

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

SCOTTISH POVERTY AND INEQUALITY RESEARCH UNIT
GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY



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WELCOME

Welcome to the first annual report of the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit of Glasgow Caledonian University. We review the work that we completed in 2020 and the first half of 2021.

This has been an exceptionally difficult time for people experiencing poverty in the UK and beyond. Although a wide range of local and national actions were introduced in 2020 and 2021 to support people experiencing poverty, the pernicious problem of poverty persists.

Our aim, as ever, has been to support those who seek to eradicate poverty and tackle the problems that poverty presents by delivering research, evaluation, analysis and commentary.

In 2021/22, SPIRU intends to be as productive and as supportive to the anti-poverty community as it was in 2020/21. We look forward to working in partnership to better understand the challenges that poverty presents, and to deliver impactful research that works toward the eradication of poverty in Scotland, in the UK and beyond.

Professor John H McKendrick and Professor Stephen Sinclair
Co-Directors
August 2021

The background of the page is a photograph of a stone wall. In the foreground, there is a dark, rectangular table with a metal mesh chair tucked under it. A small potted plant sits on the table. A solid blue horizontal bar is positioned above the title.

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PRIORITIES ... what we do

IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

We aim to do more than add to the canon of knowledge on poverty in the UK. We aim to deliver impactful research that can be used by others to tackle poverty and the problems it presents. The success of our work should be measured according to the difference that it makes to the lives of people experiencing poverty.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We are firmly committed to sharing our knowledge with, and providing advice to, those who are working to tackle poverty in Scotland. We actively engage civil society through formal committee work, participating in public conversation and debate, and offering informal advice.

DEVELOPING RESEARCH TALENT

SPIRU acknowledges its responsibility to develop the next generation of poverty researchers and analysts. Providing opportunity and developing talent are core to the work of the Unit.

OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES

SPIRU is interested in all aspects of poverty in the UK. However, we have particular interest and expertise in several specialist sub-fields. Click on the links if you wish to find out more about our work in these areas:

- [National anti-poverty policy, strategy and practice](#)
- [Local anti-poverty policy, strategy and practice](#)
- [Child poverty](#)
- [Transport and poverty](#)
- [Education and poverty](#)
- [Food security and poverty](#)
- [Sport, leisure, play and poverty](#)
- [Work, employability and poverty](#)
- [Financial inclusion](#)
- [Participatory and community-based research](#)
- [Historical studies of poverty](#)
- [Theorising and conceptualising poverty](#)
- [Attitudes toward poverty](#)
- [Measuring poverty](#)



PROGRESS ... highlights in 2020/21

COVID-19 RELATED WORK

SPIRU was responsive to the need for evidence-based research and commentary to understand how Scotland was responding to the challenge of managing COVID-19 in order to protect its most vulnerable citizens. For example, we completed a nationwide review of local action to tackle food insecurity during the coronavirus crisis for the Poverty and Inequality Commission; the Action Group on Child Poverty (Scottish Leaders Forum of Scottish Government) commissioned us to research how local leaders were responding to the challenge of tackling child poverty amidst the crisis; and we evaluated the work of the Inverclyde Community Action Research Group. Throughout the period, we also engaged in public debate relating to the impact of COVID on people experiencing poverty.

INFORMING POLICY AND PRACTICE

We continued to offer advice through formal and informal channels, with a view to informing policy and practice. Most notably, we continued to work to help shape local responses to tackle child poverty in Scotland, as part of the Local Child Poverty Co-ordination Group, led by the Improvement Service/Public Health Scotland-led. Some of our research outputs were also written for impact. For example, in February 2021, the Poverty and inequality Commission published our collection of case studies of strengthening free school meal provision in Scotland, and in April 2021, we published a practical resource to guide local analysis of mapping holiday out of school provision.

NEW AUTHORS

Our commitment to support the development of new research talent led to two researchers and eighteen Work Placement students co-authoring their first research report; two researchers and five Work Placement students delivering their first presentation at an academic conference; and two researchers publishing their first academic journal paper.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

SPIRU has pioneered the introduction of 12 month posts (0.2 FTE) for pre-PhD students seeking to gain research experience in an applied research unit. In 2020 and 2021, we employed our second and third cohort of new talent. We extended the range of opportunities for new talent in the summer of 2021 by offering two SPIRU summer scholarships and hosting scholarships funded by the Robertson Trust and the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland.



PEOPLE ... who we are

OUR CORE TEAM

SPIRU comprises two Co-Directors (Professor John McKendrick and Professor Stephen Sinclair), three Theme Leaders (Dr Janet Greenlees, Dr Ruth Lightbody and Dr Thomas Montgomery), two researchers (Clara Pirie and Sebastian Stettin) and two PhD Research Students (Jed Graham and Jill Marchbank). We are a multi-disciplinary team, often working as an inter-disciplinary collective, with specialist disciplinary expertise in history, human geography, political science, sociology and social policy.

OUR SUPPORTING CAST

We offer opportunities throughout the year for next generation researchers to work with SPIRU to gain experience in applied poverty research. At any given time, the ranks of SPIRU are likely to be boosted by Social Sciences students on Work Placement, GCU students gaining credits for a Common Good Award, early career researchers contributing to specific research projects, and students who have secured scholarships for short-term project work. This year, we have also worked alongside Monica Allen, Julie Brown, Stephen Campbell, Amy Cartright, Sophie Cathcart, Leah Hester, Esther Itela, Sue Lyons, Kathryn Machray, Catherine MacKie, Leia McKie, Dr Neil McNulty, Linda Sherry, Anni Taitto, Jenna Woods and almost thirty students on Work Placement.

