

Public Consultation and Community Engagement

PhD Opportunities

CCSR welcomes applications for PhD research into public consultation and in particular the methods used and the impact in policy terms.

Community engagement by those who champion it is seen as a way of bringing about 'democratic renewal' by engendering public interest in governance by opening up new structures for more localised decision making. Community engagement has become seen as key to ensuring effective policy development and public service outcomes in the UK and internationally. In the UK in particular there has been a shift from centralised forms of 'government' towards horizontal and participatory 'governance'.

CCSR presently has a number of research projects in this area including: a cross national analysis of civic engagement across the Europe (ESRC); a review of the impact of Community Contracts (Department for Communities and Local Government); a review of community engagement and council size (Electoral Commission); an analysis of voter turnout (Electoral Commission) and Measuring the Impact of Community Engagement (New East Manchester).

CCSR has three ESRC PhD students presently conducting research in this area: Citizen Involvement in Governance; Civic Engagement and Government Policies Across Europe; Community Cohesion and Regeneration.

CCSR welcomes applications for PhDs examining the methods and impact of public consultation using quantitative and qualitative research techniques including statistical modelling, social network analysis and controlled trials. CCSR have excellent contacts with practitioners and policy makers working in this area.

For an initial discussion and advice about PhD funding please contact Dr. Kingsley Purdam on 0161-275-4219 or email Kingsley.Purdam@manchester.ac.uk