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James Rees

Research Fellow

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About

James joined TSRC in February 2011. His research explores the transformations that are occurring in the delivery of public services in the UK. He focuses on the role of the third sector in service delivery, cross-sectoral partnership, organisational change and the role of citizens and service users, drawing on a range of theoretical traditions in the fields of governance and organisational studies.

Tweets by @JamesRees_tsrc (https://twitter.com/JamesRees_tsrc)

Qualifications

- PhD (Planning and Landscape) University of Manchester, 2007
- MA (International Relations and Development Studies) University of East Anglia, 2001
- MA (Geography) University of Oxford, 1999

Biography

Before joining TSRC James was a researcher at the Institute for Economic Governance at the University of Manchester. He completed his PhD entitled 'Housing Market Renewal: Gentrification or Mixed Sustainable Communities?' at Manchester in 2007. Prior to that he was a research assistant at the Centre for Urban Policy Studies, also at the University of Manchester. He has researched extensively on sub-national governance in work funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the European Commission (ESPON); and by other public bodies such as the Northern Way and Manchester City Council. He has a track record of research on communities, neighbourhoods and the voluntary and community sector, including the national evaluation of New Deal for Communities (for ODPM), evaluation of community contracts (CLG), voluntary sector delivery of public services and their role in tackling worklessness (for North West regional bodies), and on housing policy, practice and equalities for the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). More recently he has completed research projects funded by the AHRC Connected Communities programme; and is currently involved in contract research funded by the Ministry of Justice and New Philanthropy Capital.

Research

James' research centres on the third sector, particularly on the role of the sector in the delivery of public services. More widely he is interested in issues concerning the reform and transformation of public services and public policy, including citizen engagement and involvement. At TSRC he worked closely with **David Mullins (/staff/profiles/social-policy/mullins-david.aspx)** and Tony Bovaird, with whom he carried out research on third sector partnerships for service delivery. With **Rebecca Taylor (/staff/profiles/social-policy/taylor-rebecca.aspx)**, he has researched the third sector's role in the Work Programme through 'The third sector delivering employment services'. The main research report was published in February 2013. Research from autumn 2012 has focused on shifts in public services associated with the new commissioning landscape, and its implications for the third sector, focusing in particularly on the commissioning of mental health service.

James also has academic interests in urban and regional governance, with a particular focus on the politics of city-regionalism; critical perspectives on urban housing market restructuring and housing policy; and broadly on issues in urban regeneration, neighbourhoods and community.

Publications

Soon to be published

- Rees, J. and Lord, A. 'Leaving the city region behind: The growth and decline of metropolitan rescaling in Manchester, England.' chapter in Shield, Lord and Jones (eds) City-Regions in Prospect? exploring the meeting points between place and practice, **Montreal: McGill-Queens (http://www.mqup.ca/)**, to be published in 2015.

Please **contact James (mailto:j.e.rees@bham.ac.uk)** for copies of these in advance of publication.

Recent Journal Articles and Chapters

- Miller, R and Rees, J, (2014) **'Mental health commissioning: master or subject of change? (http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/full/10.1108/MHRJ-04-2014-0013)** ', *Mental Health Review Journal,* 19(3)145 -155.
- Taylor, R, Rees, J and Damm, C (2014), **'UK employment services: understanding provider strategies in a dynamic strategic action field' (http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/pap/pre-prints/content-PP_036)**, Policy and Politics, published online Sept. 2014.
- Rees, J, Whitworth, A and Carter, E (2014), **'Support for all in the UK Work Programme? Differential payments, same old problem (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/spol.12058/pdf)**,' *Social Policy and Administration*, 48(2) 221-239.
- Rees, J (2014), '**Public sector commissioning and the third sector: old wine in new bottles?**

(http://ppa.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/11/27/0952076713510345.full.pdf) ', *Public Policy and Administration*, 29(1) 45-63.

