

Sheila Gilford Senior Lecturer in Research Methods - CV

Background

Life-long learning, returned to education following a number of years working for the North Staffordshire Health Authority, as a trainee accountant, to undertake degree.

Voluntary Work

Spent several years voluntary work, working with young people attached to Youth and Community projects in Newcastle. Appointed part time Youth and Community worker following this voluntary work.

Degrees/Professional Qualifications

BA (Hons) Sociology 2:1 Dissertation into Youth Homelessness
Certificate in Counselling Skills:1998

Post Graduate Education

PGCE (2000) Information, Computers and Technology, Keele University
MSc. (2000) (completed taught part) Information Technology, Keele University

Relevant Work Experience

Previous work experience in the voluntary and statutory sector. Worked as an Executive Officer in the Health Service. Also, have considerable experience of working with young people including working in Youth and Community for Staffordshire County Council.

Senior Research Officer, in the Housing & Community Research Unit, Staffordshire University with over 10 years experience of conducting contract research investigating the experience of marginalised and excluded groups.

Research Interests

Sheila Gilford has extensive social research experience into social exclusion and has been the grant holder for research funded projects through Joseph Rowntree, Peabody Trust, National Council for YMCA's, Barnardo's, Centrepont, St. Basils and statutory sector, health, social service and probation services in North Staffordshire. Specialist research interests include youth homelessness and survivors of rape.

Training/Courses

SPCR (1996) *Indepth Interviewing*, London.
Manchester University, (1996) *Analysing Census Data*, Manchester
University of London, (1997) *Using Qualitative Analysis Packages in Research*, Surrey.

Teaching

Previous teaching experience has included:

Sociology/Humanities at Staffordshire University – Research methods to level one Sociology students.

Social Work – Social Context – assisted with the research methods element of this course

BA Applied Social Studies – level 3 – Research Methods and Dissertation support for students.

Post GGCE qualification has worked as a primary school teacher.

Returned to teaching in Higher Education as Senior Lecturer in Research Methods on the BA Applied Social Studies courses at Staffordshire University, Institute of Social Work. Teaching for the past 4 years on a range of courses and modules including:

Module Leader – Level One - Independent Learning and Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods

BA Social Studies - Level One Module Leader - Research Methods and Research Support

BA Social Studies – Level Two - Placement Supervisor

BA Social Studies - Level 3 - Research Support for placement and report

BA Social Studies – Level 3 - Research Summary

BA Social Studies – Level 3 - Direct Entry Research methods

BA Social Studies – Level 3 - Research support for dissertation Direct Entry

Contract Research Experience

I have been involved in a number of contract research projects located within the Housing and Community Research Unit and the Institute of Social Work. In many of the projects below I have either been the principal researcher involved or worked collaboratively with other researchers in the Unit or Institute colleagues. The diversity of the projects identify a breadth of knowledge of socially excluded and marginalised and vulnerable groups, including community care clients, young people 'looked after', homeless adults and young people.

Detailed below is a flavour of the research undertaken:

Community Care and Advocacy

The Need for Advocacy amongst Community Care Client Groups (Staffordshire Social Services) 1996

Audit of Need amongst Community Care Client Groups (North Staffordshire Health Authority and Stoke City Council)

Evaluation of Home Care Services (Staffordshire Social Services)

Evaluation of Day Care Services (Staffordshire Social Services)

Briefing Paper on Domestic Violence (Elizabeth Trust)

Evaluation of Reablement Programme in Staffordshire (Staffordshire Social Services)

Housing and Support Needs for Minority Ethnic Groups in North Staffordshire (Blue Mountain Housing Association)

Young People and Homelessness

Family Background of Young Homeless People (Policy Studies Institute, funded by Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

Health and Homelessness (North Staffordshire Health Authority)

Youth Homelessness in 7 Cities and 4 London Boroughs (YMCA England and report to House of Commons)

Youth Homeless Report for Centrepoint London

Homelessness in Birmingham and Towards a Homelessness Strategy (Birmingham City Council funded through a Housing Consortium grant)

Probation

Evaluation of Housing Provision (Staffordshire Probation Services)

Skills involved in the Research

My involvement in the above research projects has developed my skills in a number of areas including:

Literature reviews and subject research

Quantitative research methodologies: questionnaire design, SPSS, data analysis, semi-structured interviewing.

Qualitative research methodologies: topic lists, focus group schedules, in-depth individual interviewing, data analysis

Project management and administration

Dealing and working with people: service users - adults, young people and children, carers, statutory professionals, in health, social services, housing and probation as well as workers from the voluntary sector.

Production of Final Reports and Findings documents

Presentation of Findings

Conference Papers

Published Articles

Current Research and Publications

Davies, T. & Gilford, S. (current) Evaluation of Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, Birmingham

Gilford, S. Grainger, J. and Ing, P. (1999) *An Audit of 'Support and Housing Needs for Community Care Clients in North Staffordshire*, North Staffordshire Health Authority.

Smith, J. Gilford, S. (1997) *The Family Background of Young Homeless People*, Policy Studies Centre for JRF, London and York

Smith, J., Gilford, S. et al (1996) *Bright Lights & Homelessness: Family and Single Homelessness Among Young People in our Cities*, National Council of YMCA's, London

Smith, J, Gilford, S. and Ing, P. (1996) Community Needs in a Single Regeneration Area, Blue Mountain Housing Association

Smith, J, and Gilford, S. (1993) Tamworth Single Homeless Project, Tamworth Housing & Community Chest

Smith, J, and Gilford, S.(1993) *Assessing Communication Strategies*, NUL Borough Council

Smith, J, and Gilford, S. (1991) Homelessness among Young People aged 18-25 in North Staffordshire, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Smith, J, and Gilford, S. (1991) *Homeless Outcomes*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York

Smith, J and Gilford, S (1990) *Lower Milehouse Housing Survey*, NUL Borough Council

Smith, J and Gilford, S (1990) Survey of Ex-NCB Tenants, Galleys Bank, Kidsgrove, NUL Borough Council

Smith, J and Gilford, S (1990) Survey of Ex NCB Tenants, Crackley Housing Estate, NUL Borough Council

Papers/Conferences

Smith, J. & Gilford, S. (1996) *Developing Research to Reveal the Observed and Neglected*, paper presented at Essex '96 Fourth International Conference on Social Science Methodology, University of Essex, July, 1996.

Consultant/Steering Group

Have acted as consultant or member of steering group through the duration of a number of research projects including:

Reablement in North Staffordshire, Staffordshire Social Services

Young People and Volatile Substance Misuse, Resolv Mid Staffordshire.

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Opportunities

This award opens up a wide range of social work opportunities in the statutory voluntary and independent sectors. There is currently a high demand for qualified social workers.