



Devolution & Constitutional Change
An ESRC Research Programme



Monday 20 June

10.00am-4.00pm

Devolution and Policy Variation: Does it Matter?

Evidence from the UK and Germany

University of Edinburgh

This seminar is the last in a series run by the Institute for German Studies at the University of Birmingham and core-funded by the Anglo-German Foundation under the heading of 'The Search for Solutions – Policy Learning in Britain and Germany'. It also forms part of the 2005 'Social Science Week' of the Economic and Social Research Council, which aims to connect social science research with wider public and policy debates, and has been organised by the ESRC's research programme on Devolution and Constitutional Change.

The seminar tackles one of the open questions raised by devolution: if the Scottish Parliament makes different provisions in health policy or education than apply in England or Wales, does it matter, if so why? Does it erode a common citizenship? Should variations be limited by agreement on common UK-wide standards? Should there be territorial financial arrangements which even out fiscal capacities across territories and at least enables different places to produce policies of similar standards?

These questions will be tackled by comparison with experience in Germany, a much more mature system of devolved government, and will be addressed both by researchers from the ESRC Devolution Programme, counterparts in Germany, and officials and politicians involved in policy-making in both countries.

Draft Programme

10.00 Introduction: Charlie Jeffery, ESRC Devolution Programme
 Simon Green, Institute for German Studies

10.15 **Do citizens want policies to vary by territory, or statewide uniformity?**

Prof Dieter Roth, Forschungsgruppe Wahlen, Mannheim
Prof John Curtice, University of Strathclyde
Peter Jones, freelance journalist

11.15 Break

11.45 **Where are the limits to policy variation?**

Prof Rudolf Hrbek, University of Tuebingen
Henry McLeish, former Scottish First Minister

Dr Daniel Wincott, University of Birmingham

12.45 Lunch

14.00 **How much fiscal equalisation do we need?**

Prof Wolfgang Renzsch, University of Magdeburg

Prof Arthur Midwinter, University of Edinburgh and Advisor to the Scottish Parliament Finance Committee

John McLaren, Fraser of Allander Institute

15.00 **How to balance statewide uniformity and territorial diversity?**

Horst Risse, Bundesrat (former secretary to the Federalism Reform Commission)

Dr Rainer Holtschneider, SPD parliamentary staff (adviser to Franz Muntefering in the Federalism Reform Commission)

Chris Deerin, Scotland on Sunday

Dr Thomas Fischer, Bertelsmann Foundation

16.30 Close

Further information: Contact Louise Maxwell, 0131 650 8489, louise.maxwell@ed.ac.uk, www.devolution.ac.uk



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