



Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

Diversity, Citizenship and Identity in the UK 2015 and beyond

14th September 2015

Glasgow City Chambers



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

GRAMNet

Glasgow Refugee, Asylum
and Migration network



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

DIVERSITY, CITIZENSHIP AND IDENTITY IN THE UK – 2015 AND BEYOND

'Harnessing the momentum of diverse, participative, democratic citizenship'

BEMIS Scotland – Swansea University – GRAMNet – Glasgow City Council – The Scottish Government

Following the democratic success of both the Scottish Referendum 2014 and UK General Election of 2015 and leading into the devolved elections of 2016, BEMIS Scotland in conjunction with Swansea University, the *'European Institute of Studies'* and GRAMNet (*Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration Network*) seek to evaluate and consider this upsurge in diverse, participative, democratic citizenship and its impact on the broad themes of Identity and citizenship.

As part of today's conference we are keen to facilitate direct engagement with political representatives, community practitioners, independent analysts, third sector and equality organisations to consider the impact of this soft democratic revolution on our diverse ethnic and cultural communities.

As the UK and its constituent countries become more diverse against the backdrop of increased democratic participation we are keen to explore the varying degrees in which member states evaluate and engage with our diverse communities and the subsequent impact this has on our concept—both personal and communal—of our 'identity' in the UK in 2015 and looking forward to the devolved elections of 2016.

Our shared conference will offer an opportunity for civic society and political representatives to consider the implications of 2014/15/16 and how these years will help shape the UK and its diverse Communities, Governments, Parliaments, Assemblies and Institutions in the years to come.

- ❖ What kind of society do we want to build over the next 15 years? What opportunities are inherent within The 'Fairer Scotland – 2030' conversation?
- ❖ How do our personal, community and national identities shape and/or define our engagement in this fluid political landscape?
- ❖ How can we work to ensure that our most treasured institutions, for example, in the media, public health and political parties reflect an increasingly diverse population, ensuring representation and positive engagement?

The broad themes of identity and citizenship will enable delegates to identify key priorities within the context of the 'Fairer Scotland – 2030' discussions and evaluate alongside Welsh colleagues outside perceptions of Scotland's democratic renewal and this impact on shared or unique priorities of devolved Government.

Within our workshops we have taken a sample of some of the policy discussions ongoing in Scotland and Wales. Our diverse communities are pro-active citizens in Scotland whose dynamic cultural characteristics are an asset for our future.

This conference is the first of two events, one in Scotland and the return in Wales in early 2016 to consider the impact of diverse citizenship and democratic renewal.

We look forward to welcoming you on the day and for your continued participation in shaping the future of Scotland.

PROGRAMME, MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015

VENUE: GLASGOW CITY CHAMBERS – BANQUETING HALL / SATINWOOD SUITE

09:00 – 09:45	Registration – Networking – Tea / Coffee
09:45 – 10:00	<i>Setting the Scene and welcome to Glasgow City Chambers;</i> Cllr. Archie Graham – <i>Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council</i> Dr. Rami Ousta – <i>CEO BEMIS Scotland</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Marco Biagi MSP (<i>Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment</i>)
10:15 – 10:30	Leanne Wood AM (<i>Leader of Plaid Cymru, Member of the National Assembly for Wales, South Wales Central region</i>)
10:30 – 10:45	Q+A With Marco Biagi MSP + Leanne Wood AM
10:45 – 11:10	Professor James Mitchell: <i>'Identity and Citizenship in the UK – Thoughts on the current Political Landscape post 14/15'</i> <i>Including Q+A</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Dr. John McKendrick (Glasgow Caledonian University) <i>Poverty and Ethnicity – 'Poverty in Scotland 2014: The Independence Referendum and Beyond'</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Comfort break – Tea / Coffee + Biscuits

