



Wales Studies

Research about Wales, for Wales and the World



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY – CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
YR ACADEMI GENEOLAETHOL – YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

Wales Studies

Introducing Wales Studies

Wales Studies is the intellectual exploration, explanation and understanding of all things relating to Wales and its relations with the wider world.

It is an emerging field, but there is a strong body of work developing within our universities, research, heritage and cultural organisations. From researching young people's perceptions of their communities, their nation and the Welsh language, to rediscovering forgotten voices in literature; from investigating the legacy of heavy industry to

pioneering solutions for climate change, Wales Studies is an educational and cultural resource with great potential.

Crucially, it can help to project an image of contemporary Wales to an international audience.

To do so, we need a stronger awareness of what makes the nation distinct. Wales's qualities include its culture, values, history, bilingualism, the importance of community and cynefin, political and social traditions, diversity and much more. They are what epitomise the nation. These are

not backward-looking clichés; they are assets which set Wales apart.

Knowing and appreciating who we are is vital for our self-awareness and self-confidence. This is acknowledged in the new national curriculum for schools. It was also reflected in the 2016 Welsh Election Study, where over half of respondents said that taking pride in Wales's history, heritage or landscape, and its culture, literature and arts, was an important part of what it means to be Welsh.



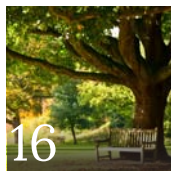
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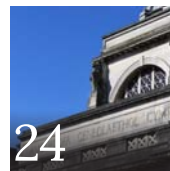
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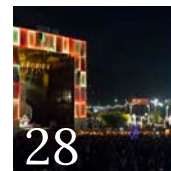
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In this booklet, the Learned Society of Wales highlights examples of Wales Studies across many institutions and academic disciplines. Inspired by the approach of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, it reflects on the full range of areas needed to develop Wales as a sustainable and dynamic nation.

This work captures where Wales has come from, as well as where it wants to go.

Get involved

This booklet is a starting point, not an exhaustive list. We are committed to the continuing promotion and development of Wales Studies, including on our website.

- Please email us at walesstudies@lsw.wales.ac.uk if you have other examples of research you would like us to share
- Contribute to our ongoing survey: visit www.learnedsociety.wales/wales-studies or scan the QR code below

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www.learnedsociety.wales

The Learned Society of Wales

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From coal to decarbonisation

In the late nineteenth century, a quarter of the coal in the global trade came from Wales; it was exported around the world, fuelling global economic development. Other heavy industries have also played an important role in our history. We now understand the environmental consequences of these industries, and researchers in Wales are leading efforts to decarbonise our energy supply, whilst ensuring its security and affordability. They are also providing important guidance on how the Welsh economy can develop competitively but sustainably. To do so, they are crossing boundaries between science, technology, arts and social sciences – putting people in Wales at the heart of developments.

www.flexis.wales

Innovation in energy systems

FLEXIS (Flexible Integrated Energy Systems)

is a £24 million project for energy systems research in Wales, building on our existing world-class capabilities. It is led by Cardiff University, Swansea University and the University of South Wales, and collaborates with private and public sector research organisations in Wales and worldwide.

FLEXIS aims to create a culture of research and innovation across Wales, developing the nation as a leader in energy systems technology. Focus areas include hydrogen energy storage, carbon sequestration, and low carbon energy infrastructure.

The project also considers socioeconomic issues around the transition to a low carbon future. Fuel poverty, particularly amongst the elderly, is of

growing importance as energy prices increase to accommodate complex renewable energy systems. FLEXIS works to improve public perceptions and communication about energy research and development, and the associated costs and benefits. To solve these diverse and interdependent challenges, an interdisciplinary approach is essential. FLEXIS is rooted in a Welsh context, applying its technological research at a demonstration site at Tata Steel Port Talbot. This contributes to the local council's strategy for decarbonisation and renewable energy. Workshops with the Port Talbot community have explored how everyday life may change with a decarbonised energy system. Their findings will help FLEXIS projects avoid risks and provide better value to the project's stakeholders, including the wider community.

www.welshcopper.org.uk
www.hafodmorfacopperworks.com

Swansea copper: A global phenomenon

Between 1830 and 1870, the Swansea area became the hub of the world copper industry. Swansea's copper smelters, who often accounted for 50% of world output in these decades, drew ore from Australia, Chile, Cuba and elsewhere. Professor Chris Evans, University of South Wales, has led a research programme into Swansea copper – a global phenomenon which involved mining on different continents and the mobilisation of capital, labour and technology across immense distances.