OUR NEXT GEN. COMMITMENT

SPIRU is committed to developing the next generation of poverty researchers in Scotland. We offer a range of opportunities throughout the year. However, we do not believe that next generation talent should be employed as unpaid or underpaid Interns. Our Next Gen. talent is either remunerated at GCU Researcher rates, or is working toward formal degree/Common Good Award credit.

CLICK ON AN IMAGE

Click on an image for more information about that member of SPIRU.



PARTNERS ... who we work with

THE POVERTY ALLIANCE

SPIRU has a Memorandum of Understanding with The Poverty Alliance, Scotland's national anti-poverty network. We share the same vision of working toward a Scotland without poverty and we pursue research in the same manner – wherever possible and practicable, ensuring that the voice of lived experience of poverty is central to our work. In 2020/21, we collaborated with The Poverty Alliance on research for the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, the Poverty and Inequality Commission, and Perth & Kinross Council. We write a quarterly Research Comment in the Alliance's, *Scottish Anti-Poverty Review*.

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

We are keen to work alongside others with shared interests and complementary strengths in order to better understand the challenges that poverty presents. In 2020/21, our research and events have involved collaborations with other research centres within GCU (Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health, and the WiSE for Economic Justice), colleagues from a wide range of universities (including Georgetown, Glasgow, Harvard, Heriot-Watt, Maryland, Robert Gordons, Strathclyde, UCL and Washington) and organisations beyond academia (including ASSIST FM, Child Poverty Action Group Scotland, East Neuk Analytics, Public Health Scotland, The Data Lab and The Urban School Food Alliance).

CONSULTING PARTNERS

SPIRU provides informal and formal advice to a wide range of organisations, and individuals. More information on this Advisory Work is provided in [Annex 3](#).

CASE STUDY: INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS ON SCHOOL MEALS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

SPIRU collaborated with a range of universities and public to host a USA/Scotland Knowledge Exchange event on the eve of International School Meals Day in March 2021. Almost 200 participated in this online event, which was addressed by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Scotland) and the Deputy Administrator for Child Nutrition Programs (USA). The event provided a platform to share practices, research and resources, and to explore evolving policy in the delivery of school food and country responses to challenges stemming from the global COVID-19 public health crisis and associated food insecurity and economic ramifications. A recording of the event can be accessed [here](#).



PROJECTS ... our research work

Our research projects are summarised in [Annex 4](#). This includes:

WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT

We continue to provide research intelligence to support the work of local government, as it seeks to deliver its statutory obligations under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. In 2020-21, we managed an Action Learning Set to explore how transport could contribute to tackling child poverty locally; we contributed to research on measuring poverty locally; and we started a review of how Local Child Poverty Action Reports were contributing to national goals.

WORKING FOR THE POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION

We continue to inform the work of Scotland's Poverty and Inequality Commission. In 2020/21, the Commission published three of our reports - a nationwide review of local action to tackle food insecurity during the coronavirus crisis; a review of the literature on co-production with people experiencing poverty in Scotland; and a report showcasing case studies of good practice in delivering free school meals in Scottish schools.

WORKING FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We have been commissioned to undertake research for organisations based in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Argyll and Bute, Comhairle Eilean Siar, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Highland, Inverclyde, Moray, Orkney Isles, Renfrewshire, Shetland Isles and Stirling.

CASE STUDY: LEARNING FROM LOCAL RESPONSES TO CHILD POVERTY DURING THE COVID CRISIS

SPIRU was commissioned by the Scottish Government to advise the Scottish Leaders Forum on how Scotland's local authorities, local Health Boards and key community partners had responded to the challenge of tackling poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Thirty-one interviews with senior leaders across six local authorities were undertaken in the Autumn to explore local decision-making processes, identify promising practices, and to reflect upon what might be learned from this experience that could inform future practice. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS ... our outputs

A full list of our presentations in 2020/21 is presented in [Annex 1](#).

SPIRU staff produced a wide range of publications, each of which was tailored to a particular audience. We also worked with Platform, the community arts organisation based in Easterhouse to publish a range of 'Glasgow Shorts', as part of their Mail Art project. These Glasgow shorts challenged the narrative of growing up in deprived neighbourhoods, reflecting on the auto-biographies of successful Scottish football players who grew up in the city.

16

Academic
contributions

6

Writing for
specialist
audiences

21

Research reports

25

In the media

OUR SIGNATURE TEXT – POVERTY IN SCOTLAND 2021

Once again, SPIRU co-edited a *Poverty in Scotland* volume for the Child Poverty Action Group. Working alongside colleagues from The Poverty Alliance, WiSE Centre for Economic Justice and I-SPHERE at Heriot-Watt University, this collection draws on the latest data and evidence to give an overview of the scale, nature and extent of poverty in contemporary Scotland. It also brings together contributions from leading academics and practitioners to explore how the tools that can be used to tackle poverty in Scotland.

Poverty in Scotland can be [downloaded free of charge from CPAG](#).



PRESENTATIONS ... in person

A full list of our presentations in 2020/21 is presented in [Annex 2](#).

SPIRU delivers presentations to a wide range of organisations. Our seminar, workshop and conference participation is central to our public engagement, and to our work in supporting others to tackle poverty in Scotland.

