

***‘Times like these’:
Researching civil society responses to
and recovery from COVID-19***

Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research e-Conference 2020



WELCOME

Welcome to the *'Times like these': Researching civil society responses to and recovery from COVID-19* e-conference, jointly organised by the [Voluntary Sector Studies Network](#) (VSSN) and the [National Council of Voluntary Organisations](#) (NCVO), in partnership with [BVSC](#) Centre for Voluntary Action.

COVID-19 has caused exceptional upheaval and loss across the world. Complex changes to how people live, work and socialise have been implemented at unimaginable pace. The crisis has had massive ramifications for civil society. With the exception of some high-profile successes, much fundraising activity has dried up. Many voluntary organisations have seen their incomes plummet and are having to furlough staff and cut services, at a time when the need for their services has increased exponentially. Organisations have been working and collaborating in ways which did not previously seem possible. There has been an up-swell of mutual aid and local community action in the immediate response to the crisis, while national calls for volunteers have led to huge numbers registering to offer help.

Debates about the sector's responses to a wide set of social challenges, its position as an innovator and as a potential leader of social change, continue to play on against the backdrop of the easing of lockdown and the ongoing health crisis. Philanthropic responses to the outbreak and its consequences have already been both celebrated and critiqued – as society reengages with debates over the balance between welfare delivered by public or private means. And volunteering and mutual aid efforts have highlighted the emergence of longer-term issues around volunteer management, social capital, and community. These are just some of the themes covered in this year's Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference.

The Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference is an annual event, which has been running for over 20 years. This is the first time we have held it on-line. It will look and feel very different from previous years. What remains the same, however, is the high quality of speakers and presentations that the conference attracts. The abstracts we received were of such quantity and quality that we ended up doubling the number of sessions we initially intended to run. We will miss meeting with you all face-to-face. But we are pleased that moving online has enabled so many more people to participate than usual. We look forward to engaging with all of you. This is, however, our first attempt at an online conference, so please do bear with us – it is a steep learning curve.

Best wishes, from the conference organising team

Carolyn Cordery (VSSN), Jane Cullingworth (VSSN), Chris Damm (VSSN), Chris Dayson (VSSN), Jon Dean (VSSN), Angela Ellis Paine (VSSN), Véronique Jochum (NCVO), Sophie Wilson (BVSC)

DAY 1: MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

10.00 – 11.00	<p>OPENING PLENARY SESSION: FRAMING CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSES TO COVID 19 Chair: Véronique Jochum, NCVO</p> <p>Re-making state-civil society relationships during the COVID 19 pandemic? An English perspective <i>Chris Dayson, Sheffield Hallam University</i></p> <p>Bringing organization back in: Deliberating organizational means and ends in ‘times like these’ <i>Tracey M. Coule, Sheffield Hallam University</i></p>
11.00 – 11.30	Morning break
11.30 – 13.00	<p>SESSION 1A: PHILANTHROPY, FUNDRAISING, FUNDING AND COVID-19 Chair: Jon Dean, Sheffield Hallam University Facilitator: Carolyn Cordery, Aston University</p> <p>Reserves and financial vulnerability of UK voluntary organisations after COVID-19 <i>John Mohan, Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham and David Clifford, University of Southampton</i></p> <p>The impact of COVID-19 on the foundation and dissolution of charitable organisations: A cross-national comparison <i>Diarmuid McDonnell* and Alasdair Rutherford**, *UK Data Service, **University of Stirling</i></p> <p>Learning in Lockdown: An exploration of active citizenship education for children and young people in lockdown <i>Alison Body, University of Kent</i></p> <p>Navigating new terrain in an emergency grants programme <i>Sally Vivyan, Open University</i></p> <p>The great fundraising furlough swap? Exploring the development and implications of fundraisers’ “furlonteering” during the COVID-19 lockdown. <i>Lesley Alborough, University of Kent</i></p>