The industry was in decline by the beginning of the twentieth century, and copper works were gradually abandoned. At the **Hafod-Morfa** works, **Swansea University** and the city council lead an award-winning regeneration project – breathing life back into the site of the former “crucible of the global copper industry”. As well as restoring the site and researching its history, the project reaches out to the public, schools and community groups – reconnecting people to their local and global history.

www.welsheconomicchallenge.com

The Welsh economic challenge

Researchers from **Cardiff Metropolitan University** are leading efforts to solve the ‘Welsh Economic Challenge’ – especially the question of why Wales lags behind other countries in productivity.

Wales remains the poorest part of the UK; economic output per head is only 72% of the UK average. The researchers ask whether that is inevitable, and what might be done over the next decade to start to catch up. They seek to identify the best measures and policy options for triggering transformational change in the Welsh economy. This will need Wales to be ambitious: setting challenging targets, encouraging an entrepreneurial culture, and working to achieve consensus between businesses and policymakers.

An interim report in 2019 found that Welsh firms see productivity as important, but do not always understand it well. Better strategic leadership is needed, alongside stronger investment in human capital and intangible capital (like software and intellectual property), and more stable businesses. There are also positive moves by some firms to link their strategies to the national Well-being Goals.

www.dis-ind-soc.org.uk

Experiences of industry and disability

Recent research projects have considered the legacies of heavy industry in Wales. For example, the **Disability and Industrial History** project looked at how understandings and experiences of disability were affected by industrial development from the late eighteenth century until the end of the Second World War.

storytelling.research.southwales.ac.uk/research/rice

Storytelling approaches

The **RICE project** is led by the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling, University of South Wales. It captures stories from people working to change our industrial carbon emission technologies, within industry, policy, energy innovation and the wider community. These stories generate meaningful understanding of the dynamics of changing carbon emissions strategies and technologies.





Our natural environment

The people of Wales care about their natural environment. In the most recent National Survey for Wales, 77% of respondents were concerned about climate change, and 45% were concerned about future changes to biodiversity. Researchers across many disciplines are contributing to our understanding of Wales's natural heritage, through scientific investigation of landscapes and ecosystems and careful consideration of humans' environmental impact.

www.cherishproject.eu

Climate change and coastal heritage

The **CHERISH** project is helping us to understand the impacts of climate change on the cultural heritage of the Irish Sea basin. It draws on the area's environmental history as well as its landscapes today.

The project uses innovative techniques – including drone surveys – to discover and map heritage assets on land and beneath the sea. To do so, it brings together internationally leading specialists in various fields: climate change, hydrography, geology, archaeology, built and maritime heritage, remote sensing, environmental science and scientific dating. The partners also work with and train citizen scientists.

The researchers chose to study the reefs, islands and headlands of the Irish Sea because of their rich cultural heritage – reflecting the role of the Atlantic as a trade and cultural highway since the end of the last Ice Age. Many heritage assets on the coast are significant for the study of Wales and Ireland's coastal and maritime culture. However, they remain

largely unexplored and inadequately mapped, and their environmental context is poorly understood. These remote environments are at constant risk through exposure to extreme weather and storms, which are predicted to increase due to climate change. The CHERISH project will create benchmark data that can be used to measure climate change impacts over the next 100 years – on land and under the sea – and to model predicted changes in order to make recommendations for future adaptation.

Early results include new discoveries on RSPB Ramsey Island, such as Bronze Age round barrows and a prehistoric coastal fort. Work has also begun on the impressive Iron Age fort of Dinas Dinlle, near Caernarfon, which will be completely lost to the sea within the next 100 years. The EU-funded project is being led by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in partnership with Aberystwyth University, Discovery Ireland and the Geological Survey of Ireland.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/
ty-mawr-wybrnant-pico-hydro](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ty-mawr-wybrnant-pico-hydro)

Hydropower and heritage

At Tŷ Mawr Wybrnant in Snowdonia, an innovative hydropower installation is protecting one of the most important books in Welsh history from the effects of climate change.

