine Staite. The news of the death of Pete Seeger has reminded me again of his old song 'Where have all the flowers gone?' The line 'oh when will they ever learn?' has been running through my head since I saw an item on the local news about police officers and mental health professionals working together to prevent people with mental health problems ending up in police cells for want of the right support. 'Good stuff!' you might think. Indeed it is - but it is also profoundly depressing to hear such a venture being reported as 'new'.

Monday 3rd February 2014

Blog: The prospects for a dramatically more representative Parliament post 2015 are bleak

Written by Catherine Durose, Liz Richardson, Ryan Combs, Francesca Gains and Christina Eason. Whilst the likely outcome of the next election maybe still far too close to call, one feature of the next Parliament is very predictable. The 2015 Parliament is likely to remain as deeply unrepresentative of the make-up of the UK population as the current legislature.

Friday 31st January 2014

Blog: The impact of media logic on democratic legitimacy in local governance networks

Written by Iris Korthagen and Ingmar van Meerkerk. Many policy- and decision-making processes in today's democracies increasingly take place in governance networks, these are interactive or network forms of governance. This raises an important question of how democratic legitimacy is being shaped in these networks and which factors impact upon this.

Thursday 30th January 2014

Blog: Can local government govern in the digital age?

Written by Paul Hepburn. The digital age continues to bring policy challenges for local government. From harnessing 'big data' for the public good to developing 'smart' cities the policy expectation is that local authorities will deliver appropriate governance without which, it is argued, urban life in the 21st century is likely to be rendered more complicated, fragmented , unequal and potentially dystopian through ad hoc technological fixes.

Wednesday 29th January 2014

Blog: The theft of the open primary: can we pin it on Jeffrey Archer?

Written by Chris Game. It's rather late for a New Year's confession, but I need to get it off my conscience: I confess I read Jeffrey Archer books. I'm advised it only ranks as a venial, rather than mortal, sin, and it's not an addiction; I don't buy hardbacks, or sneak them on to student reading lists.

Wednesday 29th January 2014

Blog: Babies, bathwater and baths

Written by Alan Dolg. It came as no surprise that the incoming Conservative government was quick to abolish the Standards Board for England after its 2010 election victory. Media comments and party policy briefs made it plain that the government had no time for what it perceived to be an over-zealous, heavy-handed and centralised regulator that added little value to local government.

Wednesday 29th January 2014

Blog: Health and wellbeing boards: a new type of partnership?

Written by Anna Coleman. A great deal rests on Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs), a new type of local partnership. These were established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to act as a forum in which leaders from the local health and care system could work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and promote integrated services.

Wednesday 29th January 2014

Blog: Crime on the high street goes missing

Written by Professor John Raine. For almost two decades now the statistics for recorded crime in England and Wales have been falling. And even though there has always been a difference, of some magnitude, between the numbers gathered through the British Crime Survey – a large-scale sample of the public's experiences of crime victimisation - and the (persistently smaller) statistics compiled by the police, there has been broad agreement at least in the downward trend.

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Wednesday 29th January 2014

Blog: Local democracy at the sharp end: diary from a Parish Council

Written by Ian Briggs. It starts in the autumn of 2013. The Secretary of State knocks back the latest submission of the Core Strategy from the District Council – more homes needed please. Suddenly, the Parish Council becomes inundated with requests for meetings from developers – the story here being that this rural village has the postcode where houses change hands on the market the fastest for miles around, and for the highest possible price.

Wednesday 22nd January 2014

Blog: Reason, myth and migration

Written by Phillip Cole. One of the dominant features of public debate about immigration in the United Kingdom is the absence of reason. Many political commentators have begun to notice the reluctance of people to abandon basic myths about immigration, despite the prevalence of evidence that shows those myths to be false.

Tuesday 21st January 2014

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