Together with The Poverty Alliance, we co-hosted the Annual Poverty in Scotland lecture in October 2021, the centre-piece of Challenge Poverty week.

30

Presentations delivered

9

Keynote addresses

15

Invited presentations

5

International presentations





PEDAGOGY ... our work in Education

WORK IN SCHOOLS

Most of our work in schools and pre-school settings is concerned with how poverty frames and constrains educational experiences. In 2020/21, we started to explore poverty as subject matter in school geography. When capacity permits, we also respond to requests for advice on poverty for project work in Modern Studies.

WORK WITH COLLEGES

Many Colleges in Scotland offer HNC and/or HND in Social Sciences and Childhood Studies. As with schools, when capacity permits, we have responded to requests to deliver presentations on poverty in Scotland to college students.

WORK PLACEMENT AT GCU

SPIRU offers degree-level BA Social Sciences students at GCU, the opportunity to work with SPIRU as part of their degree studies. We are demanding of our students who complete a weekly learning journal, in addition to submitting two pieces of work for SPIRU every week (core work for the Unit and a contribution to a group research project for an external organisation). In 2020/21, our Work Placement collective has published research reports for Greggs Foundation (evaluating a breakfast cart pilot project in East Renfrewshire) and Good Food Scotland (canvassing experiences of food insecurity in the Greater Pollok area of Glasgow). Almost thirty students worked with SPIRU on Work Placement in 2020/21.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

SPIRU staff also contribute to the studies of Social Sciences, Psychology, Media Studies and Business students at GCU. At Level 1, these students are provided with a critical introduction to ideas of poverty and are invited to consider whether poverty and affluence co-exist in Glasgow through a fieldwork exercise. At degree level, BA Social Sciences students can elect to present for a full module on Poverty and Policy. We encourage critical thinking about poverty with almost 300 students every year, across the different modules and degree programmes at GCU.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We support students who pursue Vacation Scholarships and want to work with SPIRU. In 2020/21, undergraduate students – both from GCU and beyond – have secured funding from The Robertson Trust and the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland. We also supported two SPIRU Summer Studentships for BA Social Sciences students at GCU.



POSTGRADUATE ... opportunities

RESEARCH DEGREES

SPIRU is committed to support the development of the next generation of poverty researchers. Supervising PhD and MPhil research is important to the work of the Unit. We have dedicated office space for our PhD students and can support both full-time and part-time studies.

POVERTY IN MSC STUDIES

In 2020/21, SPIRU staff helped develop a new MSc Human Rights programme that started in the Autumn of 2021. This new degree focuses on applying social science knowledge and analytical approaches to secure human rights in practice in everyday settings. Among the modules offered are (i) Poverty, Rights and Citizenship; (ii) Transformative Social Science: Theorising In/Equality; and (iii) Social Movements and Activism for Change.

OPPORTUNITY BEYOND QUALIFICATION

Every year, we offer two postgraduate (or pre-postgraduate) students the opportunity to work with SPIRU as Researchers for a 12 month period, for one day per week. This provides a unique opportunity to acquire applied research experience – paid at GCU Researcher rates – while pursuing postgraduate study. Contributing to the core work of the Unit, our researchers are central to our success, while gaining experience in all aspects of research.

CLICK BELOW

For more information on the [MSc Human Rights](#)

For more information on [PhD study with SPIRU](#)

For more information on [part-time work opportunities for postgraduates](#)

To [apply to pursue a PhD with SPIRU](#)



PLANS ... what lies ahead

CONTINUING COMMITMENT

SPIRU delivers. Our plans for 2021/22 are to continue with our core activities, contributing to the development of research talent, engaging with civil society and the wider academic community, and producing impactful research.

SCOTTISH POVERTY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Over the Summer of 2021, we have developed the Scottish Poverty Bibliography. The Bibliography will serve as a single point of reference to the substantial grey literature that is produced by academics, national/local government officers, the Third Sector, social enterprises and others on poverty in Scotland. The Scottish Poverty Bibliography will be part of SPIRU's 'common good' offer to support the work of those who seek to tackle poverty in Scotland. The Bibliography will be launched during Challenge Poverty Week (October 2021) and will be accessible without cost to all.

COMMON GOOD AWARD

Over the Summer of 2021, we have developed a framework to extend the range of opportunities for GCU students to work with SPIRU to gain credit toward a Common Good Award. GCU students will be able to work with us to develop and demonstrate the Common Good competencies of active and global citizenship, responsible leadership, entrepreneurial mindset, and confidence

EXTENDING OUR NETWORK

SPIRU is already well connected in academia and civil society. In 2021/22, we aim to strengthen our Network to raise awareness of our work and strengthen impact. We are also keen to extend our collaborations with other poverty researchers whose interests align with ours.

RESPONDING TO YOUR NEEDS

We continue to be responsive to the research needs of government, Third Sector, business and community groups. We will continue to work hard to find research solutions to meet the needs of those concerned to tackle poverty.

CLICK BELOW

For more information on the [Scottish Poverty Bibliography](#)

For more information on [Common Good opportunities](#)

To [join our Network](#)

For information on [commissioning SPIRU](#).

Annex 1: Publications in 2020/21

PUBLICATION BY TYPE

Fast forward to each publication type by clicking the link in the bullet point list below. Click on the publication title to access the publication or to e-mail the report author for more information.