The National Trust site is the birthplace of Bishop William Morgan, who made the first translation of the Bible into Welsh. An original copy of the book, one of only 24 known to exist, is displayed at the farmhouse along with Bibles in other languages. However, increasing rainfall, flooding and damp – all associated with climate change – are threatening the collection.

Working with researchers at Bangor University and Trinity College Dublin, the Trust has installed a 4.5kW 'pico' hydro pump on a nearby stream. This operates only when water levels reach a certain point, meaning that electricity is generated at the times when it is most needed to control humidity and preserve the collection.

museum.wales/staff/117/Ingrid-Jttner

Improving freshwater quality

Dr Ingrid Jüttner at National Museum Wales has led several major investigations into water quality in Welsh freshwater systems. Her research is based on the distribution of diatoms – microscopic algae that are sensitive indicators of ecological stress. One project has focused on the Wye River and its catchment, where water acidification from agricultural run-off has damaged the river's important fisheries.

The Wye & Usk Foundation is attempting to correct this through a liming programme, and Dr Jüttner has used diatom distribution to monitor its effectiveness. The results of her research have helped the Foundation develop its programme to maximise long-term benefits, and the river's fisheries are now showing a significant improvement.

naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports

The state of our natural resources



In 2016, Natural Resources Wales published its **State of Natural Resources Report** (SoNaRR). This was the first countrywide assessment of the health and resilience of our ecosystems; the extent to which Wales is sustainably managing its natural

resources; and the contribution of those resources to well-being. It found that although progress has been made, our resources are being depleted more quickly than they can be replenished, and biodiversity is declining.



Wales and the world

Wales is a small nation with a rich and complex history of international engagement. Centuries of interaction through travel, migration, language and culture have forged lasting connections with other countries. Globalisation of trade has played an undeniable role in this history of an outward-looking Wales. Researchers continue to reveal fascinating, and sometimes challenging, accounts of our nation's global heritage.

bit.ly/lucy_taylor_aber

Coloniser and colonised

Wales has been entangled in global relationships as both coloniser and colonised. This makes it an unusual and revealing place to think more deeply about how colonialism works, and for whom.

Based at Aberystwyth University, Dr Lucy Taylor's research aims to bring new thinking to debates concerning global relationships and settler colonialism, by focusing on the unusual case of Welsh Patagonia. Her work questions the rather romantic and well-worn stories of Y Wladfa and has delved deeper into its complex social world, unpacking the myths and realities of friendship and inequality that characterised Welsh-indigenous life.

To date, Dr Taylor's work has involved an in-depth study of archival material in order to rethink colonial relations. In the next phase, she will work with artists, writers and social organisations to examine how the history of Welsh Patagonia feeds into traditional ideas about Welshness, and to prompt different conversations about identity by rethinking Y Wladfa.

This innovative research seeks to influence academic and public debates in a variety of ways, including:

- Bringing fresh insights to 'the usual stories'
- Shaping the conversation on Welsh identity
- Building new identities through collaborative work
- Pushing academic thinking about settler colonialism in new directions

www.welshplains.cymru

From Sheep to Sugar

This Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project brings together community researchers from Mid and North Wales who are interested in the history of spinning and weaving. It explores the history of a coarse woollen fabric called 'Welsh Plains', which was produced in huge volumes by upland households between the mid-seventeenth and mid-nineteenth centuries.

This little-known rural industry was driven by demand in the Caribbean. Fabric made in Montgomeryshire and Merionethshire was used to clothe enslaved plantation workers, hence its alternative name, "Negro Cloth". It linked impoverished families in Wales, which sought to boost their incomes by weaving fabric for export, with the brutal world of Atlantic slavery. Isolated mountain parishes, it turns out, were not so isolated.

The industry collapsed in the 1830s and 1840s as Atlantic markets were lost, leaving behind a landscape that is today celebrated as 'unspoilt', but which is better understood as a deindustrialised wasteland.

