Our vision is for the Centre for Housing Research (CHR) to be a leading inter-disciplinary housing research centre in the Scottish, UK and international context. To achieve this we have refocused our previous strategic aims to reflect the strengths of current staff and funding opportunities.

Our research going forward will centre on two key themes:

1) Homes, Families and Communities:

This workstream is concerned with the interconnections between housing, home and family, and how these relationships in turn contribute to intra and inter-generational inequalities. Our work also considers the attachments people have to their local communities, and their active role in shaping and creating the places in which they live through voluntary and community action. Recent projects include: an ESRC seminar series on the Big Society, Localism and Housing Policy (McKee PI); a Leverhulme Programme Grant: Mind the (Housing) Wealth Gap: intergenerational justice and family welfare (McKee Co-I); and a Carnegie Small Grant: Housing Generation Rent (McKee PI).

2) Places, Policies and Practices:

This workstream seeks to better understand the uneven geographical impacts of housing policy and how this contributes to spatial inequalities, with particular interests in the intersections with welfare and migration policies. It also encompasses our research on environmental behaviour change through an analytical focus on peoples’ daily practices in the home. Recent projects in this workstream include: an ESRC Future Research Leader’s Grant: Smarter Homes? (Reid PI); a Carnegie Small Grant: Conceptualising Prosumption (Reid PI); and our Supporting People: Client Records and Outcomes Project (McKee PI), which is a vital repository for housing-related support data in England.

For more information about our current research projects please see our website:

gsrv-cold.st-andrews.ac.uk/CHR/Projects_Research.aspx
Inter-disciplinary research is central to Housing Studies as a field of academic study. Bringing together expertise in Geography, Sociology, Social Policy, Sustainable Development and Demography, the Centre is a leading example of inter-disciplinary applied social science at St Andrews.

Wider Connections: We will target our resources to further develop our existing partnerships internally within the University, and externally with the Universities of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam and TU Delft. In addition, we will explore new collaborative ventures with other academic institutions and housing organisations in the UK, Europe and further afield. We will be prioritising European funding applications, in addition to both traditional and new UK funding sources.

Academic Excellence: CHR will advance theoretical and intellectual debates, and continue to publish high quality articles in leading journals within Human Geography and cognate disciplines. We will continue to be leading members of editorial boards (Housing Studies), learned societies (HSA, RGS-IGB), and UK and international academic networks (ENHR.)

Knowledge Exchange beyond the academy is critical to maximising our impact on policy and practice around housing. It is pivotal to our ethos that our research has wider social benefits. The policy-relevant nature of our research and the strength of our networks make us well positioned to influence and inform key decision makers at a variety of scales. We are already engaged in an active dialogue with the policy and practice community. For further details on our KE activities, please see our website: ggsrv-cold.st-andrews.ac.uk/chr/knowledge-to-work.aspx

About us:

Established in 1990, CHR is one of the foremost housing research centres in the UK. Our programme of research is policy-relevant, theoretically informed and centres on inter-disciplinary understandings of housing and home.

We have a wealth of theoretical, methodological and disciplinary expertise amongst our team of academics, data analysts and doctoral researchers. Our work has informed and influenced policy and practice within the fields of housing and regeneration, the third sector, economic development and sustainability from the local, through to the national and international level.

CHR will be moving forward in 2014 under the new directorship of Drs Kim McKee and Louise Reid.

An Advisory Board has been appointed to provide advice and expertise on our future strategic direction.

Contact us:

To join our mailing list and keep in touch with our news, events and publications contact: chr@st-andrews.ac.uk

or see our website: ggsrv-cold.st-andrews.ac.uk/CHR

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