- [Poverty in Scotland 2021 – Our Signature Publication](#)
- [Academic Papers](#)
- [Research Reports](#)
- [Publications for Specialist Audiences](#)
- [In the Media](#)

OUR SIGNATURE PUBLICATION

- J.H. McKendrick, John Dickie, Fiona McHardy, Angela O'Hagan, Stephen Sinclair, and Morag C. Treanor. **Poverty in Scotland 2021: Towards A 2030 Without Poverty.** 9th Edition. Glasgow: CPAG in Scotland. 264pp. (ISBN 978-1-910715-70-3). [Click to Access.](#)

ACADEMIC PAPERS

- Sinclair, S., McHugh, N., & Roy, M. J. (2021). Social innovation, financialisation and commodification: A critique of social impact bonds. **Journal of economic policy reform**, 24(1), 11-27. [Click to Access.](#)
- Calo, F., Montgomery, T., & Baglioni, S. (2021). Marginal players? The third sector and employability services for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. **VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations**, 1-14. [Click to Access.](#)
- Maggini, N., Montgomery, T., & Baglioni, S. (2021). Solidarity with disabled people in times of crisis: A comparative analysis of Italy and the UK. **International Sociology**. [Click to Access.](#)
- Baglioni, S., & Montgomery, T. (2020). The welfare dimension: understanding trans (national) solidarity in Europe. In **Citizens' Solidarity in Europe**. Edward Elgar Publishing. [Click to Access.](#)
- Karakioulafi, C., Kanellopoulos, K., Petelczyc, J., Montgomery, T., & Baglioni, S. (2020). Patterns of Labour Solidarity Towards Precarious Workers and the Unemployed in Critical Times in Greece, Poland, and the UK. **Sociological Research Online**. [Click to Access.](#)
- Montgomery, T., & Baglioni, S. (2020). Defining the gig economy: platform capitalism and the reinvention of precarious work. **International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy**. [Click to Access.](#)
- Montgomery, T., & Baglioni, S. (2020). 'Nothing about us without us': organizing disabled people's solidarity within and beyond borders in a polarized age. **Social Movement Studies**, 1-17. [Click to Access.](#)
- Greenlees, J. (2021). Unhealthy environments in Victorian Britain: when air quality began to matter. **Modern History Review**. [Click to Access.](#)
- Greenlees, J. (2020). Hidden voices: women, cotton and health. **Valley Voices: A Literary Review**, 20(2), 115-123. [Click to Access.](#)
- Lightbody, R., & Escobar, O. (2021). Equality in community engagement: A scoping review of evidence from research and practice in Scotland. **Scottish Affairs**, 30(3), 355-380. [Click to Access.](#)
- Roberts, J. J., Lightbody, R., Low, R., & Elstub, S. (2020). Experts and evidence in deliberation: scrutinising the role of witnesses and evidence in mini-publics, a case study. **Policy Sciences**, 1-30. [Click to Access.](#)
- J.H. McKendrick. Of a time and place: Glasgow and its quality of life geographies. **Space and Polity**, 24(2), 233-251. [Click to Access.](#)
- J.H. McKendrick. Poverty lines and their role in reducing poverty. In W. Leal Filho, A. Marisa Azul, L. Brandli, A. Lange Salvia, P. G. Ozuyar, & T. Wall (Eds.), **No Poverty: Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals**. Springer. (ISSN 2523-7403). [Click to Access.](#)
- Steven McKinney, McKendrick, J.H., Stuart Hall and Kevin Lowden. What Might the Covid-19 Pandemic Mean for the SERA Poverty and Education Network? **Scottish Educational Review**, Vol.52.2: pp.4-8. [Click to Access.](#)

RESEARCH REPORTS

- Refer to [Annex 4](#) for details of the 21 reports we have published in 2020/21.

SPECIALIST PUBLICATIONS

- J.H. McKendrick. *Business as Usual and Beyond: Positioning Poverty and the Environment for Scotland. Scottish Anti-Poverty Review*, 36 (Summer 2021): pages pending.
- J.H. McKendrick. *Envisioning a Scotland Without Poverty. Scottish Anti-Poverty Review*, 35 (Spring 2021): 4-5. [Click to Access](#).
- J.H. McKendrick. *Understanding the Problem or Fashioning the Solution? The Role of Research in Building Back Better Responses to Poverty in Scotland. Scottish Anti-Poverty Review*, 34 (Autumn 2020): 4-5. [Click to Access](#).
- J.H. McKendrick. *Beyond the Headline: Examining Worker and Volunteer Wellbeing with Community Organisations Delivering Food Support in Scotland During the Coronavirus Crisis. Scottish Anti-Poverty Review*, 33 (Summer 2020): 4-6. [Click to Access](#).
- J.H. McKendrick. *Poverty: Friend or Foe of the Environment? Scottish Anti-Poverty Review*, 32 (Winter 2020): 4-6. [Click to Access](#).
- J.H. McKendrick. *Child Poverty: Minor Matter or Matter for Minors? Early Years Scotland Magazine*, 15 (Spring 2020) 14-15. [Click to Access](#).

