

Unintended consequences, context and complexity: Assessing the ‘value’ of social policy programmes in the UK

Speaker: Dr. Kevin WONG
Reader in Community Justice and Associate Director
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Manchester Metropolitan University

Date : 21 March 2024 (Thursday)
Time : 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Venue : LI-1100, 1/F, Li Dak Sum Yip Yio Chin Academic Building, CityU
Moderator : Prof. HO Wing Chung (Associate Professor)
Language : English

Abstract

Kevin Wong, Reader in Community Justice and Associate Director of the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University will discuss the challenges and benefits of evaluating social policy programmes. He will draw on the recently completed evaluation of “Routes2Change” - a programme supporting prisoners and their families run by a charity in a prison in South East London - to illustrate his talk. Additionally he will draw on over 27 years’ experience of criminal justice policy, practice and research to demonstrate the complex interplay between evaluation, policy-making and the provision of services for vulnerable people; and why policies and programmes often don’t work out as intended.



Biography

Kevin Wong is Reader in Community Justice and Associate Director, Criminal Justice at the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU), Manchester Metropolitan University. He is responsible for leading the unit’s work on criminal and community justice and voluntary sector delivery of justice services. He has over twenty seven years’ experience in criminal justice as a researcher, policy adviser, commissioner and practitioner.

Kevin is Co-Editor of the British Journal of Community Justice a member of the Advisory Panel on Probation Learning for the HM Prison and Probation Service, Associate Member of the Ministry of Justice Correctional Services Advice and Accreditation Panel and a trustee of Manchester based charity Back on Track

Prior to joining PERU, Kevin held senior leading roles as: the Deputy Director then Acting Director of the Hallam Centre for Community Justice Sheffield Hallam University: and in the voluntary sector as Assistant Director for Nacro, one of the largest social justice charities in the UK.

In parallel, since 1991 he has been a commissioned writer of drama for BBC radio, film and theatre including Year of the Artist Writer in Residence at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester. He has also been a promoter of Chinese Art and Artists. He is the founder and director of The MANCHESTER Crime and Justice Film Festival. Prior to his career in criminal justice, he worked in the community legal advice sector.

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