	<p>SESSION 1B: VOLUNTEER MOBILISATION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19: INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL INSIGHTS</p> <p>Chair: Angela Ellis Paine, Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham Facilitator: Jurgen Grotz, Institute for Volunteering Research, UEA</p> <p>Community-based volunteering in response to COVID-19: The COV-VOL project <i>Julie MacInnes*</i>, <i>Kat Frere-Smith**</i>, <i>Bridget Jones***</i>, <i>Sabrina Jaswal*</i>, <i>Tamsyn Eida*</i>, <i>Vanessa Abrahamson*</i>, <i>Rebecca Sharp****</i>, <i>Heather Gage***</i>, and <i>Patricia Wilson*</i> <i>*University of Kent, **Brighton and Sussex Medical School, ***University of Surrey ****NIHR Applied Research Collaboration, Kent, Surrey and Sussex</i></p> <p>Mobilising volunteers effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic <i>Harriet Thiery*</i>, <i>Jenny McNeill*</i>, <i>Joanne Cook**</i>, <i>Jon Burchell*</i>, <i>Fiona Walkley**</i>, <i>Erica Ballantyne*</i>, <i>*University of Sheffield ** University of Hull,</i></p> <p>Scotland – Lessons learned in managing the supply of formal volunteers during the COVID-19 crisis and recovery period <i>Alan Stevenson and Debbie Maltman, Volunteer Scotland</i></p> <p>Pandemic recovery and volunteering in Wales – challenges, opportunities, and a research agenda <i>Emma Taylor-Collins*</i>, <i>Fiona Liddell**</i>, and <i>Hannah Durrant*</i> <i>*Wales Centre for Public Policy, **Wales Council for Voluntary Action</i></p> <p>Information and referral service for seniors in British Columbia, Canada: Learning from COVID-19 <i>Karen Lok Yi Wong*</i>, <i>** Andrew Sixsmith** and Leslie Remun*</i> <i>*411 Seniors Centre, **Science and Technology for Aging Research Institute, Simon Fraser University</i></p>
13.00 - 14.00	Break

14.00 – 15.30	<p>SESSION 2A: COMMUNITIES AND MUTUAL AID DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC – CONCEPTUAL INSIGHTS Chair: Chris Dayson, Sheffield Hallam University</p> <p>Locally rooted: community organising in times of crisis <i>Marilyn Taylor, IVAR</i></p> <p>Apart but not Alone? A cross-sectional study of neighbour support in a major UK urban area during the COVID-19 lockdown <i>Michele Biddle*, ** and Mat Jones*</i> <i>*UWE, **National Institute for Health Research Applied Research Collaboration West (NIHR ARC West)</i></p> <p>Learning from international emergency responses to inform Scotland’s COVID-19 recovery approach <i>Cathy Hynds, Volunteer Scotland</i></p> <p>From Kropotkin to COVID-19: the role of mutual aid associations in democratic participation <i>Jurgen Grotz*, Michael Locke and Michael Ashe**</i> <i>*IVR, **Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea</i></p> <p>The Role of Mutual Aid in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Case Studies from Scotland <i>Jack Rendall, Maeve Curtin, Michael Roy and Simon Teasdale, Glasgow Caledonian University</i></p>
	<p>SESSION 2B: VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND COVID-19 – MICRO, MESO AND MACRO PERSPECTIVES Chair: Jane Cullingworth, University of Glasgow Facilitator: Sophie Wilson, BVSC Centre for Voluntary Action</p> <p>Delivering community impact through a coordinated VCS response: The Sheffield Hub Network story <i>Adam Batty, Voluntary Action Sheffield</i></p> <p>Third sector organisations and their essential role in COVID-19 response and recovery – examples from two Scottish local authorities <i>Claire Bynner, University of Glasgow</i></p> <p>Community businesses and COVID-19 <i>Amelia Byrne, Power to Change and The Young Foundation</i></p> <p>Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing homelessness <i>Jo Brown, Groundswell</i></p>

16.00- 17.00	Voluntary Sector Review: Meet the editors James Rees, Carl Milofsky, Chris Dayson <i>Bring along a glass of wine or cup of tea to find out about the journal and have an informal chat about getting published in Voluntary Sector Review</i>
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DAY 2: TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020		
Time	Session	Location
10.00 – 11.00	<p>OPENING PLENARY SESSION: EXPERIENCING CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSES TO COVID-19 Chair: Carolyn Cordery, Aston University</p> <p>Keynote speakers: Karl Wilding, NCVO Anna Fowlie, SCVO Brian Carr, BVSC Naser Haghamed, Islamic Relief Worldwide</p>	
11.00 – 11.30	Break	
11.30 – 13.00	<p>SESSION 3A: VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCES DURING COVID-19: INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANISATIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND IMPLICATIONS Chair: Angela Ellis Paine, University of Birmingham Facilitator: Véronique Jochum, NCVO</p> <p>“Just to hear your voice is so lovely”: The health and wellbeing effects of stopping their volunteering as a result of the COVID-19 crisis on older volunteers <i>Jurgen Grotz, IVR, UEA</i></p> <p>The response of volunteers in sport to covid 19 <i>Geoff Nichols*, Lindsay Findlay King** and Fiona Reid***</i> <i>*University of Sheffield, **University of Northumbria, ***Glasgow Caledonian University</i></p> <p>Being neighbours during lockdown: experiences from an outer city estate <i>Stephanie Denning, Coventry University</i></p> <p>Examining the motivations and emotions linked to the formation of a voluntary sewing group formed in response to Covid-19 <i>Beverley Gilbert, University of Worcester</i></p> <p>Volunteering and COVID-19: disrupting geographies of voluntary action <i>Matt Baillie Smith and Bianca Fadel, Northumbria University</i></p>	