IN THE MEDIA

2021, Oct	The National. <i>Should we just give everyone £5200 per year – Scottish parliament to ask, Martin Hannan, October 16th.</i> Access.
2021, Aug	Daily Record. <i>Nicola Sturgeon urged to double Scottish Child Payment to help families at next budget, Paul Hutcheon, August 18th.</i> Access.
2021, Aug	Daily Record. <i>More East Renfrewshire pupils to get free breakfast after successful pilot, David Campbell, August 13th.</i> Access.
2021, Jul	The Herald. <i>Glasgow plan to recreate Dennistoun effect, Caroline Wilson, July 2nd.</i> Access.
2021, Jun	The Herald. <i>Coronavirus Scotland: NHS Staff not tested in ‘high risk’ wards, Caroline Wilson, June 18th.</i> Access.
2021, Jun	National Newspapers in Scotland. The Herald. <i>Play time for Glasgow as children’s conference brings £1 million boost to economy, Deborah Anderson, June 8th.</i> Access. Glasgow Times. <i>Glasgow chosen to host prestigious conference dedicated to all things play, Jack Haugh, June 7th.</i> Access.
2021, Apr	National Newspapers in Scotland/UK. STV News Online. <i>“Bold and ambitious’ action to tackle child poverty urged), PA Media, April 23rd.</i> Access. Glasgow Times. The Scotsman. The Herald.
2021, Mar	The Herald. <i>‘Worryingly slow progress’: Majority believe poverty cannot be addressed under Scottish economy, Caroline Wilson, March 11th.</i> Access.
2021, Feb	National Newspapers in Scotland. The Herald. <i>Barrhead school breakfast scheme to be rolled out across the UK after success of Scottish pilot, Caroline Wilson, February 15th.</i> Access. The National. <i>Free on-the-go breakfast pilot scheme to expand across UK after Scottish pilot, Craig Meighan, 15th February.</i> Access. Glasgow Times. <i>Grab n’ Go brekkie scheme in East Renfrewshire stops pupils skipping breakfast, Catriona Stewart, 15th February.</i> Access. Big Issue. The Metro BBC Radio Scotland.
2020, Nov	The Herald. <i>Coronavirus Vaccine: Transport Staff and Teachers should be prioritised, Caroline Wilson, November 22nd.</i> Access.
2020, Nov	BBC News Online. <i>COVID. Why stricter rules for Glasgow but not for Edinburgh? Andrew Picken, November 20th.</i> Access.
2020, Nov	The Herald. <i>Business leaders must help nation build back better, November 20th.</i> Access.
2020, Jun	The National. <i>Warning Scotland’s virus food insecurity crisis is set to worsen, Martin Hannan, June 8th.</i> Access.
2020, Apr	National Newspapers in Scotland/UK. Daily Record. <i>Campaigners urge Nicola Sturgeon to back financial package to combat child poverty, Paul Hutcheon, May 13th.</i> Access. Morning Star. <i>Report reveals in ‘stark terms’ the scale of child poverty problem in Scotland, Paul Hutcheon, May 13th.</i> Access.
2020, Mar	The Herald. <i>Five councils targeting school meals in local government funding cuts, Martin Williams, March 1st.</i> Access.

Annex 2: Presentations in 2020/21

PRESENTATIONS BY THEME

Fast forward to presentations for each theme by clicking the link in the bullet point list below.

- [National anti-poverty policy, strategy and practice](#)
- [Local anti-poverty policy, strategy and practice](#)
- [Child poverty](#)
- [Education and poverty](#)
- [Food security and poverty](#)
- [Sport, leisure, play and poverty](#)
- [Work, employability and poverty](#)
- [Financial inclusion](#)
- [Theorising and conceptualising poverty](#)
- [Measuring poverty](#)

NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY POLICY, STRATEGY AND PRACTICE

- Social Security in Scotland. Scottish Social Security After COVID-19. *Bright Blue and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation*. August 17th, 2020. [Webinar]. Access [here](#).

LOCAL ANTI-POVERTY POLICY, STRATEGY AND PRACTICE

- Going Local: Tackling Poverty in Communities Across Scotland. [Keynote Address](#). *R-Evolution Web Launch Conference*. October 22nd, 2020. [Webinar].
- Child Poverty in the Orkney Islands. Local Opportunities for Anti-poverty Action in Troubled and Uncertain Times? [Keynote Address](#). *Orkney Islands Council Child Poverty Taskforce Seminar*. September 23rd, 2020. [Webinar].
- Local Approaches to Tackle Poverty in Renfrewshire. [Keynote Address](#). *Renfrewshire LCPAR Annual Conference*, Lagoon Centre, Paisley. February 14th, 2020.
- Child Poverty in Inverclyde Local Opportunities for Anti-poverty Action in Troubled and Uncertain Times? *Inverclyde CVS Seminar*. CVS Inverclyde. December 16th, 2020. [Webinar].

CHILD POVERTY

- Eradicating Child Poverty in Scotland by 2030? Not Without Harnessing the Transformative Potential of the Early Years. *So What Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series*. Cattanach Foundation. March 16th, 2021. [Webinar].

EDUCATION AND POVERTY

- Never a Wrong Time, So how About Now? Tackling Child Poverty in Clackmannanshire Schools. Keynote Address. Head Teachers Seminar, Clackmannanshire Council. January 26th, 2021. [Webinar].
- Never a Wrong Time, So What's So Special About This Time? Tackling Child Poverty Through the SAC Programme. Keynote Address. Scottish Attainment Challenge and Schools Authority Event. November 12th, 2020. [Webinar].
- Five Hidden Poverties in and of Scottish Education. Keynote Address. Understanding Poverty and Equity Across the Northern Alliance – Promoting Equity Week. September 28th, 2020. [Pre-recorded for Webinar].
- Tackling Poverty in Partnership with Families: Issues for Practitioners in Scottish School Education. Keynote Address. Supporting Families Through Collaborative Inquiry - West Area Regional Improvement Collaborative Annual Conference, Barrhead High School. February 12th, 2020.
- Five Hidden Poverties in and of Scottish School Education. Keynote Address. Attainment Advisors (Universal Authorities) Annual Conference, Education Scotland, Optima, Glasgow. February 3rd, 2020.
- Told You So! Reflections on Poverty and Living and Learning Through a Pandemic. *COVID-19: Poverty, Education and Community. EIS PACT Project Webinar*. June 18th, 2020. [Webinar].

FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY

- Pantries and Research to Tackle Food Insecurity in Scotland. *Ending the Need for Emergency Food Aid in Scotland*. Independent Food Aid Network and the Trussell Trust Panel Discussion. October 5th, 2021. [Webinar].
- School Food in Scotland – The Bigger Picture. *School Food Around the World Seminar Series. George Brown College and the Canadian Coalition for Healthy Food*. University of Saskatchewan, Canada. May 27th, 2021. [Webinar].
- Better Understanding Exposure to Food insecurity in Deprived Areas, and Solutions to it. *Poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals. Bristol Poverty Institute Conference*. University of Bristol, April 28th-29th 2021.
- Learning From Local Responses to Child Poverty During the COVID Crisis. *Peer Support Network Meeting*, National Partners to Tackle Child Poverty Group. April 1st, 2021. [Webinar].
- Recent Research Intelligence from Scotland. *International Actions on School Meals in Times of Crisis. International USA-Scotland School Meals Webinar*. SPIRU and Partners, Glasgow Caledonian University, March 10th, 2021. [Webinar].
- Launch of Good Practice in Promoting Free School Meals in Scotland. *ASSIST FM Spring Seminar*. ASSIST FM, March 10th, 2021. [Webinar]
- Community Provision of Food Aid During the COVID-19 Crisis. *Emerging Practices from the Devolved Nations: Supporting Free School Meal Pupils and Food Aid Community Responses to COVID-19. The Food Foundation Webinar*. June 5th, 2020. [Webinar].
- Community Provision of Food Aid in Scotland During the COVID-19 Crisis. *Rising Food Insecurity in Times of COVID-19. Voluntary Health Scotland*. June 4th, 2020. [Webinar].
- School Food: Learning Lessons from a Crisis. *Highlighting Recent Research into Poverty and Education. Scottish Educational Research Association Poverty and Education Network*. March 4th, 2021. [Webinar]

SPORT, LEISURE, PLAY AND POVERTY

- Thank Goodness for Poverty: Professional Footballers Recollections on Growing Up in Scotland. *Session 2: Inside the Cobwebs of Childhood. Spinning the Sticky Threads of Childhood Memories: From Cold War to Anthropocene*. Part of *Reconfiguring Timespaces of Childhood*. Decentred Satellite Conference. University of Tampere. October 21st, 2021. [webinar].
- Youthwork and Tackling Poverty. *Annual Youthwork and Staff Development Training Week*. Dumfries and Galloway Council Youthwork Service, August 18th, 2021. [Webinar].
- Playful Poverties. *I-SPHERE Seminar Series, Heriot-Watt University*. March 17th, 2021. [Webinar]. [Click to Access Recording](#).

WORK, EMPLOYABILITY AND POVERTY

- Please Sir Can I Have Some More? *Radical Solutions to Poverty*. Festival of Politics, Scottish Parliament. October 22nd, 2021. [Webinar].

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

- Managing the Risk that a Food Poverty Focus Underestimates Levels of Financial Stress in Deprived Areas. *Poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals. Bristol Poverty Institute Conference*. Poster Presentation. University of Bristol, April 28th-29th 2021.
- Big Visions and Little Actions: Working Toward a Poverty-free North Lanarkshire. *Keynote Address. North Lanarkshire Council Financial Inclusion Team – Advice Conference*, New College, Lanarkshire, Coatbridge. January 16th, 2020.

THEORISING AND CONCEPTUALISING POVERTY

- Social Mobility in Scotland. *Social Mobility Commission Roundtable Discussion*. September 20th, 2021. [Webinar]
- Prospects for Poverty-Proofing the University. *Social Justice and Inclusive Educational Practice. The Role of Universities in Addressing Societal Challenges and Fostering Democracy: Inclusion, Migration, and Education for Citizenship*. University of Akureyri, Iceland. March 23rd, 2021. [webinar].

MEASURING POVERTY

- Measuring Child Poverty Locally in Scotland. *Using Data to Understand Child Poverty at Local Level*. Improvement Service, September 6th, 2021. [Webinar].