- Purdam, K, Richardson, L, Cotterill, S, Rees, J and Squires, G (2014), **Responsible Citizens and Accountable Service Providers? Renegotiating the contract between citizen and state** (http://www.envplan.com/abstract.cgi?id=a46127) , *Environment and Planning A,* 56(7) 1716 - 1731.
- Beebeejaun, Y, Durose, C, Rees, J, Richardson, J and Richardson, L (2014), '**Public Harm or Public Value? Towards co-production in research with communities'** (http://www.envplan.com/abstract.cgi?id=c12116) . *Environment and Planning C*, published online in 2013.
- Rees, J. and Lord, A, (2013) '**Making space: Putting politics back where it belongs in the construction of city regions in the North of England** (http://lec.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/09/06/0269094213501274.abstract) ', Local Economy, 28(7-8) 679-695..
- Rafferty, A., Rees, J., Sensier, M., and Harding, A. (2013) '**Growth and Recession: Underemployment and the Labour Market in the North of England** (http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs12061-013-9089-4) ', Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy, (2) 143-163.
- Beebeejaun, Y., Durose, C., Rees, J., Richardson, J and Richardson, L. (2013) '**Beyond Text: exploring ethos and method in co-producing research with communities** (http://cdj.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/02/14/cdj.bst008.abstract) ', Community Development Journal, 49(1) 37-53.
- Durose, C. and Rees, J. (2012) '**The rise and fall of neighbourhood in the New Labour era** (http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/pap/2012/00000040/00000001/art00004) ', Policy and Politics, 40(1) 39-55.
- Harding, A., Harloe, M. and Rees, J. (2010) '**Manchester's Bust Regime?, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research** (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2427.2010.01013.x/full) ', Vol 34(4) 981-91.
- Rees, J. (2009) 'Urban Housing Market Restructuring and the Re-casting of Neighbourhood Governance' in Durose, C., Greasley, S. and Richardson, L. (eds.) '**Changing local governance, changing citizens** (http://www.amazon.co.uk/Changing-Local-Governance-Citizens/dp/1847422179) ', Bristol: Policy Press.
- Burch, M., Harding, A. and Rees, J. (2009) '**Having it both ways: explaining the contradiction in the English spatial development policy** (http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?articleid=1817031&show=abstract) ', International Journal of Public Sector Management, 22 (07) 587-604.
- Burch, M., Harding, A. and Rees, J. (2008) 'The English Question', in Hazell, R. (ed), **Constitutional Futures Revisited: Britain's Constitution to 2020** (http://www.amazon.co.uk/Constitutional-Futures-Revisited-Britains-Constitution/dp/0230220746/ref=tmm_hrd_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1384196326&sr=8-1) ', Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Burch, M., Harding, A. and Rees, J. (2008) 'The English Regions and London', in '**State of the Nations 2007: Into the Third Term of Devolution in the United Kingdom** (http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-State-Nations-2007-Devolution/dp/184540095X) ', edited by Alan Trench, Exeter: Academic Press.

Selected Research Reports

- Durose, C., Mangan, C., Needham, C., Rees, J. (2013) Transforming local public services through co-production Birmingham, AHRC Connected Communities/ Department for Communities and Local Government/University of Birmingham.
- Durose, C., Beebeejaun, Y., Rees, J., Richardson, J. and Richardson, L. (2012) '**Towards Co-production in Research with Communities** (https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/geography/reframing_state/CCDiscussionPaperDurose2etal.pdf) ', Swindon, AHRC Connected Communities.
- Durose, C., Beebeejaun, Y., Rees, J. and Richardson, L. (2012), '**Illuminating the Evolution of Community Participation in Policy** (https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/geography/reframing_state/CCDiscussionPaperDurose1etal.pdf) ', Swindon, AHRC Connected Communities.
- with A. Harding et al., (2011) '**Understanding the demand for skills and labour in the North of England** (http://www.n8research.org.uk/research-themes/demographic-change/research-reports) ', for the N8 Research Partnership.
- with A. Harding and M. Sensier (2010) '**Agglomeration and governance: Greater Manchester in a European Perspective** (http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCwQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fneweconomymanchester.com%2Fdownloads%2F862-NEWP05-IPEG-v5-pdf&ei=RSuBUvOkMPDY0QXz64DIDA&usg=AFQjCNFFv6-Ck_1C4fUeCtMCawTOLX2KVg) ', New Economy Working Paper.
- with A. Harding et al. (2010) '**The case for agglomeration economies in Europe: Final Report** (http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/TargetedAnalyses/CAEE/CAEE_Final_report.pdf) ', Luxembourg: ESPON.
- with A. Harding (2010) Connectivity and the North of England, for the Northern Way Turning Points Symposium, March 2010, see with A. Harding (2009) 'Introduction: making cases for integrated places', in '**Cities, sub-regions and local alliances** (http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2009/cities-sub-regions-and-local-alliances/) ', NLGN.
- with L. Richardson, et. al. (2009) '**An Evaluation of the Community Contracts pilot programme** (http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1423947.pdf) ', Communities and Local Government, UK.
- with M. Burch and A. Harding (2008) 'Obstacles to devolved governance in England,' in Roxburgh, I. (ed.), '**Next Steps for Local Democracy** (http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2008/nlgn-unveils-new-thinking-on-localism/) ', NLGN.

See Also

- **Works by James Rees in the Third Sector Knowledge Portal** (https://cssfs10.bham.ac.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/search2?searchTerm0=james%20rees) .

Expertise

Public service reform, outsourcing and contracting out, privatisation, and the role of the voluntary and community sector in public service delivery.

Media experience

Alternative contact number available for this expert: **contact the press office** **(/news/contacts/index.aspx)**

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