	<p>SESSION 3B: CIVIL SOCIETY AND COVID: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES Chair: Carolyn Cordery, Aston University Facilitator: Jon Dean, Sheffield Hallam University</p> <p>The role of Local Infrastructure Organisations in the COVID 19 response <i>Carol Jacklin-Jarvis and Daniel Haslam, Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership, The Open University</i></p> <p>Embedding a culture of learning: LDCVS and its sounding Board <i>Jill Anderson and Sam Riches, Lancaster District Voluntary and Community Solutions</i></p> <p>Dancing With Elephants: COVID-19 and the response to diverse community needs in Camden <i>Julie Christie-Webb, Kevin Nunan and Hilary Barnard, Voluntary Action Camden</i></p> <p>Community action in a pandemic <i>Fay Holland, Groundwork UK</i></p> <p>Social surveys are now more important than ever: what can the data tell us? <i>Patty Doran, UK Data Service</i></p>
13.00 - 14.00	Break
14.00 – 15.30	<p>SESSION 4A: VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND COVID-19 – MICRO, MESO AND MACRO PERSPECTIVES Chair: Sophie Wilson, BVSC Centre for Voluntary Action Facilitator: Jane Cullingworth, University of Glasgow</p> <p>The impact of Covid-19 on the voluntary sector working in criminal justice <i>Anne Fox, Clinks</i></p> <p>Making it stick: The importance of lived experience insight in systems change <i>Nathan Dick and Andy Williams, Revolving Doors Agency</i></p> <p>Voluntary and community organisations moving from crisis to recovery <i>Vita Terry, Katie Turner, Houda Davies, Annie Caffyn and Sonakshi Anand IVAR</i></p> <p>Third sector responses to Covid-19 and poverty in Scotland <i>Laura Robertson and Neil Cowan, The Poverty Alliance</i></p>

	<p>SESSION 4B: COMMUNITIES AND MUTUAL AID DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC – INSIGHTS FROM THE FRONTLINE Chair: Véronique Jochum, NCVO</p> <p>The role of community creativity in the time of COVID 19 <i>Amanda Smethurst, Independent researcher</i></p> <p>How nonprofit organizations in the City of High Point (North Carolina) responded to COVID-19 <i>Patrick Harman, Hayden-Harman Foundation</i></p> <p>Community Responses to COVID-19 <i>Wendy Sugarman*, Richard Usher** and Rob Macmillan***</i> <i>*WSA Community Consultants, **Just Ideas, ***Sheffield Hallam University</i></p> <p>#brumtogether, a study into the impact of the Birmingham and Solihull Local Delivery Pilot on community resilience in the face of Covid-19 <i>Steven Rose, Karen Creavin and Naomi Lynch, The Active Wellbeing Society</i></p> <p>A ‘Real Time Evaluation’ of neighbourhood-based projects for older people during COVID 19 pandemic in Leeds <i>Chris Dayson*, Jan Gilbertson*, Emma Bimpson*, Chris Damm*, Angela Ellis Paine**, Helen Kara*** and Luke Price****</i> <i>*Sheffield Hallam University, ** Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham, *** Independent researchers, ****Centre for Ageing Better</i></p>
16.00- 17.00	<p>BOOK LAUNCH Join us with a (truly socially distanced!) glass of wine for an informal end to the conference, where we hear from authors of two new books from Policy Press. Jon Dean’s <i>The Good Glow: Charity and the Symbolic Power of Doing Good</i> and Alison Body’s <i>Children’s Charities in Crisis: Early Intervention and the State</i> were both released in 2020 to great acclaim, and in this closing session we’ll hear from them both as they discuss their books and bring two days of ideas and research to an end.</p>