



Digital Families Research Workshop 2 'Digital (and) Poverty: Access, skills and understanding'

24 January 2018

**Venue: University of the West of Scotland, Paisley Campus, D block,
Room D137/139**

This workshop is the second in the Digital Families Network event series, following the successful '[Researching Digital Families](#)' event focused on research methods.

The workshop will explore the multi-faceted nature of digital inclusion and exclusion, focusing on the complex relationship between poverty, access to and use of digital environments, whether for work, learning or socialising. Recent evidence indicates that over the past year growth in internet use has stalled, suggesting that all those who want/are able to be connected, are. People who lack confidence or are unable to afford connectivity are being left behind. We also know that simply having access to the internet is no guarantee that people can use it to its full potential – 21% of adults in Scotland still do not have basic digital skills that enable them to realise these benefits. Those most in need of support from public services – including those on low incomes, with disabilities and older people – are amongst the least likely to be able to access information and opportunities online or have the digital skills to apply for jobs. Access to support is least available where it is needed most, and is more likely to be taken up by those who are already more proficient. Overall, the evidence tells us that approaches to overcoming digital exclusion must be embedded in a broader approach to tackling social exclusion.

In this workshop, we hear from academics, policy makers and practitioners as they consider the importance of access to the digital sphere, possession of basic skills to realise the benefits from participation and developing the digital literacies, or understanding, to help make the right choices when accessing and using digital environments.

The workshop will be of interest to **academics, policy makers and practitioners** interested in digital inclusion and exclusion.

Programme

13.00 Welcome and Introduction: Professor David McGillivray, UWS

13.10 ***Tackling Digital Exclusion: The Latest Evidence***

Prof David McGillivray, UWS and David McNeill, SCVO

13.30 ***Digital Strategies for Tackling Poverty in Renfrewshire***

Paul Cameron, Digital Participation Officer, Renfrewshire Council

13.50 Facilitated group discussion (1) and refreshments

14.30 ***Mobile cultures' use of digital technology and new media for living and learning***

Dr Pauline Duncan and Maureen Finn, STEP, University of Edinburgh

14.50 ***A digital world for all? Examining Digital Inclusion and Behaviours across Demographic Groups***

Anna Grant, Policy and Development Officer, Carnegie UK Trust

15.10 Facilitated group discussions (2)

15.45 Final comments

16.00 Close

The Speakers

Professor David McGillivray

Professor McGillivray holds a Chair in Event and Digital Cultures, in the School of Media Culture & Society, at University of the West of Scotland. His research interests focus on the affordances of digital culture, especially related to understandings of digital citizenship, participation and the role of everyday digital media platforms and practices in enabling (or restricting) voices within an increasingly saturated media landscape. He has published extensively on these themes and been involved in research and knowledge exchange activities that take as their focus access to, and use of, digital platforms.

David McNeill, Digital Director, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

David leads SCVO's ambitious digital strategy for Scotland's third sector. This includes work to tackle inequality by increasing digital participation and basic digital skills; maximise the impact of the third sector by encouraging digital transformation and evolution; and support digital innovation to improve lives and communities.

Before joining SCVO David was Depute Chief Executive at Young Scot, where he led the development of services provided through the Young Scot National Entitlement Card. David is currently a Trustee of the Digital Xtra Fund, the Voluntary Action Fund and Recharge, an East Lothian youth work charity.

Paul Cameron

Paul Cameron is a Digital Participation Officer with Renfrewshire Council based at the Disability Resource Centre and the older people's charity Roar: Connections for Life. He works to enable excluded communities to engage with digital which is one of the key aims of the Renfrewshire Digital Strategy. He has a special interests in digital accessibility, usability and UX. Previously Paul was a Digital Producer producing videos, animations, inter-actives and software for museums, the commercial sector, charities and broadcast.

Maureen Finn and Pauline Duncan

Maureen Finn is the Director of STEP, Centre for Mobile Cultures and Education at the University of Edinburgh. Prior to this post, she has held public positions in the arts and education sectors. Maureen's doctoral research explores digital, visual media for social change. Other research strands are centred on spatial and mobilities theories to understand relationships between education and out of school learning environments.

Dr Pauline Duncan is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in STEP, Moray House School of Education, The University of Edinburgh. Pauline's current research explores the use of digital technology to support learning and engagement through app design, pedagogic cultures of creative play, and multimodal practices. Her writings have appeared in *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, *TechTrends*, and the *American Journal of Play*.

Anna Grant

Anna is a Policy and Development Officer at the Carnegie UK Trust. She works within their Digital Futures and Fulfilling Work themes, with her work currently focusing around digital inclusion and data privacy. Specifically Anna has been leading the day-to-day management of the #NotWithoutMe programme, an initiative to highlight the digital needs of vulnerable young people and challenge the assumption that all young people are 'digital natives'. Prior to joining the Trust, Anna has experience working within the commercial and social enterprise sector.