

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Geoff Mulgan** is Chief Executive of Nesta (the UK's National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts). Nesta combines investment in early stage companies, grant programmes in fields ranging from health and education to the arts and giving, and research. From 2004-2011 Geoff was the first Chief Executive of the Young Foundation, which became a leading centre for social innovation, combining research, creation of new ventures and practical projects.

Between 1997 and 2004 Geoff had various roles in the UK government including director of the Government's Strategy Unit and head of policy in the Prime Minister's office. Before that he was the founder and director of the think-tank Demos. He has also been Chief Adviser to Gordon Brown MP; a lecturer in telecommunications; an investment executive; and a reporter on BBC TV and radio. He is a visiting professor at LSE, UCL, Melbourne University and a regular lecturer at the China Executive Leadership Academy. He is an adviser to many governments around the world, and has been a board member of the Work Foundation, the Health Innovation Council, Political Quarterly and the Design Council, and chair of Involve. He is currently Chair of the Studio Schools Trust and the Social Innovation Exchange.

His recent books include *The Locust and the Bee* – a study on the future of economic growth; *The Art of Public Strategy – Mobilising Power and Knowledge for the Public Good*; *Good and Bad Power: the ideas and betrayals of government*; and *Connexity*.

## PLENARY SPEAKERS

**Carey Oppenheim** is chief executive of the Early Intervention Foundation. Her previous roles include Co-director of the Institute of Public Policy Research, Special Advisor to Tony Blair in the Number 10 Policy Unit, specialising in employment, social security, childcare and poverty. Carey has also been a senior lecturer in social policy at the South Bank University, deputy director and head of research at the Child Poverty Action Group, chaired the London Child Poverty Commission and advised the Treasury on welfare reform, and the DfE on childcare and early years strategy. She lately trained to be a teacher and taught history and politics at an inner-city London school.

**Jane Lewis** is director of Implementation Support, The Colebrooke Centre for Evidence and Implementation. Colebrooke is the UK's first centre dedicated to implementation science and practice in child and family services. It carries out research and evaluation and provides practical support to apply learning from the international science of implementation to enhance service design and delivery, working with central government, local government, the third sector and philanthropies. Jane was previously Director of the Qualitative Research Unit at NatCen Social Research, Director of Research at the National Children's Bureau, and led Research in Practice supporting evidence-informed practice in children's services. She was elected an Academician of the Social Sciences in 2010 and is joint author of *Qualitative Research Practice* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition out now).

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### PLENARY PANEL

**Helen Barnard** is a Policy and Research Programme Manager at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. She manages programmes of work focusing on child poverty, education, ethnicity and our anti-poverty strategy. Before joining the Foundation she worked at BMRB Social Research and Opinion Leader Research, carrying out research on topics including benefits, tax credits and tax, education, and housing. Helen studied Social and Political Sciences at Clare College, Cambridge University.

**Ivana La Valle** is an independent researcher with over 15 year experience of conducting research to inform and evaluate policy and practice on children and families. Ivana was until recently the Director of the Research Centre at the National Children's Bureau; prior to that she was at NatCen for 11 years where she was the Head of the Families and Children group. Ivana's main areas of expertise include early years, parental support and parental employment; more recently she has carried out a number of studies on vulnerable children and children and health. Ivana is a mixed methods researcher, with extensive experience of policy evaluation and of involving children in research.

**Neil Wholey** is Head of Research and Intelligence, Westminster City Council and an experienced social researcher. He is also Chair of LARIA (Local Area Research and Intelligence Association) which represents local researchers. His work encompasses market research, analysis of customer data, business intelligence, behaviour change, media evaluation and segmentation. His team has won numerous awards including PR Week and CIPR awards for research and the Association of Measurement and Evaluation in Communications (AMEC) in-house team of the year. Neil worked for Ipsos MORI before joining Westminster. You can follow Neil on Twitter @neilwholey

**Amanda White** is Head of Crime and Policing Analysis at the Home Office and Chief Social Researcher for the Home Office. Amanda has over twenty five years' experience working in government research for a range of different departments, including Office for National Statistics, Cabinet Office, Communities and Local Government and the Home Office. In her current role at the Home Office she leads an analytical team that works closely with policy makers on some of the key issues of the day including violent crime, gangs, alcohol and drug related crime, policing, and crime trends and patterns.

