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News

Keep up to date with the latest news and **events (/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/index.aspx)** 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 (/schools/government-society/news/index.aspx)

Latest news

The Conversation: Hard Evidence: is it possible to forecast HS2's benefits? (http://theconversation.com/hard-evidence-is-it-possible-to-forecast-hs2s-benefits-20164)

Written by Rebecca O'Neill, INLOGOV PhD researcher. The recent publication of the government's strategic case for HS2 has added to mounting concerns about the strength and validity of evidence put forward to support the project. Previously, the business case report written by KPMG stated that the high-speed rail link could benefit the UK by £15 billion a year – a claim made just days before a critical vote in parliament that secured further funding.

Thursday 21st November 2013

ESRC grant success for Birmingham (/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2013/11/esrc-success.aspx)

We are delighted to announce that the University of Birmingham has risen to third in the UK with Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) grant success in terms of values of award according to the Times Higher statistics.

Wednesday 20th November 2013

Blog: A reply to Frazer Nelson: the only thing astonishing is how little power local authorities have (http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/18/frazer-nelson/)

Written by Catherine Staite. Fraser Nelson's article on Birmingham City Council last Friday was a very disappointing offering from an experienced journalist and a reputable paper – more Daily Mail then Daily Telegraph. It was riddled with inaccuracies.

Monday 18th November 2013

The Conversation: After a slow start, police commissioners hit their stride (http://theconversation.com/after-a-slow-start-police-commissioners-hit-their-stride-20277)

The "plebgate" saga has once again raised questions about police integrity and dented public trust and confidence in policing more generally. Building such trust was, of course, one of the coalition government's arguments for introducing police and crime commissioners (PCCs). Elections for the first PCCs took place exactly a year ago and despite initial criticisms, they do appear to be making a difference.

Friday 15th November 2013

Economic and Social Research Council funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/ESRC-research-council.aspx)

We are able to offer 22 ESRC scholarships to fund postgraduate training and doctoral research, with both +3 (PhD) and 1+3 (Masters and PhD) funding available. A full ESRC scholarship comprises research fees, relevant bench fees, and an annual Research Council stipend (£13,726 in 2013/14). Applications for ESRC funding beginning in October 2014 are now being accepted.

Wednesday 13th November 2013

INLOGOV Postgraduate Taster Days (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/taster-days/index.aspx)

12 December 2013 and 16 January 2014. Are you an individual planning to invest in your future with a postgraduate qualification? Or are you you an organisation planning to invest in building capacity within your organisation? If the answer is yes – then register for an INLOGOV Taster Day to find out more about what INLOGOV can offer you or your organisation.

Friday 8th November 2013

New Executive Programme in Collaborative Strategy (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/accredited-short-courses/collaborative-strategy.aspx)

12, 13 December 2013 and 16, 17 January 2014. This module gives you the tools to develop genuinely collaborative strategies, so that your partnerships deliver better outcomes at lower cost.

Friday 8th November 2013

New Executive Programme in Outcomes, Performance and Resources (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/accredited-short-courses/outcomes-performance-resources.aspx)

06, 07 March and 03, 04 April 2014. At a time of public sector austerity, value for money takes on a greater-than-ever priority. This course addresses key questions in efficiency and performance and shows how services can be defended against retrenchment budgeting by clear evaluation of outcomes.

Friday 8th November 2013

New Executive Programme in Public Management and Leadership (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/accredited-short-courses/public-management-leadership.aspx)

15, 16 May and 05, 06 June 2014. This programme will give you a firm grounding in the theories of leadership and management in the context of a fast-changing public sector. You will learn new ways of looking at old problems and gain invaluable insights from the experience of successful leaders.

Friday 8th November 2013

Blog: The paradoxical nature of being successful (http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/06/paradoxical-success/)

Written by Ian Briggs. The world of social science can be an odd place at times. Much is quite rightly being made of the impact of severe reductions in public spending, but when social scientists look at the levels of satisfaction with public services, many see the general quality of services remaining high.

