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The Big Society, Localism and Housing Policy: an ESRC Seminar Series

Seminar 1: The University of Sheffield: Thursday 7 March – Friday 8 March 2013

Localism and the Big Society: what do they mean for housing studies?

Venue: ICSS, 219 Portobello, Sheffield, S1 4DP

Registration: All places for the seminar have been taken. Contact Tom Moore (tm55@st-andrews.ac.uk) to add your name to a reserve list from which people will be offered a place at the seminar should one become free.

This event is being run with support from the Research Exchange for the Social Sciences (RESS) at the University of Sheffield.

Programme

Thursday 7 March 2013

- 10.00 am *Coffee/Tea and Registration*
- 10.30 am **Introduction to the Seminar**
Ed Ferrari (University of Sheffield) and John Flint (University of Sheffield)
- 10.40 am **Session 1: The Origins and Implications of the Big Society**
Kim McKee (University of St Andrews): *The Big Society, Localism and Austerity: Challenges and dilemmas for theory and practice*
Tony Manzi (University of Westminster): *Examining the rationalities of the Big Society and its consequences*
- 12.10 pm *Coffee/Tea*
- 12.30 pm **Session 2: Conceptualising the Big Society**
Keith Jacobs (University of Tasmania): *The politics of the Big Society and Localism*
- 1.15 pm *Lunch*
- 2.00 pm **Session 3: Reframing policy through the Big Society**
David Mullins (University of Birmingham): *Delivering the Big Society? Housing, localism organisations and social assets*
Vidhya Alakeson (Resolution Foundation): *A Time for Innovation? Developing new housing policy mechanisms*
- 3.30 pm *Coffee/Tea*
- 3.50 pm **Discussant summary and general discussion**
- 4.30 pm *Close*

Friday 8 March 2013

9.30 am Coffee/Tea

10.00 am **Session 4: Implications for Policy, Practice and Housing Studies**

David Clapham (University of Reading): *The Big Society and the housing academy*

Grainia Long (Chartered Institute of Housing): *The Big Society and the housing profession*

11.30 am Coffee/Tea

11.50 am **Session 5: Delivering Housing and Community Services in the Big Society and Austerity Era**

Implications for Front Line Services: budget rationing and new mechanisms of delivery – a panel discussion with:

Paul Broadbent (Chief Executive of the Gangmasters Licencing Authority)

12.45 pm Lunch

1.30 pm **Session 6: Implications for Localism**

Mike Raco (University College London): *Rethinking ownership and local democracy in the Big Society*

Peter Matthews (Heriot Watt University): *Local communities and services distribution in an era of austerity*

3.00 pm Coffee/Tea

3.20 pm **Discussant summary and general discussion**

4.00 pm Close

Key questions for this seminar include:

- What is new about 'the Big Society'?
- What problems and opportunities does 'localism' and 'the Big Society' offer for housing policy?
- What are – and should be – the respective roles of the public, private and third sectors in housing-related provision? Where do communities fit in? What should be the role and agenda of housing scholars?
- To what extent might the ideals of 'the Big Society' and 'localism' be realised in, and reconciled with, austerity and cuts?