



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter May 2023

LARIA Updates

Evidence in complexity

Jason Lowther – Director, Institute of Local Government Studies

This month I had the pleasure of taking part in the first conference of the National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) Policy Network at the LGA headquarters in Smith Square. The [NGDP](#) aims to recruit and train the future leaders of local government, supporting their development with graduate-led networks and training. I've been a big fan of the programme since recruiting our first graduate at Birmingham City Council well over a decade ago.

The keynote speech by Sally Burlington, Head of Policy at the LGA, looked at the role local government policymaking can play in responding to the challenges and opportunities of the 2020s and how the profession might transform over the next decade. A common theme of the various presenters was the turbulence and complexity of the world of government and local public services in the UK. After a decade of Austerity, Brexit, Covid, the cost of living crisis, local and national governance challenges ... anyone hoping for a stable policy environment will probably be disappointed (and exhausted).

At the University of Birmingham, we're currently refreshing [our work](#) on 21st Century Public Servants to examine how public servants can manage in this complex environment. In my NGDP slot, I mentioned developments like co-production and social innovation (working with communities), cross-boundary working and powerful partnerships (working with other organisations), and ethical uses of digital innovation, data and AI (working with technology) as key elements to future policy work in the context. What are the implications for analysis, research and evidence?

A new [article](#) from researchers at the University of Bristol (Sarah Ayres and Andrew

Barnfield) and University of Bath (Geoff Bates and Charles Larkin) explores how we can best use evidence in complex policy systems like these. As LARIA members well know, the impact of 'evidence' (whatever we mean by that) depends on multiple factors, such as how it's seen and understood by individual policymakers. But in complex policy systems, how can we develop evidence that is accessible and meaningful to a wide range of policymakers who may have very different ways of understanding 'evidence'?

The article uses a case study of promoting healthy urban development in the United Kingdom, interviewing over 130 people from various sectors. The researchers found some variation between sectors, for example private sector managers looked for economic valuations of health. Everyone valued evidence on the impact of the urban environment on population health outcomes and the associated costs of ill health. However, most of the interviewees had "a strong preference for narratives with a strong emotional impact, supported by credible evidence". As analysts and researchers, we need to learn how to tell stories from the evidence. The authors hope that "these insights can be used to design evidence that meets the requirements of all actors in a complex system".

Thinking through how different partners in local policy systems view the use of evidence and value various types of evidence, and how this can be presented in stories that help people to make sense of the evidence, can really help analysts and policymakers to talk in a language that can be understood, develop shared understandings, deliver better policy, and ultimately address the complex challenges we face.

LARIA Survey 2023

Supporting Research,
Intelligence & Policy

Complete survey

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Local Area Research - Intelligence Association

CACI | DO AMAZING
THINGS WITH DATA



Tell us about your challenges

To continue to support you and in turn help you support your communities, it's vital that

LARIA, partnering with CACI, continue to understand your current and future needs.

We would like to know more about the challenges you face on a day-to-day basis so that we can be better equipped to continue to provide the necessary level of support. It is for this reason that we would be grateful if you complete our survey to tell us more about what is happening in your local area.

[Please complete this survey](#)

[Complete Survey](#)

SAVE THE DATE

We're pleased to announce that we will be holding a small face-to-face event on **Thursday 16th November 2023** at the LGA Offices:

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
Westminster
London
SW1P 3HZ

Laria

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

More information coming soon.....

News

The right to a care partner in primary and social care

Do you work with older adults in a **health or social care** setting?

Would you like to share your views on the role of **care partners** in these settings?

We want to hear from you!



Please email Dr Caroline Green or scan the QR code to visit our website.
caroline.green@kcl.ac.uk



KCL Ethical Clearance Reference Number: LRS/DP-2023-35709

KING'S
College
LONDON

The right to a care partner in primary and social care

We are a team of researchers from King's College London who are seeking to recruit **health and social care professionals** for a new study about the role of care partners.