<p>11:45 – 12:45</p>	<p>Workshop Sessions (descriptions overleaf)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 'Fairer Scotland 2030' – What do we want Scotland to be like by 2030? (Scottish Government + BEMIS) 2) European Institute of Identities: "Identities and Empowerment: Who are We? Where are we?" (Swansea University) 3) Politics, the referendum and political engagement of Migrants in Scotland (GRAMNet) 4) Council Tax - What's the alternative? (The Commission on Local Tax Reform – with Cllr. Susan Aitken GCC and Jim McCormack – Joseph Rowntree Foundation) 5) Exploring ways to overcome lack of representation in the media on both sides of the editorial desk (COMMONSPACE)
<p>12:45 – 13:30</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>13:30 – 15:00</p>	<p><i>Panel Discussion – The Potential in Diversity – 'Maintaining democratic engagement and diverse citizenship to progress social justice'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Humza Yousaf MSP (Minister for External Affairs and International Development - Glasgow) ❖ Sir Roderick Evans (Pro- Chancellor – Swansea University) ❖ Judy Wasige (Kenyan Women Association in Scotland) ❖ Ken Macintosh MSP (Scottish Labour – Eastwood) ❖ Roza Salih (Community Activist + Human Rights Campaigner) <p>Including Q+A</p>
<p>15:00 – 15:30</p>	<p><i>'Conference final thoughts, observations, priorities and moving forward together' –</i></p> <p>Swansea University – GRAMNet - BEMIS</p>

WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

1) 'Fairer Scotland 2030' – What do we want Scotland to be like by 2030?

(Scottish Government and BEMIS)

“Scotland is a great country to call home. But we can make it an even better place. Achieving this will require a strong competitive economy and a fairer, more equal society. The two go hand in hand. Right now people across Scotland are working to that end. Working together we can do even more to secure better opportunities for all of us and for future generations.

To get there, more of us need to join the conversation that is already happening about the kind of Scotland we want to see in the future. We want you to share your ideas as well as the future is a shared one”.¹

In this workshop you will have the opportunity to have your say on the Fairer Scotland 2030' conversation. This workshop will be hosted by Scottish Government 'Fairer Scotland Team' with support from BEMIS.

2) European Institute of Identities: “Identities and Empowerment: Who are we? Where are we?”

(Swansea University)

The notion of 'identities' has become a hot social and political topic. We tend to associate certain traits and values with specific identities – be they national, cultural, social, religious, economic, linguistic, or even political identities. But are these relevant and accurate, or is stereotyping a lazy way of interpretation? Identities, by their very nature, can bring us closer together, or can equally push us further apart. If we accept that empowerment is important, and desired with liberal, democratic societies, how we can interweave our identities with a demand for further empowerment and recognition? The workshop will introduce these questions, and the European Institute of Identities propose to open up the arena for discussion on the importance of identities and empowerment, as the basis for a rejuvenated citizenship, within evolving nations such as Wales and Scotland.

3) Politics, the referendum and political engagement of Migrants in Scotland

(GRAMNet)

It is widely accepted that the referendum on Scottish independence in 2014 led to one of the most profound examples of participative politics ever seen on these islands. The overall turnout was at record levels and the political debate and discussion a truly democratic one involving significant bottom-up activities. However, little has been said about the role of migrants in this process, despite the fact that the great majority of people who would consider themselves migrants had the right to vote in the referendum, and the indications are that most used that right.

¹ <http://fairer.scot/about/>

Post referendum there are a number of issues of democratic citizenship and belonging that have emerged, notably who has the right to vote in which elections/referendums alongside a continuing grassroots political culture. What this suggests about the politics of belonging is a key part of this workshop. This workshop will also look at what we know about the role of migrants in the referendum and what this means before linking this more directly to concepts of citizenship and identity into the future.

4) Council Tax - What's the alternative?

(Commission on Local Tax Reform – Cllr. Susan Aitken + Jim McCormack – Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

The Commission on Local Tax Reform was established by the First Minister and COSLA earlier this year to identify and examine alternatives to Council Tax that would deliver a fairer system of local taxation to support the funding of services delivered by local government. This workshop provides an opportunity to explore the alternatives with Commissioners and contribute to the discussion.

5) Exploring ways to overcome lack of representation in the media on both sides of the editorial desk

(COMMONSPACE)

Representation in media can mean several things: it can relate to how people, particularly from minority groups - ethnic, gender, LGBT, for example - are portrayed in the media and the number of column inches given to their voices; or it can mean representation of people from those groups on editorial desks themselves.

Both are vitally important, but both are vitally lacking.

While there is frustration among minority groups and the wider public about lack of representation, there is also frustration in many news rooms - there are a number of barriers deterring people from minority groups getting more involved in the media.

In this workshop, Angela Haggerty - editor of new media platform CommonSpace, which covers Scottish news and politics - discusses the current demographic landscape of journalism in Scotland and the UK, identifies problems experienced both by minority groups and editors in trying to tackle the issue, and looks at practical things that can be done to try and change the status quo.