### WORKSHOP SPEAKERS (ALPHA BY SURNAME)

**Margaret Blake** is a Senior Research Director in the Health and Wellbeing team at NatCen, working mainly on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing. She is involved in developing NatCen's work in the area of social care in collaboration with academics in the UK and Europe. She is the principal investigator on the NIHR funded project: Exploring satisfaction with social care services amongst Pakistani, Bangladeshi and white British people. She previously worked in NatCen's Questionnaire Development and Testing Hub where she worked on a range of cognitive question testing projects, covering disability and health, material deprivation among older people, and social care for older people.

**Jenny Chanfreau** is a Senior Researcher in the Income & Work team at NatCen Social Research. She has an MSc Social Policy (Research) from the LSE and at NatCen works primarily on quantitative analysis projects. Jenny's recent projects have included analysis of Understanding Society data to identify predictors of wellbeing among young people and adults and analysis of the English Longitudinal Study of

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Ageing to look at work and income transitions when household members reach state pension age. She is currently analysing the National Survey for Wales to investigate wellbeing in Wales.

**Keith Clements** is a policy Officer at the National Children's Bureau (NCB), a leading charity that for 50 years has been improving the lives of children and young people, especially the most vulnerable. We work with children and for children, to influence government policy, be a strong voice for young people and practitioners, and provide creative solutions on a range of social issues. Since 2011, Keith has lead on NCB's health policy development and lobbying and raising awareness of health reforms amongst the children's voluntary sector. He has previously undertaken policy roles at the Council for Disabled Children and Ambitious About Autism.

**Robbie Coleman** is Research and Communications Manager at the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The EEF is an independent grant-making charity dedicated to raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in English primary and secondary schools by challenging educational disadvantage, sharing evidence and finding out what works. In March 2013 the EEF was designated a Government 'What Works' Centre for Schooling, alongside the Sutton Trust.

**Danielle De Feo** is a Principal Research Officer and has been a member of the Government Social Research Service for 5 years. Danielle started her career at the Food Standards Agency, before transferring to the Department of Health. Danielle has been working in the Health Improvement Analysis Team in the Department of Health since 2010, and is currently working on issues such as wellbeing and behaviour change. Danielle is a member of the British Psychological Society and has a MSc in Health Psychology, which uses psychological principles to promote changes in people's attitudes, behaviours and thinking about health and wellbeing.

**Bobby Duffy** is the Managing Director of the Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute and Global Director of Ipsos Social Research Institute. He leads a team of around 200 researchers in London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Belfast. He set up and ran Ipsos MORI's Research Methods Centre, and his methodological development work has included two papers short-listed for paper of the year in the Market Research Society's journal; he now sits on the Editorial Board of the journal. Bobby is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College London and is a trustee for the LankellyChase Foundation.

**Stefanie Ettelt** is a Lecturer in Health Policy at the Faculty of Public Health and Policy, London School of Medicine and Tropical Hygiene. She has a first degree in Literature and Political Science and an MSc in Health, Population and Society from LSE. Her current research interests focus on the relationship between research and policy and the role of ministries of health in making policies, in England and abroad. Stefanie recently completed her DrPH Thesis which examines how officials use policy piloting as a method of policy-making.

**Andrea Finney** is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Bristol's Personal Finance Research Centre. With a background in survey management at the Home Office and Office for National Statistics, she has particular expertise in the design and multivariate analysis of complex surveys and applying these to policy-relevant mixed-methods studies. Recent projects include quantifying the financial implications of a cancer diagnosis for individuals (for Macmillan Cancer Support), understanding the likely impact of a cap on high-cost lending on consumers (for Business Innovation and Skills) and exploring dimensions of financial wellbeing among older people (ongoing, funded by ESRC).

**Jen Gibb** is a research officer, National Children's Bureau Research Centre. Jen has extensive experience of policy-relevant research, working with children, young people, parents and professionals.

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Her current and recent projects include an evaluation of an advocacy service for children going through child protection proceedings for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; research into the impact of parental employment on child health, with UCL; and an evaluation of one-to-one support for care leavers, for the Prince's Trust. Previously, she worked at the Institute of Education on a major study of stress in children, and at London South Bank University, teaching quantitative methods.