Annex 3: Advisory Work in 2020/21

COMMITTEE WORK

In 2020 and 2021, SPIRU has been represented on a range of Committees and formal consultations, including:

- CPAG
- Scottish Pantry Network (Trustee)
- Carnegie UK Trust, *Affordable Credit Action Group* (Committee Member)
- EIS, *Equity-Related PL Project* (Advisory Board Member)
- North Lanarkshire Council, Tackling Poverty Wider Reference Group (Committee Member)
- Scottish Leaders Forum, Action Group on Child Poverty. (Action Group Member)

And in 2021

- Glasgow Social Recovery Taskforce (Academic Advisory Group)
- Cattanach Foundation, *Theory of Change Project*. (Advisory Board Member)
- Children in Scotland/Cattanach Foundation, *Work with Children for the Royal Society of Edinburgh* (Advisory Board Member)
- Scottish Government, School Age Childcare Reference Group. (Academic Expert Advisor)
- Scottish Government, Children and Families Leadership Group – Data Theme. (Academic Expert Advisor)
- Education Scotland/Scottish Government, Scottish Attainment Challenge 2.0 Stakeholder Advisory Group. (Academic Expert Advisor)
- Roundtable on ‘Breakfast Provision in Schools’. **Kelloggs Foundation**. Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. November 16th

And in 2020

- Roundtable on UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing. Scotland Virtual Roundtable – Credit Counts. **Money and Pensions Service – Scotland**. June 11th.
- Oral Presentation of Evidence Presentation on Welfare Policy in Scotland. **House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee**. Webinar Format. December 16th. [Click to Access](#).
- North Ayrshire Council, Fair for All Commission (Civic Commissioner)

INFORMAL ADVISORY WORK

In 2020/21, a wide range of organisations and individuals have contacted SPIRU for advice on poverty in Scotland, including:

2021

- Poverty in Glasgow in context of Covid-19. *Dział Zagraniczny*. September 8th. (Maciej Okraszewski).
- Local indicators and data on child poverty. *Aberdeen Council*. August 16th. (Derek McGowan).
- School meals in West Lothian. *West Lothian Council*. July 27th. (Elaine Nisbet).
- National poverty statistics and local areas. *Renfrewshire Council*. July 27th. (Annabel Armstrong-Walter).
- Reviewing local action plans to tackle child poverty. *Public Health Scotland*. June. (Julie Arnot)
- Anti-poverty strategies in Scotland. *Opinion Columnist for Dundee Evening Telegraph*. June 9th. (Ewan Gurr).
- Transport and poverty: consulting with lived experience. *Transport Scotland*. June.
- Play and deprived neighbourhoods. *West End Community Steering Group, Newcastle*. May 5th. (Jackie Bouldon).
- School meals in Scotland. *Newcastle University Researchers*. April 28th. (Suzanne Spence).
- Food insecurity in schools. *Canadian Academic in Geography*. April 16th. (Amberley Ruetz).
- Food insecurity. *GODAN*. April 1st.
- Covid and poverty. *Sunday Post*. April 1st. (Peter Swindon).
- Stigma and poverty. *Edinburgh Council*. March 24th. (Chris Adams and Nicola Elliott).
- Breakfast provision in schools. *Magic Breakfast*. March 3rd. (Lorraine Kelly).
- Local indicators and data on child poverty. *NHS Western Isles*. February 10th. (Colin Gilmour).
- Suffolk Chair in Social Justice. *Minerva Consulting*. February 8th. (Mary Beale).
- Poverty and credit. *Scottish League of Credit Unions*. January 28th. (Dermot O'Neill).
- Food insecurity and mental health. *Mental Health Foundation*. January 26th. (Jo Finlay).

2020

- Privatisation of play. *Landscape Architect and Documentary Maker from France*. December 13th. (Jean-Phillippe Teyssier).
- School meals and nutrition. *Centre for Public Health Nutrition Research, Dundee*. December 3rd. (Suzanne Zaremba, Annie Anderson).
- Playful learning. *Harvard Pedagogy of Play Academics*. November 20th. (Megina Baker and Ben Mardell).
- Community food retail in Glasgow. *Glasgow Community Food Network*. November 4th. (Mark Fitzpatrick, Tierney Woods)
- New resources on tackling poverty. *Young Scot*. October 28th. (Beth Hayton).
- Childcare and holiday provision in Inverclyde. *Inverclyde Council*. October 28th. (Louise McVey).
- Poverty and Inequality Commission in Scotland. *Australian Law Academic*. October 19th. (Rosalind Dixon).
- Community supermarket in Glasgow. *Feeding Britain*. August 17th. (Kevin Simpson).

Annex 4: Research in 2020/21

NATIONAL RESEARCH

Fast forward for a summary of our national research work by clicking the link in the bullet point list below:

- [Scottish Leaders Forum](#)
- [Poverty And Inequality Commission 1](#) – Local action to tackle food insecurity
- [Poverty And Inequality Commission 2](#) – Tackling food insecurity in Scottish schools
- [Poverty And Inequality Commission 3](#) – Literature review on co-production in Scotland
- [Social Mobility Commission](#)
- [Scottish Government](#)

LOCAL RESEARCH

Fast forward for a summary of our local research work by clicking the link in the bullet point list below:

- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Belville Community Gardens 1](#) – Evaluation
- [Belville Community Gardens 2](#) – Volunteering during the coronavirus crisis
- [Edinburgh Poverty Commission](#)
- [Good Food Scotland](#)
- [Greggs Foundation](#)
- [Inverclyde Community Action Group](#)
- [Perth & Kinross Council](#)

SCOTTISH LEADERS FORUM

[*Learning From Local Responses to Child Poverty During the COVID Crisis*](#)

SPIRU was commissioned by the Scottish Leaders Forum to appraise how local leaders across six Scottish local authorities sustained a focus on tackling child poverty during the COVID crisis of 2020.

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION

[*Local Action to Tackle Food Insecurity During the Coronavirus Crisis*](#)

SPIRU was commissioned by the Poverty and Inequality Commission to conduct a survey of community organisations across Scotland providing emergency food which informed the Commission's recommendations. Several hundred (211) organisations shared their experiences, with experiences shared from organisations in each of Scotland's 32 local authorities.