The project, which is led by Learning Links International, aims to widen engagement with the industrial heritage of Wales, especially among under-represented Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

www.walesforpeace.org

Sharing our peace heritage

From 2014 to 2018, the Wales for Peace project was a unique response to the centenary of the First World War. Led by the **Welsh Centre for International Affairs**, it was a nationwide initiative to uncover the story of Wales's 'peace heritage' from 1918 to the present day. Universities, museums, libraries and community groups – along with hundreds of volunteers – collaborated to explore and share histories of international solidarity, remembrance, sanctuary for refugees, and the often-unheard voices of women and children. One particularly striking story revealed by the project was a petition signed in 1923-24 by 390,296 women across Wales, calling on the United States to become a full member of the League of Nations.

www.welshkhasialogues.co.uk

Cultural dialogues with the Khasi people

Professor Lisa Lewis of the **University of South Wales** leads a creative arts project that investigates the transcultural histories of the people of Wales and the Khasi people of north-east India. This cultural exchange begins with the arrival of the Welsh missionaries in the Khasi-Jaiñtia Hills in the 1840s (up to the removal of foreign missionaries from India in 1967) and persists in the cultural exchanges made in artistic practice since then, resulting in a complex body of transcultural material. The project (funded by The Leverhulme Trust) uses performance, film, poetry, folk tales and music to construct cultural dialogues between Welsh and Indian scholar-practitioners – dialogues that investigate and respond to our historical relationship.



*Lapdiang Syiem and Rhys ap Irefor in Performing Journeys
(photo: Andy Freeman)*



Improving our health and well-being

Health in Wales faces a number of important challenges, from prevention of disease to mental well-being, and resources for social care and community services. Contemporary research recognises that health goes well beyond medical treatment, and is closely connected with our social and environmental well-being. There are also important links between human and animal health. Our institutions in Wales are approaching these challenges in innovative ways, some of which have global application. The Learned Society is playing its own part – working with the Bevan Commission to explore how the interconnected themes of human, animal and environmental health (a ‘One Health’ approach) can be taken forward in Wales.

popdatasci.swan.ac.uk/portfolio/green-blue-space-project

Green-blue spaces and well-being

Researchers at **Swansea University** are working on novel study to investigate whether spending time in green and blue spaces, such as parks and beaches, can improve our long-term well-being and mental health.

Experts from Swansea, Liverpool, Exeter and Cardiff universities and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health are collaborating on this world-leading project. Gathering data for 1.7 million people – the majority of Wales's population – to investigate whether a change in access to the natural environment, has an impact on people's mental health. This change may be for example because a new park may open or a new housing estate may be built. Because the effects of green and blue spaces take time to change health, they will use historical data from the past 12 years (2008-2019) to assess the effects over the past decade.

The study will provide new evidence to support environmental planning policy, helping to shape our living environments to benefit health and well-being.

bit.ly/Cardiff_flu

Leading the hunt for flu

2017-18 was one of the most challenging flu seasons in almost a decade, with excess winter deaths almost doubling in Wales. This was largely because one of the main types of flu circulating was the H3N2 strain, which had a greater impact on more vulnerable and elderly patients. The previous year's vaccine was also less effective against that strain, leading to extra pressure on NHS services. It was therefore important to develop better ways to track and analyse flu.

Using new software, **Cardiff University** and **Public Health Wales** have developed a method to rapidly identify flu strains circulating in the UK and Europe. The software uses cutting-edge genomic sequencing techniques to examine samples taken from patients across Wales, enabling researchers to identify flu strains within 24 hours. This means that Rhyl, Neath, Penarth and Swansea now sit alongside Hong Kong and New Mexico as locations providing the latest data to scientists tracking how flu spreads and evolves across the globe.

Once collected, the data is shared instantly with the World Health Organization, the European Centre for Disease Control and others. This rapid sharing means that organisations can more accurately track the circulating strains of flu and forecast how they might evolve – information which is vital in developing an effective vaccine for the following year's flu season.

www.aber.ac.uk/en/ibers/

Tackling bovine TB

Bovine tuberculosis is the most pressing animal health challenge for Wales today. It has had a devastating impact on cattle, farm businesses and the wider rural community. The cost of fighting the disease is estimated to be £26m a year in Wales; in 2018/19, £14.5m in compensation was paid to farmers whose animals were slaughtered when tested positive as TB reactors.

Research by two Aberystwyth scientists, Professor Glyn Hewinson and Professor Martin Vordermeier, has paved the way for a possible breakthrough in the worldwide fight against bovine TB. They have developed skin tests for cattle that can, for the first time, distinguish between animals infected with TB and those vaccinated against it. This could be a crucial step towards a cattle TB vaccine programme in Wales and around the world.