A care partner is someone who supports a friend or relative in any health or social care setting, such as attending a GP appointment or staying in residential care. Our study seeks to explore the potential role of care partners for **older adults living with dementia**.

You can take part in our study if:

- You work with older adults in a health or social care setting (such as a care home, hospital or GP practice)
- You are able to take part in a 30-45 minute interview (virtual or in person) in English

You will receive **£20** to thank you for your participation. We want our research to reflect the diversity and experiences of the whole health and social care workforce, particularly staff from minoritised ethnic groups.

Please email Dr Caroline Green (caroline.green@kcl.ac.uk) for more information.

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

**ASSESS: SPSS (SPSS IBM STATISTICS) USERS GROUP
ONE-DAY SPSS ON-LINE WORKSHOP TO BE LED BY ELIZABETH WIREDU:
AN INTRODUCTION TO IBM SPSS FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS
TUESDAY 20TH JUNE 2023**

ASSESS is an independent user group for SPSS (IBM SPSS Statistics), a computer package for analysing and presenting data. It is run by users, for users and is completely independent of manufacturers of the software.

Since 1996 ASSESS have given a wide series of one and half-day workshops at venues around the country on many areas including SPSS syntax, SPSS macros, Survival analysis in SPSS and Analysis of categorical data in SPSS.

A one day on-line workshop is provisionally planned to be held led by Elizabeth Wiredu (Elizabeth Training Limited). Workshop topics and other details including a booking form

are [available online](#).

Each all-day workshop course introduces IBM SPSS Statistics to complete beginners. The aim of the course is to give delegates with little or no computational experience the confidence and skills to be able to use the software from scratch to prepare data ready for analysis and perform data manipulations using core commands to generate descriptive statistics, use data manipulations techniques and obtain graphical summaries.

This is an opportunity to acquire life skills from a tutor with 29 years of experience, who is an experienced teacher with graduate schools, postgraduate students, medical doctors and other health researchers in the practical use of computer software and statistics.

Throughout the day, (fairly basic) interactive SPSS tasks will be used to explore the points being made.

[Elizabeth Wiredu](#) is an experienced medical statistician. She has served as an in-house medical statistician at University Hospitals of Aintree and trained doctors in Mersey Deanery on medical statistics. Elizabeth was a third-party trainer for IBM SPSS UK, delivering their public courses on Statistical Methods for Healthcare professionals.

The day will run from approximately 9-30am to 4-30pm with mid-morning, mid-afternoon and lunch breaks.

Further details will be sent out to delegates upon receipt of booking forms.

KCL LD seminar series - Why are we still in hospital?

Why are we stuck in hospital? Overcoming barriers to people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people leaving 'long-stay' hospital

21 June 2023

2 – 3pm, online



This learning disability services seminar is being led by Jon Glasby from the University of Birmingham/IMPACT.

Over ten years after the Winterbourne View scandal, there are still 2000 people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people living in hospital settings, often for many years

and with no sense of when they may be able to leave. Despite lots of policy pledges to reduce this number, progress has been painfully slow.

This seminar explores findings from a recent NIHR study carried out by the University of Birmingham and the rights-based organisation Changing Our Lives, which drew on the experiences of people in hospital, families and front-line staff to identify 'ten top tips' to help more people come out of hospital and lead more ordinary lives in the community. The study also involved innovative collaboration with an art gallery and a renowned Birmingham artist in order to amplify the voices of people in hospital and raise awareness among the general public.

Jon Glasby trained as a social worker and is Professor of Health and Social Care at the University of Birmingham. He is also the Director of IMPACT, the UK centre for implementing evidence in adult social care..

If you have any questions please contact: emily.4.thomas@kcl.ac.uk

[Booking here](#)

Jobs

Director of the Centre for Adult Social Care Research (CARE) and Professor of Adult Social Care

This is an exciting job opportunity for someone to lead a new research centre, recruiting nine other staff and leading the centre set up, with a £3m grant from the Welsh Government. The Centre's aim is to generate ambitious high-quality research, gaining grants from UK-level research funders. Please think about applying yourself and also pass this email on to others who might be interested.