Wednesday 6th November 2013

Postgraduate Open Day - 27 November 2013 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/events/visit-open-day.aspx)

The next Postgraduate Open Day will be held on Wednesday 27 November 2013. You can now book your place.

Tuesday 5th November 2013

The Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) is a leading provider of tailored training delivered locally to an individual local authority or group of local authorities. We can help you with any training that your authority needs.

Tuesday 5th November 2013

Blog: Delivery of public services and economies of scale: Cooperation as an alternative for small municipalities (http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/05/delivery-of-public-services-and-economies-of-scale-cooperation-as-an-alternative-for-small-municipalities/)

Written by Germà Bel. The economic crisis has strongly affected many developed countries, and has caused serious tensions in government finances. These constraints are particularly important at the local level, because local governments have limited taxing bases, and fiscal competition is stronger. Policy discussion on local government reform and local cost reductions, as well as increasing efficiency in local service delivery, is widespread.

Tuesday 5th November 2013

Building trust in public policing? The contribution of Police and Crime Commissioners, one year on (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2013/10/building-public-trust-in-policing-the-contribution-of-police-and-crime-commissioners-one-year-on.aspx)

Written by Professor John Raine. The 'Plebgate' saga, which has now drawn apologies to Andrew Mitchell from three chief constables, has once again raised questions about police integrity and dented public trust and confidence in policing more generally.

Tuesday 5th November 2013

Blog: Want a 50% turnout in a local election? Try Neighbourhood Planning (http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/01/neighbourhood-planning/)

Written by Chris Game. Yes, there were other news stories last weekend – Grangemouth, St Jude, Plodgate, Merkel's mobile, Lady Gaga's new album. Still, a more than 50% turnout in something local governmenty surely merited some kind of headline.

Friday 1st November 2013

Blog: Innovation in social care: it's the how as much as the what (http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/22/innovation-in-social-care-its-the-how-as-much-as-the-what/)

Written by Catherine Needham. People with personal budgets need to have something to buy. For some people the money will be spent on a personal assistant. But there will be lots of people who don't have a big enough budget to employ someone, or don't want to take on employer responsibilities. For them a more attractive option may be to buy some support from within the community.

Tuesday 22nd October 2013

Blog: Planning and the new (new) localism - what chance of success? (http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/21/planning-localism/)

Written by Nancy Holman. Planning in a time of austerity is never easy – budgets are cut, needs are great and regulation can be seen as stifling growth. In England we are in just such a position and in the midst of a reformulation of planning that is on the one hand meant to deliver growth and on the other designed to empower communities. Most of these reforms are being couched in the language of localism with community participation at the forefront of policy.

Monday 21st October 2013

The true impact of migration for the UK (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/perspective/immigration.aspx)

As immigration tops the news agenda yet again, three University of Birmingham academics examine the real issues behind the headlines and the true impact of migration for the UK.

Monday 21st October 2013

Blog: Could a lack of trust between professionals undermine health and social care integration? (http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/16/trust-health-social-care/)

Written by Catherin Mangan. The latest guidance on the health and social care integration transformation fund emphasises the need for 'genuine commitment to partnership and recognition of the challenges' to ensure success. We all know that successful integration will rely on genuine, positive relationships between health and social care professionals in the system. But are we taking these positive relationships for granted?

Wednesday 16th October 2013

Blog: Fast scholarship is not always good scholarship: relevant research requires more than an online presence. (http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2013/10/11/fast-scholarship-is-not-always-good-scholarship/)

Written by Catherine Durose and Katherine Tonkiss. Blogging and social media are tools to facilitate engagement, but are they in danger of being treated as ends in themselves? Catherine Durose and Katherine Tonkiss argue for more awareness on how the research process can democratise knowledge. Rather than quickly responding to recent events, scholars should look towards sustained engagement with the participants of research and those affected by it.

Tuesday 15th October 2013

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