



White Rose Brussels Office - Case Studies

Energy Poverty and Social Isolation – Dr Lucie Middlemiss, University of Leeds, 16/10/2018

Dr Lucie Middlemiss, Associate Professor in Sustainability, the lead academic on a White Rose Collaboration Fund project on energy poverty, held an event in Brussels in October 2018. Supported by the White Rose Brussels Office, this policy focussed event followed on from their project and explored how vulnerability to energy poverty has a critical social dimension. Chaired by Theresa Griffin MEP, the panel of academics and experts presented their findings, which led to a lively discussion with nearly 50 Brussels stakeholders directly involved in energy policy, such as policy officers from the European Commission and European Parliament.

Following the event, Lucie reported numerous positive outcomes, having made new, valuable connections. One attendee, a Belgian social worker, provided Lucie with his extensive sets of data on energy poverty. Another, Lara Blake, DG Justice at the European Commission, was supportive of the project's research, and was included on Lucie's advisory board for her next bid. Furthermore, Lucie used the contacts developed in Brussels to start an invite list for another event she held in Amsterdam later in the year. She also received two invitations to participate in research grants from researchers who attended her event in Brussels. Lucie noted that the most significant new connections were with practitioners, as they are much harder to form from the UK.

Regions, cities and the EU after Brexit: A 'multi-speed' Europe. – SPERI, Dr Scott Lavery, University of Sheffield, 30/05/2017

Held jointly with the White Rose Brussels Office, the University of Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute (SPERI), convened a roundtable discussion event in the European Parliament, led by four experts. The session centred around the European Commission's then recent White Paper, 'The Future of Europe', examining the five possible futures of the EU. Experts included academics from the University of Sheffield, and prominent University of Oxford academic Prof. Jan Zielonka, who debated the topic in front of attendees including MEPs, European Commission officials and representatives of Brussels-based think tanks.

Following the event, Dr Scott Lavery's research was published in the prestigious political science and EU studies journal 'Journal of European Public Policy'. Through connections made at the event, he developed links with Linda McAvan MEP who hosted the event in the European Parliament, and his team gained access to European Parliamentary research team. Facilitated by Linda McAvan MEP, his team will utilise the resources of the in-house policy unit to aid future data collection and research. Since his first symposium in May 2017, Scott returned to Brussels for a further roundtable discussion with FEPS, a centre left European think tank. With the assistance of the White Rose Brussels Office, Scott has also revisited Brussels to interview stakeholders on the 'Capital Markets Union,' and is scheduled to return in the summer of 2020 to follow up on this work and hold another symposium with Brussels-based stakeholders.

Further Examples of activities to hold in Brussels:

‘The Archaeology of Agricultural Resilience in Eastern Africa’ (AAREA) Final Meeting and White Rose EU Research in Africa – this is an ERC funded project examining the long-term sustainability of two East African agricultural systems. The project is led by the Dr. Daryl Stump (York), Prof. Mark Bateman (Sheffield) and Dr. Susannah Sallu (Leeds). AAREA visited Brussels for two days, holding a final project meeting with project partners and the ERC on the first day and a seminar exploring ‘What on Earth does the Past of Eastern Africa tell us about Future Sustainability?’ on the second, followed by a working session with European Commission staff on how to take the project further.

‘Archaeology on the Edge: Northern Europe and the Circumpolar World’ (ArchSci2020) Mid-Term Review Meeting and Presentation to the European Parliament – this is an ongoing EU funded ITN (innovative training network) coordinated at the University of York, and is one of only 30 Joint Doctorates awarded across Europe. The project, ArchSci2020, led by the University of York’s Prof. Matthew Collins (now at Copenhagen) held a mid-term review meeting with European Commission Project Officers on the first day and on the second day, the Joint Doctorate fellows and supervisors were given a tour of the parliament, followed by a workshop/discussion hosted with UK MEPs on the effects of Brexit in the Arts and Humanities. Furthermore, the fellows convened a session with European Commission officials on project dissemination and career development plans.