Professor Hewinson leads the **Centre of Excellence for Bovine TB** at Aberystwyth University. As well as undertaking further research to eradicate the disease, the Centre provides those affected by bovine TB with the latest information on disease control. It is funded by the Welsh Government's Sêr Cymru II scheme.

www.aces.me.uk

Arts participation and health

Antony Jackson, a PhD student at Wrexham Glyndŵr University, is conducting research into the training and development of artists working in healthcare settings. The project is a collaboration with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), aiming to ensure that BCUHB arts activities have a positive impact on health.

The benefits of participating in the arts are well known: they provide social contact, a sense of purpose, increased esteem and confidence, and lead to de-stigmatisation of health conditions. This research will specifically identify how arts activities improve the well-being of BCUHB service users. It will assess the competence of arts practitioners and the quality of their outputs, leading to the development of a new curriculum for staff training. Ultimately, it will lead to growth in arts and health outputs within BCUHB, through clear role descriptors in staff recruitment that will be benchmarked against national standards.



Towards an inclusive society

The Wales of today is a rich and complex society, and shares many of the social challenges of other nations. Research is helping us to understand how we can look after the needs of people in Wales, develop a safe and well-governed society, and ensure that young people can access their rights. As well as being valuable to people in our local communities, some of this work is of international importance; it places Wales at the forefront of tackling shared social and political concerns.

choice.aber.ac.uk/

Challenging elder abuse

The domestic abuse of older people is a hidden problem in Wales and beyond. This problem is being tackled by a unique research project based at Aberystwyth University.

The **Dewis Choice initiative** has worked with the local community to co-produce a grassroots intervention, specifically to support older victim-survivors of abuse to make informed choices about justice. The initiative integrates well-being with justice – including civil, criminal and restorative principles – to ensure older victim-survivors are not treated differently on account of their age, gender, sexuality or disability.

The research focuses on areas that have previously been ignored, invisible or overlooked – including the justice-seeking experiences of older male and female victim-survivors, the co-existence of domestic abuse and dementia, and help-seeking experiences for older LGBTQ+ victim-survivors. The research team has trained more than 300 volunteers on issues relating to intergenerational abuse, restorative practices and domestic homicide.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/violence-research-group

Reducing violence in Cardiff and worldwide

Cardiff University's Violence and Society Group works to reduce violence through research, new use of data, and original collaborations between medicine and criminal justice. Through the **Cardiff Model for Violence Reduction**, the group has helped achieve big cuts in community violence in the city:

- 60% drop in violence-related A&E attendance since 2002 (to 2017), from 80 patients per week to 30
- Reduction of more than 39% in violence inside licensed premises
- 42% reduction in hospital admissions and violence recorded by the police (relative to 14 similar UK cities)
- Saving of over £5 million per year for Cardiff's health, social and criminal justice systems

Their research has also had an impact outside Cardiff. Both the UK Government and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine have adopted the Cardiff Model, and the Dutch government has funded its implementation in all seven of Amsterdam's hospitals. Further projects are underway to replicate the model in the United States and Australia.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/wales-governance-centre

Devolution, governance and Brexit

Based at Cardiff University, the **Wales Governance Centre (WGC)** researches the nation's law, politics, government and political economy. It also explores wider UK and European contexts, and encourages informed public debate. To do so, it works closely with the National Assembly for Wales, Welsh Government, Bangor University, Edinburgh University and others. Key WGC projects include:

- Wales Fiscal Analysis – monitoring and analysing the nation's public finances, especially the devolution of taxes
- Justice and Jurisdiction – investigating the operation of the legal and justice system in Wales
- Europe and Devolution – organised as a Wales-EU Hub, this currently explores the implications of Brexit for Wales's devolved powers
- Wales Civil Society Forum on Brexit – bringing together civil society organisations and helping them to prepare for the impact of Brexit

The WGC was also closely involved with the National Assembly's expert panel on electoral reform. This made influential recommendations on the size of the Assembly, the electoral system, and the minimum voting age for elections. Other WGC research has been cited widely in Senedd and Westminster debates, in parliamentary committees, in the national media and at public events. Its Welsh Political Barometer poll, organised with ITV Wales and YouGov, is seen as an important measure of public opinion.



www.swansea.ac.uk/law/wales-observatory

Valuing children's voices

Wales was the first UK nation to enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in its laws. Devolution has given our public bodies important responsibilities for protecting and promoting children's rights. Based in Swansea University, the **Observatory on Human Rights of Children** conducts research, debate, education and knowledge exchange in this area. It has reported in detail on the status of children's rights in Wales, and has used the Children As Researchers model to conduct youth-led research and advocacy.