CONFERENCE BIOGRAPHIES



Councillor Archie Graham OBE (*Depute Leader of the Council, Executive Member for the Commonwealth Games, Executive Member for Equalities*) has represented the Langside Ward since the Council was formed in 1995, and is the Council's Executive Member for Culture and Sport, with responsibility within the Council for the delivery of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Archie has lived in Glasgow all his life. He left school at 16 with no qualifications and worked in the construction industry for the first 15 years of his working life. He entered higher education as a mature student, gaining a BA in 1995 and an MSc in 1999 from Glasgow Caledonian University. His dissertation was entitled: *The Involvement and Empowerment of the Voluntary Sector in Urban Regeneration*.



Dr Rami Ousta is the CEO of BEMIS Scotland: a democratic representative organization that was acknowledged by the EU parliament as a best practice organization in Europe. Dr Ousta's experience covers a wide range of senior roles and responsibilities related to Race Equality, Human Rights Education & Democratic Active Citizenship, Policy Development, Strategic & Community Re-generation at various levels, Training & Consultancy work, Research work, and representation at National, UK and EU advisory forums and policy committees in relation to Equality and Human Rights Education.



Marco Biagi MSP, *Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment* was previously policy advisor with SNP's parliamentary central staff, supporting all 47 SNP MSPs.

He was educated at the Universities of St Andrews, California-Berkeley, Oxford and Glasgow.

Marco has held a range of positions in the SNP, up to and including membership of the National Executive Committee.

He was elected to serve the people of Edinburgh Central in May 2011



Leanne Wood AM was born in the Rhondda, where she continues to live today. She was educated at Tonypanydy Comprehensive School, the University of Glamorgan and Cardiff University. Before she was elected to the National Assembly for Wales in 2003, Leanne worked as a professional tutor and lectured in social policy at Cardiff University. She also worked as a probation officer and a support worker for Cwm Cynon Women's Aid during 2001 and 2002. She has been deeply involved in the trade union movement and was, until recently, the chair of the all-party PCS

Union group in the Assembly. During her tenure as Assembly Member, she has been responsible for the Sustainability, Environment, Social Justice, and Housing portfolios for Plaid Cymru.

In 2008, Leanne published *Making Our Communities Safer* which argued for the criminal justice system in Wales to be devolved. *A Greenprint for the Valleys* was published in 2011, in which she advocated a green job creation programme aimed at regenerating the former coalfield areas of the valleys. It contained initiatives including: a Green Construction Skills College; implementing an integrated transport plan for the post-industrial valleys; creating a land bank for renewable energy and food production; a programme to renovate heritage buildings, and the setting up of green co-operatives.

On 15 March 2012, Leanne was elected leader of Plaid Cymru, becoming the first woman to lead the party. Her leadership platform included a call for "real independence — genuinely working to end war, inequality and discrimination". Since becoming leader she has focused upon economic and environmental concerns alongside constitutional reform. Leanne received widespread, cross-party praise for her incisive contributions during the televised Leaders Debates at the 2015 UK General Election. Outside of politics, her interests include learning Welsh and gardening.



Prof. James Mitchell completed his undergraduate degree at Aberdeen University and completed his doctoral thesis at Nuffield College, Oxford University. He holds the Chair in Public Policy having previously held chairs in the Universities of Sheffield and Strathclyde. He joined the School in April 2013. His interests are primarily in public policy, territorial politics and government:

- ✓ multi-level governance and the territorial dimensions of public policy;
- ✓ regionalism and nationalism;
- ✓ and political behaviour with special reference to sub-state levels of government.

His most recent book, 'The Scottish Question', was published in July 2014 and sets debates on Scotland's constitutional status into wider historical and public policy contexts and was completed while holding an ESRC Fellowship. He co-authored (with Chris Carman in Glasgow University and Rob Johns in Essex University) a study of the 2011 Scottish elections which was published in February 2014.

His primary interest currently is in public service reform following a period serving as a member of the Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services. He has been engaged in debates on public services, speaking at many conferences and events. In addition, he completed a report, entitled 'People and Places', commissioned by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives in Scotland in 2014.



Humza Yousaf MSP was elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow in May 2011, aged 26.

He has been involved in community work, from youth organisations to charity fundraising, for most of his life, including being media spokesperson for the international non-governmental organisation Islamic Relief. He also volunteered for community radio for 12 years and on a charitable project providing food packages to homeless people and asylum seekers in Glasgow.

After completing his degree in Politics at the University of Glasgow in 2007, he went to work in the Scottish Parliament as an aide to the late Bashir Ahmad MSP.

