E-bulletin Summer 2011

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

Leverhulme Trust

The Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management is part of a team which has been awarded £0.7m in grant funding from the Leverhulme Trust. The project, led by Dr Beverley Searle, combines expertise from the Universities of St Andrews, Durham and Birmingham. The research, entitled ‘Mind the (Housing) Wealth Gap: Intergenerational Justice and Family Welfare’, will take place over 3 years and will focus on the transfers of wealth, particularly housing wealth, within families. Firstly it addresses inequalities in society, particularly the uneven distribution of housing wealth within and across generations. Those who do not have access to housing wealth are put at a disadvantage as housing increasingly determines life chances. Secondly, it addresses these inequalities in the context of an ageing society. As people live longer this places growing demands on housing wealth. Parents face a difficult moral dilemma between saving wealth for their own welfare and health needs, against passing wealth on to their children to help them achieve educational, marital or housing aspirations. Thirdly, where housing wealth takes a central role in such decisions, this raises legal concerns about the protection of assets, particularly of vulnerable owners. We will provide further updates on this project.

New look CHASM website

You may have noticed that we have a new-look website which we hope will be user-friendly and enable you to find out more about our work much quicker. Let us know what you think by contacting Ricky Joseph at r.joseph@bham.ac.uk
CHASM Intern

CHASM welcomed its very first intern this summer. Sohaib Ahmad is a second year BSc student in Mathematical Economics and Statistics with an interest in Islamic finance and has produced a briefing paper entitled ‘An introduction to Islamic finance’ which is available on our website in our Impact and publications/Briefing papers section. We plan to make internships for Birmingham undergraduates a regular part of CHASM's activities in future.

Recent publications

Appleyard, L and Rowlingson, K (2011), 'Housing and economic inequality' in Sim, D and Anderson, I (eds) Housing and Social Inequality. CIH/HAS.


Other CHASM publications can be accessed on our website at:
http://www.chasm.bham.ac.uk/publications.shtml

Recent events

Roundtable on financial education for young people – 16 June 2011
This roundtable event discussed current and future policy, practice and research in relation to financial education. Its main purpose was to share current knowledge in this field and consider ways of developing future work. The event started with an introduction from the Director of CHASM, Karen Rowlingson, followed by presentations from Celia Allaby, Personal Finance Education Group; Linda Jack from the Money Advice Service and Angela Clements, Citysave Credit Union.

**Financial Inclusion Taskforce – 13 May 2011**

Following the demise of the Financial Inclusion Taskforce, CHASM is working with a range of organisations, led by TRANSACT at Toynbee Hall, on the future of financial inclusion research.

**Forthcoming events**

**Leading US researchers on assets to visit CHASM in 2012**

CHASM will be hosting a visit of leading US academics on assets in March 2012. So far we have confirmed Michael Sherraden (Washington University in St Louis), Thomas Shapiro (Director of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (Brandeis University) and William Darity (Duke University). We will hold an event in London on 8 March 2012 (venue TBC) and in the University of Birmingham on 9 March. Further details will be announced shortly.

Future events at CHASM will be advertised here:

[http://www.chasm.bham.ac.uk/events.shtml](http://www.chasm.bham.ac.uk/events.shtml)

**Current Research**

CHASM research explores four key work streams:

- Financial Security
- Financial capability
- Financial inclusion
- Taxation
Details of our current research can be found here:

http://www.chasm.bham.ac.uk/projects.shtml

Teaching

A new undergraduate teaching module called, Your Money and Your Life: From Welfare State to Personal Finance will be starting in September. The module is aimed at 3rd year students and will be open to a range of students across the University teaching programmes. The central theme for this module is the shift in responsibility and risk from the state to the individual in relation to financial security. The module will consider the role of other actors here, such as the financial services sector, employers and the third sector in relation to financial security. A particular focus will be placed on issues around class, gender and ethnicity in relation to the topics covered. We are keen to involve guest speakers and to arrange visits for our students to see relevant organisations at work. If you are interested in getting involved in this module in some way please get in touch.

Governance

Our second advisory board meeting with academic, policy, business and third sector communities took place on 5th May 2011. Many thanks to Bernie Morgan and Udo Reifner for their contributions to the work of CHASM who stepped down at this meeting. CHASM members meet regularly and the minutes of the previous meetings can be found here:

http://www.chasm.bham.ac.uk/governance.shtml

Briefing papers

We have a section on our website dedicated to short papers which discuss a particular topical issue. Our latest briefing papers discuss:

- An introduction to Islamic Finance
- Income tax personal allowances matter for household portfolio choice

All our Briefing papers are available on the CHASM website.
Feedback

If you would like to find out more information on CHASM please visit our website:

Keep up to date with the latest news and events happening at CHASM or our research and engagement join our mailing list
http://www.chasm.bham.ac.uk/mailform.shtml

Should you wish to unsubscribe please send an e-mail with 'unsubscribe' in the title to Ricky Joseph at r.joseph@bham.ac.uk

Best wishes,

The CHASM Team