In 2015, the Observatory's 'Little Voices Shouting Out' brought about a world first. The project was set up to ensure that children can exercise the right to express their opinions and be taken seriously. Before then, the UN Convention committee had not engaged with children within their formal meetings. The 'Little Voices' project enabled a group of children aged 7-11 to become the first group to present their findings to the Convention in Geneva.

Although it is difficult to fully assess the extent to which children's rights are being fulfilled and respected, there are strong examples of projects that value children's participation in Wales.

www.caerheritageproject.com

Community heritage in action

The **CAER Heritage** project was developed by Action in Caerau and Ely (ACE) and Cardiff University, in close partnership with local people and schools. It explores the history and archaeology of the Caerau Iron Age hillfort and the surrounding area, helping to connect communities with their heritage and develop educational and life opportunities.

Since it began in 2011, the project has put local people at the heart of archaeological and historical research. Activities have included excavations, analysis of artefacts, exhibitions, art installations, heritage trails and performances. The spin-off CAER Studio Project has co-produced art objects and craft items inspired by local history. In 2019, a new Hidden Hillfort Project began work, exploring the wider regeneration potential offered by the area's heritage.

www.wiserd.ac.uk

At the cutting edge of social science

WISERD (Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods) is a collaborative partnership of five universities in Wales, working across disciplines to research a wide range of areas. Since its establishment in 2009, WISERD's achievements have included:

- Mapping childcare provision at detailed geographical scales, identifying areas in Wales where there appears to be a lack of childcare supply against demand
- Quantitative research into disability and employment, which has been influential on UK government policy
- An exploration of the voting intentions and voting behaviour of young people before and after the 2016 EU referendum
- Research into the engagement in Welsh civil society of immigrants from central Europe, with a particular focus on voices that are often overlooked
- Development of an evidence base on what it means to live well with dementia, which will inform recommendations for the social care and healthcare sectors
- Major evaluations of how Welsh Government policies – such as the school curriculum, Pupil Development Grant and Flying Start initiative – affect the lives of children and young people

In 2020, WISERD launches its Civil Society Centre – a new programme funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, which builds on all of its previous research activities.

www.open.edu/openlearncreate/theme/openlearncymru/home.php

OpenLearn Cymru

OpenLearn Cymru is a free online learning resource from the **Open University in Wales**, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and other partners. It provides courses and articles covering a wide range of issues. The content includes Welsh perspectives on contemporary politics, rural entrepreneurship, social work, the education sector and law. The resource is based on an 'open access' principle – users do not need to join the Open University in order to use the materials.



The role of national institutions

AMGUEDDFA GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU

museum.wales/aims/research

Hands On Heritage

Research is at the foundation of the work of **National Museum Wales**. The institution sees its seven museum sites across Wales as being “public research laboratories of cultural participation”, with an important role in contributing to social change.

One recent project, Hands On Heritage, emphasises the importance of young people having a voice in Wales's national heritage. It works with Young Heritage leaders to design and deliver engagement activities and events – including pop-up exhibitions, discussions, games, explorations of museum collections, and the production of film and art. One initiative was to appoint a live-in artist to curate the first temporary exhibition at St Fagans National Museum of History following the Museum's redevelopment. The artist worked with young people to consider what Wales will look in 30 years, drawing on items from the national collection and engaging with contemporary themes.



www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

Established in 2011, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol develops higher education courses, resources and scholarship in the Welsh language. It works through branches in eight universities in Wales – developing Welsh medium provision, delivering training in research skills, and organising formal and informal events. It funds research scholarships across many disciplines, and is developing a series of subject dictionaries – covering areas such as international politics, legal terminology, the creative industries, mathematics and physics, geography and sports. The Coleg also publishes Gwerddon – a Welsh-medium academic e-journal which features research in the arts, humanities and sciences. The journal aims to stimulate first-class academic discussion through Welsh and to create a store of scholarly material for others to use.

www.uwp.co.uk

University of Wales Press

University of Wales Press (UWP) is the national academic press of Wales. Its mission is to support Welsh literature, history, language and culture in both Welsh and English languages, which it disseminates internationally.