**Valdeep Gill** is a senior researcher in the Health and Wellbeing team at NatCen. Valdeep is the lead qualitative researcher on the national institute for health research (NIHR) funded project: Exploring satisfaction with social care services amongst Pakistani, Bangladeshi and white British people. Valdeep joined Natcen in 2010. She is a mixed methods researcher and has a particular interest in mental health, social care and wellbeing. Valdeep mainly works on the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Study. Valdeep has an MSc in Social Research Methods.

**Lizzie Jordan** is an Associate Director at TNS BMRB. She has over seven years' experience in qualitative research, four of which she has spent in social research. Lizzie has used deliberative research methods to engage with the public about policy development, novel technologies and regulatory change for a range of government clients including the FSA. Before joining TNS BMRB, Lizzie worked for a qualitative agency specialising in the use of video ethnography to capture media consumption in the home. Lizzie has a Masters Degree in Creative and Critical Writing from the University of Sussex.

**Andrea Kirkpatrick** is a Principal Research Officer at the Department for Work and Pensions where she has worked for the last 15 years. She has managed a range of DWP research and evaluation programmes and undertaken a number of in-house studies. Andrea has a particular interest in labour market policy, active labour market programmes and Welfare Benefit reform. Andrea currently works in the Universal Credit Evaluation Team.

**Eileen McKibbin** is Research & Evaluation Manager at Kent County Council (KCC). Her team undertakes a range of work including demographic analyses, customer insight, market research, surveys, and evaluations. A current challenge in local government is to ensure decision makers have evidence they require to transform public services and manage dwindling budgets. Previously in KCC, Eileen led work in partnership arrangements in outcome-based approaches and data/information sharing. Originally from Canada, Eileen has worked in research and evaluation with the public sector for over 20 years, including for child and family services, education, and locality-based multi-agency initiatives.

**Sally McManus** has worked in health and social research for eighteen years. She leads on mental health and wellbeing research at NatCen. Sally uses secondary analysis to profile the lives of people living with mental illness, with studies focusing on links with violence and abuse, housing conditions, job quality, and disability. She currently runs the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey and a study of trends and patterns in self-harm and suicidal behaviour, funded by the Department of Health's Policy Research Programme. Sally writes on health survey methodology, including for textbooks published by Taylor and Francis, Ashgate, and Sage.

**Ely Mirzahosseinkhan** is a Consumer Engagement Manager at the Food Standards Agency and has over 10 years' experience in local and central Government research, covering both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. She also specialises in public sector research, with a particular focus on gaining experience in using consumer research. She is currently working within central Government, developing food safety policies using a variety of engagement approaches to involve the public in policy development. Prior to completing her Masters in Social Sciences and Management (King's College London), she worked in Local Government as a research consultant.

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**Ross Neilson** is Senior Policy Adviser in the Cabinet Office Implementation Group where he is Joint Head of the What Works Secretariat. Ross leads the 'What Works' programme which is the Government's initiative to improve the use and generation of evidence through the creation of the What Works Network. Previously Ross worked at ICF GHK, a public policy consultancy where he led research and evaluation studies for UK and EU government and not-for-profit clients. His specific areas of interest were in education, labour market, skills, and children and families policy.

**Dr Niamh O'Connor** is a Principal Researcher in the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Sport Analytical Unit of the Scottish Government, leading on research and statistics on sport and physical activity; culture; and part of a team delivering a programme of evaluation of the impact of the 2014 Commonwealth Games and associated legacy programmes. Niamh has worked in Government Social Research in the Scottish Government for 9 years, previous posts include leading on Strategic & Cross-Cutting Research, including the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey. Prior to government, Niamh's academic background is in human geography.

**Dr Robin Pharoah** founded ESRO, a leading social and market research agency, in 2004, with the aim of bringing the rigour and insight of academia to applied research settings. Since then, he has worked on a wide range of research projects – many of them award-winning – for clients across the private, public and third sectors. Recently Robin has led projects on a number of 'hot button' issues, including landmark studies on the impacts of migration in various localities, patient experiences of cancer care, and the delivery of social care services in an age of austerity.