In May 2011, he was the youngest SNP MSP to be elected to Parliament. He was appointed to the Justice Committee and Public Audit Committees, was a Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the First Minister Alex Salmond MSP.

In September 2012 he was appointed as Scotland's first ever Minister for External Affairs and International Development, and became the youngest Minister in the Scottish Government's history as well as being the first ever Minister from an ethnic minority background.



Sir Roderick Evans studied at University College, London before becoming a lecturer in Commercial Law at the University of Wales. He was called to the bar at Gray's Inn in 1970 and made a bencher of Gray's, and admitted ad eundem to Lincoln's Inn, in 2001. He was appointed a Recorder and assigned to the Wales and Chester Circuit in 1987. In 1989, he became a Queen's Counsel. Sir Roderick became a circuit judge in 1992. He served as a member of the Criminal Committee of the Judicial Studies Board (now the Judicial College) from 1998 to 2001. On 23 April 2001, he was appointed a High Court judge, and assigned to the Queen's Bench Division. In 2002 he received the honour of becoming a member of the Gorsedd of Bards. He served as a presiding judge for the Wales and Cheshire Circuit from 2004 to 2007 and for Wales in 2007. He was secretary of the Association of Judges of Wales in 2008. In 2011, he served as a member of the Parole Board. In 2012, he was chairman of the Wales Committee of the Judicial College. Sir Roderick retired from the legal profession on 1 May 2013. He is Pro Chancellor of the Council of Swansea University.



Ken Macintosh MSP was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 1999 and held the Eastwood seat in the 2003, 2007 and 2011 elections, increasing his majority in May to 2,012.

Ken made his name standing up for his constituents against the closure of the A&E at Glasgow's Victoria Infirmary. He's also campaigned nationally on issues including skin cancer, successfully changing the law on sunbeds. More recently, he has helped lead opposition to the proposed Loganswell waste

incinerator in Newton Mearns, leading 2000 people in a 'Walk Against the Waste Incinerator' on 4 September.

In the previous Labour Government, Ken was a Ministerial Parliamentary Aide to former First Minister Jack McConnell. In opposition, he has served as Shadow Minister for Schools and Skills, Shadow Minister for Culture and External Affairs, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance. In 2011, Ken was one of three candidates to run in the Scottish Labour Leadership contest.

Ken is currently '*Scottish Labour Spokesperson for Communities*'.



Roza Salih graduated with an honours degree in law and politics in 2013.

In her time at University she was the Vice-President Diversity and Advocacy at the University of Strathclyde Students' Association from 2013 to 2015.

Roza is one of the original Glasgow Girls - the group which campaigned across the UK to stop deportations of vulnerable asylum seekers.

In 2014 she was elected to NUS Scotland International student's officer and NUS UK international students committee and Trustee Board.

She has campaigned for equal access for asylum seekers to education and Strathclyde University is the first university in Scotland to provide such Scholarships.

She is also the cofounder of the Scottish-Kurdish society. More recently she has worked with UNISON to raise money for the refugees who have been affected by ISIS.



Dr. John Holland McKendrick: My primary research interests are on poverty (with a particular interest in children) and children's play. I publish for academics and practitioners. I am particularly keen that my work is of use to practitioners and campaigners beyond the academy who seek to tackle poverty in Scotland, the UK and the EU. Last year, I co-edited *Poverty in Scotland 2014: The Independence Referendum and Beyond* (CPAG, 2014) and have published reports on poverty, regeneration for The Hunter Foundation, Joseph

Rowntree Foundation and the Common Weal. I write a research column for the Scottish Anti Poverty Review and have been on Play Scotland's Board of Directors since 1997.



Judy Wasige holds a Master's degree in International Vocational Education from the University of Kassel. She has worked in a variety of education roles, including teaching at both secondary school and further education levels. Before coming to Scotland, Judy worked as Head of Library and Information Centre at the Goethe Institute in Nairobi.

Judy is interested in community development and is a strong advocate of education as a conduit for social justice. She worked as Qualifications

Development Officer (Curriculum for Excellence) at the Scottish Qualifications Authority for six years during which she was the Unison's Equalities Officer and completed a political shadowing scheme.

She recently moved to BEMIS Scotland as Participation and Development Officer for the Gathered Together Project whose main objective is to improve the participation of ethnic minority parents in their children's learning and school communities.