Since its founding in 1922, UWP has published many seminal works within the field of Wales Studies. It has also supported the development of new fields, including Welsh writing in English (the study of English language literature from Wales), Welsh politics and political theory, Welsh history, and social science research about Wales. The Safbwyntiau series is the first of its kind in the Welsh language, covering studies on politics, culture and society in Wales and beyond.

UWP works closely with academics across Wales, and since 2011 has published an average of 27 Wales Studies titles each year. Its series of publications include:

- Scientists of Wales
- Studies in Welsh History
- Writers of Wales
- Writing Wales in English
- Gender Studies in Wales
- Re-thinking the History of Wales
- Safbwyntiau: Gwleidyddiaeth · Diwylliant · Cymdeithas
- Dawn Dweud
- Y Meddwl a'r Dychymyg Cymreig

www.peoplescollection.wales

People's Collection Wales

People's Collection Wales is an online collection of photos, recordings and documents relating to Wales and its people. The materials are uploaded by individual people, community organisations and heritage projects – helping to preserve precious memories and stories for future generations. More than 132,000 items are available to view, from family recipes to World War I studio portraits, postcards of collieries to interviews with community activists. People's Collection also offers accredited training for those interested in digitising heritage.

library.wales/collections/activities/research

Digital Research at the National Library of Wales

The National Library is acknowledged as Wales's leading player in digitisation. Digital resources are a key element in the Library's aim to be "the nation's memory".

The Library's Research Programme in Digital Collections develops evidence for the use, value and impact of digital collections. The programme seeks to enhance existing digital content for research, teaching, and community engagement; and to produce new content which addresses specific research and educational needs. This involves collaboration with a wide range of partners, nationally and internationally – including Welsh Government, partner libraries, museums and archives, heritage organisations and universities. Projects that have emerged from this work include:

- Cymru1914.org, a JISC-funded project to digitise primary sources relating to the Welsh experience of the First World War and its impact on Welsh life, language, and culture
- Cynefin, a collaborative project which involved digitising more than 1,000 tithe maps, including substantial conservation work on the maps
- Welsh Journals Online, which provides free access to journals relating to Wales published between 1735-2007
- The Dictionary of Welsh Biography Online Project, which will update the existing service to include visual and sound formats and explore the potential for a version for schools
- A Crowdsourcing Platform for Wales, enabling the Library to develop its own digital and crowdsourcing projects and to offer such a platform to other organisations

A large crowd of people is gathered at night for a performance. The stage is illuminated with vibrant, multi-colored lights (red, green, blue, and orange) that create a grid-like pattern. The words "GREEN MAN" are visible in the background above the stage. The audience is seen from behind, looking towards the brightly lit stage.

Exploring our culture and languages

The culture of Wales has been shaped by centuries of unique history, vibrant literature and arts, and the interaction of the Welsh and English languages. Researchers across the nation have explored and preserved this rich heritage, but Wales's culture is not an artefact frozen in time. Much work has taken place to link the historical to the contemporary, and to reflect an ever-evolving nation influenced by migration and social change.

www.wales.ac.uk/en/CentreforAdvancedWelshCelticStudies

Wales and Celtic culture

The **Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS)** is part of the University of Wales. Its work covers a wide field that encompasses the languages, literatures, history and cultures of Wales and other Celtic nations.