**Mark Picksley** is the Customer Intelligence Manager at Lambeth Council. Mark started his career in local government as a housing manager before moving into a policy and research role supporting housing regeneration projects at Hackney Council. Following the completion of a Masters degree in Policy Research from Bristol University, Mark worked in the corporate research team at Islington Council before moving to Lambeth in 2002 where he is the council's head of profession for research and consultation, and he has worked on a wide range of quantitative and qualitative research and consultation projects.

**Alison Pollard** works as a Senior Researcher in the Reducing Re-offending Analysis Programme at the Ministry of Justice. Over the past ten years she has designed, managed and led evaluations for central Government Departments, grant-making organisations and the voluntary sector. She is particularly interested in evaluating policies that aim to support vulnerable people and the relationship between evaluation and organisational learning. She holds two MSc degrees; one in Demography and one in Social Research & Evaluation.

**Meghan Rainsberry** is the Communications Manager for the Institute of Education's Centre for Longitudinal Studies and the CLOSER programme. She is responsible for overseeing the communications and impact strategies for the 1958, 1970 and millennium British birth cohort studies. Prior to joining the IOE, Meghan worked as the Writer/Editor at an arms-length body of the Department for Communities and Local Government. She has held roles in the public, private and charitable sectors. Meghan has an MSc in media and communications from the London School of Economics.

**Nicola Singleton** is an independent researcher who was formerly Director of Policy and Research at the UK Drug Policy Commission (UKDPC), a charitably-funded organisation established to provide objective analysis of evidence to inform UK drug policy. Prior to joining UKDPC, Nicola worked at the Home Office in drugs research and analysis, in Social Survey Division of the Office for National Statistics working on surveys on mental health and prisons, and as a researcher in a local health authority in the field of public health.

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**Dr Katherine (Kat) Smith** is a Reader in Global Public Health at the University of Edinburgh. Her work aims to understand who shapes the research, policy and ideas that impact on public health and health inequalities and includes research focusing on: the role of: evidence and researchers; commercial actors; third sector/advocacy organisations; and think tanks. She has also undertaken research to comparatively analyse policy responses to health inequalities across the UK.

**William Solesbury** works as an independent consultant, researcher and trainer in the part played by evidence, including research, in the construction of public policy.. He is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College London and has participated there in a number of research projects, most recently on the growth of policy tsars advising Ministers. He has also worked directly with researchers and policy-makers as a consultant and trainer. William has published extensively in journals, research reports, blogs and print media. He has also just published a book *World Cities, City Worlds: Explorations with metaphors, icons and perspectives* (Matador, 2013).

**Gemma Spiers** is a Research Fellow, at the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York. I have worked in research for eight years, mostly in applied social research. My research typically focuses on children and young people's health care, examining service models, processes, outcomes and experience of care from the perspective of the parent and child. I am particularly interested in experiences of, and the psychosocial aspects of, health care delivery.

**Maria Strudwick** is a Senior Research Officer at the Department for Work and Pensions and has worked in Government research for 16 years. She has managed research and evaluation projects on disability employment programmes, family policy and youth; including a year in the Department for Education. Maria now works on pensions and ageing research.

**David Taylor** has recently joined the Big Lottery Fund's Evidence Unit as a Policy and Learning Advisor, building on research methodology knowledge gained during his undergraduate degree. He has previously worked in the Investment function and been responsible for assessing grant applications and monitoring grants. As a member of the Evidence Unit, he works with Sally in the commissioning and management of evaluations and subsequent dissemination of reports to ensure that evidence informs funding decisions.

**Sally Taylor** is Policy and Learning Advisor in the Evidence Unit at the Big Lottery Fund. Our mission in the Evidence Unit is to ensure that evidence is at the heart of what we do, to help our decision-making when designing programmes or giving out grants. She commissions research into pressing social issues towards which the Big Lottery Fund may wish to direct, commissions programme or thematic evaluations and provides advice to others within the organisation on commissioning and managing evaluations. She is currently helping to ensure that our evidence is accessible to people outside the fund.

**Diane Trollope** started work with the Training and Enterprise Council network in the mid 90s supporting the bidding and management of Single Regeneration Budget Programmes. She has worked for Kent County Council for the last 12 years, leading Policy and Service Development within Children's Services for 4 years, prior to which leading quality assurance and review for extended and preventative services designed around schools. Over the last two years she has established a small Central Programme Office function to provide oversight and assurance of the County Council change programmes.