Through KWISA (Kenyan Women in Scotland Association), she is involved in a range of projects to giving women and their families a space and opportunity to advance their potential and address social, economic, civic, gender, cultural and issues that affect their lives.

INSTITUTIONAL BIOGRAPHIES



BEMIS Scotland is the national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body supporting the development of the Ethnic Minorities Voluntary Sector in Scotland and the communities that this sector represents. Our vision is of a Scotland that is equal, inclusive and responsive: A society where:

- ✓ people from the diverse communities are valued, treated with dignity and respect,
- ✓ have equal citizenship, opportunities and equality of life,
- ✓ and who actively participate in civic society.



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

Established in 1920, **Swansea University** is set in parkland overlooking Swansea Bay on the edge of the breathtaking Gower Peninsula. Swansea University is a research-led environment with 15,921 students and 2,510 staff. It incorporates the College of Arts and Humanities; College of Human & Health Sciences; College of Law; College of Medicine ; College of Science.

The current campus will be augmented with the opening of a second campus, Swansea University's Bay Campus, on 18th September 2015. Swansea University's Bay Campus has been constructed on a 65 acre, former BP Transit site in Neath Port Talbot, on the eastern approach into Swansea, and will have the distinction of being one of the few global universities with direct access onto a beach and its own seafront promenade. Colleges based at the Bay Campus will be the College of Engineering and the School of Management. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) results showed Swansea University has achieved its ambition to be a top 30 research University, soaring up to the league table to 26th in the UK from 52nd in 2008. Swansea University has a number global strategic partnerships with eminent universities such as The University of Texas at Austin; Rice University, Texas; Grenoble University, France; and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Catalunya.

The European Institute of Identities (EII) is based at Swansea University. It was established in 2012 by Professor Mike Sullivan, Dr Alan Sandry, and Mr Syd Morgan. The EII is an interdisciplinary, research-led policy institute. Though centred at Swansea, the EII works nationally and internationally with academics, institutions, organisations and interested individuals. The basis of EII's work is comparative, though it also looks at detached and 'quarantined' identities and allied topics. EII attempts to shape public policy making and delivery of Welsh, UK, and European Government policy. At Swansea University, its mission is to facilitate cross-campus working on disciplines related to identities, and their societal impact. EII acts as a conduit for ideas around political, social, cultural, linguistic, economic, legal and scientific identities. It seeks to establish networks across Europe (and beyond) to collaborate on research (and teaching) through conferences, seminars, guest lectures, etc. based around themes relating to identities.



University
of Glasgow

GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network), based at the University of Glasgow, aim to bring together researchers and practitioners, NGOs and policy makers working with migrants, refugees and

asylum seekers in Scotland by:

- ✓ Becoming an internationally recognised research network for Refugees, Asylum and Migration in Scotland
- ✓ Promoting knowledge exchange and capacity building between practitioners and researchers in the field through shared collaborative research programmes, open resources, the provision of joint research training workshops and professional development short courses, and the delivery of appropriate Master's and collaborative PhD degree programmes.
- ✓ Encouraging interdisciplinary research on refugees, asylum and migration.
- ✓ Developing strong and active collaborative research and development links, not only between the University of Glasgow and partners in policy making and the Third Sector, but also with those working in the field of sustainability, intercultural and international development.



CommonSpace is owned by the Common Weal think tank. We are a think tank, a campaigning and advocacy organisation, a news service, a social media hub, a network of local groups and more. We are also a philosophy of a different kind of Scotland and how we can achieve it.

Our goal is to achieve a Scotland of social and economic equality and environmental sustainability with a vibrant community and cultural life, widespread democratic participation, a high quality of life and cooperative working. We believe there are a series of key ideas which can explain how we achieve that kind of Scotland. These are all linked to a vision of what a better Scotland could be.

CommonSpace is a digital news and views service and a place to network, share ideas and discuss the issues affecting Scotland.

The Commission on Local Tax Reform operates independently of any organisation and brings expertise and experience together from across Scotland to examine alternatives that could deliver a fairer system of local taxation in Scotland.

The Commission is looking at the evidence about how Scotland's system of local taxation might improve. Most importantly of all, it is listening to the views of people and communities in Scotland about what happens now, and what the future might be.

The Commission recently published independent analysis of the responses to its call for written evidence on its website and has heard from over 50 organisations in a series of oral evidence sessions. A 5 minute survey is also available on its website for people to give their views. It is currently seeking views on alternatives to Council Tax in a range of events across Scotland. The Commission will present its findings in autumn 2015.