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION

[*Tackling Food Security in Scottish Schools: Case Studies of Strengthening Free School Meal Provision*](#)

The Poverty and Inequality Commission invited SPIRU to undertake research to understand the role of free-school meals as an anti-poverty action in Scotland. This report shares promising practice and learning from ten schools (primary and secondary) across Scotland.

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION

[*Rapid Review of the Academic Literature on Co-production Involving Experts with Experience of Poverty*](#)

The Poverty and Inequality Commission invited SPIRU to review the academic literature in Scotland to better understand the nature of co-production in which people with lived experience of poverty are reported to contribute to policy, service development and service delivery. The report draws on 34 papers reporting on co-production in Scotland.

SOCIAL MOBILITY COMMISSION

[*State of the Nation 2021: Social Mobility and the Pandemic*](#)

SPIRU contributed the Scotland chapter in this UK-wide report that was published by the Commission.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

[*Holiday Out of School Provision in Scotland*](#)

The key output from SPIRU's work for the Scottish Government on holiday out of school provision. The report draws from the four project impact evaluations and the review of parents' experiences in Inverclyde to summarise key learning from claims to impact and an analysis of the drivers of success.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

[*Mapping Holiday Out of School Provision*](#)

The first of seven outputs from SPIRU's work for the Scottish Government on holiday out of school provision. This resource offers tools and guidance to those who want to better understand local provision of childcare, activity and food provision over the school holiday periods.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

[*Dundee Bairns An impact evaluation of holiday out-of-school activity*](#)

[*Achieve More Scotland An impact evaluation of holiday and out-of-school activity*](#)

[*Moray Holibub Club An impact evaluation of holiday out-of-school activity*](#)

[*Pilton Youth and Children's Project An impact evaluation*](#)

Four project evaluations, each of which is an exemplar of different types of holiday out-of-school provision. Each evaluation introduces the work of each provision and evidences the need, before reviewing claims to impact and focusing on the drivers of impact.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

[*Family experiences of navigating out-of-school provision in Inverclyde*](#)

The final of the seven outputs from SPIRU's work for the Scottish Government on holiday out of school provision. Co-authored with The Poverty Alliance, this report draws from ten interviews with parents across Inverclyde – covering a range of income levels, but with a particular focus on low-income households. This report was co-authored with The Poverty Alliance, who led the fieldwork.

BELVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENS

[*Belville Matters: An Appraisal of the Work of Belville Community Garden Trust*](#)

SPIRU was commissioned to evaluate the work of Belville Community Garden (Greenock, Inverclyde). Users, employees, and volunteers were consulted, and key documentation pertaining to the work of Belville was appraised.

BELVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENS

[*From Community Garden to Community Action*](#)

SPIRU was invited review the work and role of volunteers who supported the work of Belville Community Garden during the COVID-19 crisis. This report draws from a survey of volunteers (44), ten telephone interviews, and an analysis of volunteering 'work' patterns.

EDINBURGH POVERTY COMMISSION

[*Citizens' Perspectives of Poverty in Edinburgh: Consequences and Solutions*](#)

[*Citizens' Perspectives on Poverty and Tackling Poverty Locally in Edinburgh: Part 2: A Q Methodology Study*](#)

[*Citizens' Perspectives on Poverty and Tackling Poverty Locally in Edinburgh: Part 1: Attitudinal Survey*](#)

Three research reports, co-authored with The Poverty Alliance, which seek to inform the work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, the independent group working in a collaborative manner to identify the steps required to tackle poverty in Edinburgh. Report one draws from a survey of 728 residents. Report two draws from an in-depth exploration of policy options with some of the survey respondents. A summary report identifies key issues and recommendations.

GOOD FOOD SCOTLAND

New Solutions to Old Problems? Appraising the Prospects for a Social Supermarket in South West Glasgow is our research report, which aims to inform the development of the Threehills Social Supermarket, which Good Food Scotland is planning to introduce in South West Glasgow. Led by Professor McKendrick, this work was co-authored by SPIRU Work Placement students. It summarises the thoughts of 247 survey respondents and 17 interviewees. This report has been finalised and will be available in the late Autumn of 2021.

GREGGS FOUNDATION

[*Pass Go for Grab-N-Go? An Evaluation of the Pilot Grab-N-Go Breakfast Cart Provision in Three Schools in East Renfrewshire*](#)

This is an evaluation of three pilot projects to introduce breakfast carts in schools in East Renfrewshire. Led by Professor McKendrick, this work was co-authored by SPIRU Work Placement students. It draws from fieldwork observation, surveys of pupils and teachers, and group interviews with secondary school pupils.

INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

[*Not Just for a Crisis: Evaluation of the ICARG*](#)

SPIRU was invited to evaluate the work of the Inverclyde Community Action Group, a group of community-minded local leaders who came together to co-ordinate actions to support vulnerable citizens in Inverclyde during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. SPIRU reviewed ICARG's work and interviewed eight key figures within the collective.

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Lived Experience of Child Poverty in Perth and Kinross is our research report, which aims to inform the development of Perth and Kinross Council's approach to tackling child poverty. It draws from interviews with 22 parents experiencing poverty across the length and breadth of the region. Co-authored with The Poverty Alliance, this research report is accompanied by ten service-sector briefings, each of which summarises key considerations for specific groups. This report has been finalised and will be available in the late Autumn of 2021.

SPIRU ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

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