

WORKSHOP INVITATION: ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE RESEARCH IN SCOTLAND

University of Glasgow, 20 May 2015, 13.00 – 16.30

Our workshop

We are delighted to invite you to this workshop organised by the UK Administrative Justice Institute (the Institute). The Institute is a Nuffield Foundation funded project designed to kick start the expansion of empirical research into administrative justice. The activities of the Institute in Scotland are being led by Professor Tom Mullen (University of Glasgow) and Chris Gill (Queen Margaret University). The aim of this workshop is to invite researchers, policymakers and practitioners to discuss how to develop administrative justice research in Scotland and to consult on how the Institute's activities can meet needs in Scotland.

What is administrative justice?

Public bodies make millions of decisions each year that directly affect the rights and interests of individuals. These can relate to matters as wide-ranging as family incomes, jobs, welfare benefits, health care, housing, and education. Individuals have the right to seek redress if they believe the wrong decision has been made. For example they may be able to ask the public body to consider the matter again, complain to an ombudsman, appeal to a tribunal, or challenge the decision in judicial review proceedings. These avenues of redress are intended to ensure administrative justice. The 'administrative justice system' encompasses the procedure, law, and mechanisms for resolving disputes between individuals and public bodies.

The Purpose of the Workshop

We don't think that there has been enough research on the operation of administrative mechanisms. We aim to address this by creating links between the policy, practice and research communities, by providing a forum for the exchange and stimulation of new ideas, by developing a coordinated research agenda and by identifying and tackling capacity constraints which limit the research which is done.

Who should attend?

The workshop will be of interest to:

- Policymakers and practitioners working on public services and/ or justice issues
- Tribunal and court judges
- Ombudsman staff and other complaint handlers
- Regulators
- Lawyers
- Consumer advisers and advocates
- Academics (from all fields with an interest in administrative justice issues, including: law, social policy, public administration, economics, social psychology, etc.)

Practical details

The workshop is free to attend and will take place at: MBA suite 305, Main Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ. To confirm attendance at the workshop please email: cgill@qmu.ac.uk.

Administrative Justice Research in Scotland: Linking Research, Policy and Practice

University of Glasgow, Tuesday 20 May, 13.00 – 16.30

- 13.00 Coffee and welcome
- 13.30 Introducing the UK Administrative Justice Institute (UKAJI)
- *Aims and objectives*
 - *Workplan*
 - *Purpose of workshop*
- 13.45 A research agenda for Scotland: what should be researching?
- *Do delegates think there are gaps in the research evidence on administrative justice? What research would delegates like to seek in relation to: the nature of the system; the working and efficiency of the system; the equity of the system; and the place of the system in its broader context (e.g. provision of advice, funding, etc.)?*
 - *What would delegates add to the research agenda previously developed by the AJTC? Are there particular needs or agendas we should be addressing in Scotland?*
- 15.00 The framework for research in Scotland: how do we support and develop research?
- *Quality of published data on administrative justice in Scotland*
 - *Funding sources*
 - *Availability of 'big data' for Scottish research on administrative justice*
 - *Building capacity for empirical research*
 - *Making connections with other disciplines*
 - *Communicating the concerns of the policy and practice communities to researchers*
 - *Disseminating research findings to the policy and practice communities*
- 16.00 UKAJI in Scotland: what are your needs?
- *What can UKAJI do to support: researchers, policymakers and practitioners? How should the Institute develop? How do we make sure that the Scottish dimensions of the project meet needs and that UKAJI is used as an opportunity to develop specifically Scottish administrative justice research?*
 - *How can we make sure that research into administrative justice is sustainable in the long term?*
- 16.30 Close