E-bulletin Spring 2012

This e-briefing is from the Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management (CHASM) at the University of Birmingham to keep you informed of our latest activities.

Research News

Karen Rowlingson recently chaired the afternoon sessions at this event organised by Inside Government. The event included papers from experts in the field from the DWP, CDFA, Toynbee Hall, Barclays, the Financial Inclusion Centre, ABCUL, AgeUK and so on.

Papers from the event can be found here: http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/economic_dev/financial-capability/presentations343.php.

A summary of key points can be found on the CHASM website here: http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/social-policy/chasm/news/2012/05/working-together-to-promote-financial-inclusion.aspx

Policy Commission on ‘The Distribution of Wealth’
The University of Birmingham will be launching a Policy Commission on the Distribution of Wealth in October, chaired by David Urquhart, the Bishop of Birmingham, and involving members of CHASM as commissioners. Further details will be announced in future bulletins.

CHASM hosts world-leading US academics on assets to the University of Birmingham
CHASM recently hosted a group of leading academics from the United States to discuss the future of asset-based policies at three events. The visiting academics included: William Darity (Duke University); Tom Shapiro (Brandeis University); Margaret Sherraden (University of Missouri, St Louis); and Michael Sherraden (Washington University in St Louis).
The first event was a high profile National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) Forum launch event in London on 7 March held at The Royal Mint, attended by over 100 people. Talks were given by Steve Webb, MP (Minister for Pensions), Tim Jones (CEO, NEST), Simeon Brown (CEO HSBC), Otto Thoresen (ABI Director General), Baroness Drake of Shene (Former member of the Pensions Committee), leading pension experts, practitioners, academics and policymakers. The second event (The future of asset-based policies in the US and UK) held at NCVO on 8 March, attended by over 60 people, featured contributions from Julian Le Grand and John Hills (LSE) and Phillip Blond (ResPublica). The final Birmingham event (Assets and inclusion: class, ethnicity and inter-generational inequality), held on 9 March was attended by over 50 people and featured
additional contributions from Anne Price, Director of the US-based policy network, Closing the Racial Wealth Gap and Omar Khan (Runnymede Trust).


Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) and the banking crisis
Andy Mullineux has been part of the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) working group chaired by the Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart, engaging with banks to explore the role of banks, restoring trust in the banking system, and access to finance especially for SMEs.

EREBUS (Engaging Research for Business Transformation)
Max Rowe-Hayes (EREBUS CASE PhD student) supervised by Andy Mullineux and John Bryson is writing his PhD on the impacts of CDFI lending in the Business school. Max is working with the Fair Finance consortia of CDFIs based in the West Midlands region.

The University hosted an EREBUS workshop on the 10th May on ‘measuring the economic and social impacts of private and social enterprises and third sector organisations. EREBUS (Engaging Research for Business Transformation) is an ESRC sponsored capacity building cluster that involves the University of Birmingham, Warwick and Aston Business Schools working in knowledge transfer partnerships (KTPs) with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the financial services, energy and health technology sectors ([www.erebus-cbc.com](http://www.erebus-cbc.com)).

Recent publications


Other CHASM publications can be accessed on our website
Our latest briefing papers discuss:

- Asset inequality and ethnic minority groups
- Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs): credit where its due
- Why the UK needs a Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

All our Briefing papers are available on the CHASM website

**Current Research**
The Leverhulme-Trust funded research project, ‘Mind the (Housing) Wealth Gap: Intergenerational Justice and Family Welfare’, will be officially launched on 3rd July in Edinburgh. The event will discuss the priorities and challenges for the research. The event is invitation-only but we will post a briefing paper on the project on the web shortly and if you are interested in contributing to the discussion please email Ricky Joseph (r.joseph@bham.ac.uk) or Louise Overton (l.e.overton@bham.ac.uk).

Details of our current research

**Feedback**
If you would like to find out more information on CHASM please visit our [website](#)

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Best wishes,

The CHASM Team