[News item](#)

[Job details and application process](#)

[Brochure available here](#)

If anyone wants to know more, or has any questions, please contact [Jonathan Scourfield](#), Professor of Social Work for a conversation about the post.

The Improvement Service
Data + Intelligence Project Officer

Job description

The Data and Intelligence Project Officer will be responsible for ensuring there is a solid evidence base to give insight and understanding of the status of the ELC sector.



Supported by the Programme Manager, the Data and Intelligence Project Officer will work with Scottish Government, ADES Networks and COSLA to continue the Improvement Service ELC delivery progress data collections and will be responsible for analysing and reporting on the data collected, identifying and presenting key trends and findings to key stakeholders including Scottish Government, Ministers, ADES and other relevant interested parties.

This post will gather, analyse, understand and report on data and intelligence relevant to the status of the ELC sector. This will be done through data collections and engagement with local authorities, as well as sourcing information from third parties. The insight generated will support the sharing of good practice to embed the change necessary to improve services.

Quantitative data will be supplemented and supported by the contextual information collected through periodic discussions and engagement with local authority colleagues. This requires the Data and Intelligence Project Officer to be empathetic and to understand the local context in which ELC services are being delivered and developed in order to accurately capture and document the successes and challenges of ELC delivery across Scotland.

- Salary - £33,355 - £36,125 per year
- Job type - Full Time
- Closing date - 31/05/2023
- Work from - Remote
- Job address - West Lothian Council Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, Livingston West Lothian EH54 6FF, GB

For more information and to apply please visit: [Data + Intelligence Project Officer](#)

Head of Research, Data and Insight

Do you think the world is ready for better measures of prosperity? So do we – let's talk.



Centre for Thriving Places is a place-based not-for-profit consultancy that puts the wellbeing of current and future generations centre stage. We're looking for a new Head of Research, Data and Insight to help our world-class initiative stay at the leading edge.

The person we're looking for will keep their finger on the pulse of **wellbeing economics** and new ways of measuring progress. They will be equally at ease talking detailed data with analysts, or about the practicalities of putting research into action with people in communities. The role is a **key part of our strategic leadership team**, with a broad remit including: development of measurement products and projects; evaluation and reporting; research and consultancy; line management; support for sales/grant applications and customer care.

Our team may be small, but the values that underpin our work make us a tight knit unit: we are rigorous and practical champions of people and systems; we share skills and experience positively and generously and courage is the hallmark of our approach to building a wellbeing economy. If you think this measures up to a dream job for you take a look at the full job description [here](#)

For now, we're able to offer a fixed term contract at 0.75 FTE* (24 hours per week) for 12 months from the start date which we fully expect to be able to extend, with the potential to increase to full time (we are a 4 day week employer). Salary is pro rata, £50,000 FTE with benefits. The job starts as soon as possible after interviews, depending on notice periods.

We are committed to making CTP a more diverse and inclusive organisation that actively tackles issues of exclusion, disempowerment and discrimination. If you feel you may be suited to this role but don't tick all the essential criteria, still get in touch on hello@centreforthrivingplaces.org for an informal chat.

Please help us to monitor our reach by completing this anonymous diversity [form](#).

To apply, **please complete the [form](#)**, which will ask you to upload your CV with a covering letter describing your reasons for applying.

Deadline for applications: 17:00 BST on 22nd June 2023 with the option to extend if required, due to a small team working at full capacity.

**We are a 4-day per week business. This means that full time is 4 days, and 3 days a week would be 0.75 FTE and so on. A working day is based on 8 hours.*

To submit a job advert to appear in the newsletter or on the LARIA website, please download and complete this [form](#) (Full Corporate and Corporate Members only). You can also post Job Vacancies on the Jobs Board in the LARIA [Members' Area](#).

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 22nd June](#).

Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?

Laria

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

Your LARIA Corporate Membership entitles you to submit content to the monthly LARIA newsletter, if you have any research, events, job adverts, resources or news which you would us to include please send it to admin@laria.org.uk.

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 22nd June](#).

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