CAWCS aims to be a world-leading research centre, making a distinctive contribution to the national life of Wales and fostering relations between Celtic cultures. Amongst other projects, it has:

- Completed a social history of the Welsh language from 1536 to the present
- Published all of the surviving works of the Poets of the Princes and the Poets of the Nobility, covering a period spanning the 12th century to the 16th century
- Produced a series of volumes demonstrating the influence of the French Revolution on Wales
- Produced a comprehensive survey of the visual culture of Wales from the Celtic Christian period to the mid-twentieth century
- Explored the origins of the Celtic languages in a series of studies entitled 'Celtic from the West'

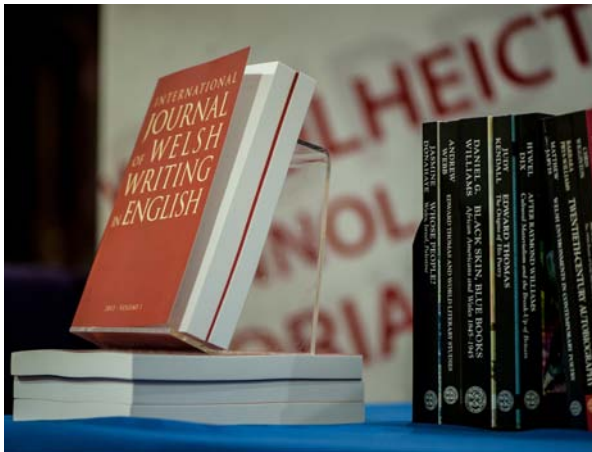
The Dictionary Unit produces *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru*, the historical dictionary of the Welsh language. This is its longest-running project and will celebrate its centenary in 2021.

An important forthcoming publication is *A Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts and Scribes* by Daniel Huws. Published in 2020 by CAWCS and the National Library of Wales, this magnum opus will give summary descriptions of some 3,300 manuscripts written in Welsh between c.800 and c.1800. It will also provide a register of scribes, sample images, and an index of names, text and subjects.

www.swansea.ac.uk/crew

CREW (Centre for Research into the English Language and Literature of Wales)

CREW is the first centre in the world established to study Wales's Anglophone culture. Its work has grown in importance since devolution and the increasing interest in the area shown across the education sector in Wales. Research at the Centre enabled the launch of the Welsh Government's flagship Library of Wales project and the preparation of teacher aids for the WJEC GCSE in English Literature.



CREW has been involved in several of the projects mentioned elsewhere in this booklet. Its other work includes:

- The Raymond Williams initiative, including a cultural biography and the establishment of an exchange relationship with Japanese scholars
- 'Writing Wales in English', the University of Wales Press series of monographs and essays
- Studies of LGBT and queer writing from Wales
- Studies of the transatlantic cultural relationship between Wales and Black America
- Study of the impact of Welsh Nonconformism on the literary culture of Wales
- Working towards the emergence of a bicultural study of the literature of Wales
- Study of the history of Welsh culture's turn towards Europe

CREW also holds unique archives relating to a number of influential Welsh writers – including Raymond Williams, Ron Berry, Alun Richards, Amy Dillwyn, Bryn Griffiths, Emyr Humphreys, R.S. Thomas, John Ormond, Elaine Morgan, and Tony Conran.

www.swansea.ac.uk/cultural-institute/richard-burton-centre

The Richard Burton Centre

The **Richard Burton Centre for the Study of Wales** is based at Swansea University. It brings together expertise and resources in Welsh matters across the arts and humanities, supporting cutting-edge research.

The Centre considers Wales as a plural society, with cultural and historical traditions in both Welsh and English languages. Wales is also situated within wider historical and contemporary contexts. It is part of the United Kingdom. It is, at some level, a Celtic country. It is a European territory. It has very significant connections with diasporic communities in North and South America and Australasia. It is home to migrants from many different parts of the world, who have continually helped to redefine what it is to be Welsh.

www.bangor.ac.uk/ysgolygydraeg

Intellectual contributions from Bangor

Bangor University has made a very important contribution to the growth of modern Welsh and Celtic scholarship. In the twentieth century, it gave rise to Sir John Morris-Jones' vital work on Welsh grammar, the first modern scholarly editions of early Welsh poetry and literature, and the *Welsh Academy English-Welsh Dictionary*. More recently, it has had an instrumental role in the dual language *Welsh Academy Encyclopaedia of Wales*. Today, research at the School of Welsh and Celtic Studies places the study of Welsh literature within new intellectual contexts – and reflects the needs of mass media audiences, cultural organisations and schools in modern Wales.



sites.cardiff.ac.uk/corcenc

Spoken Welsh today

Hosted by Cardiff University, the National Corpus of Contemporary Welsh (CorGenCC) is a **community-driven** project. It is creating a major resource for Welsh speakers, learners and language researchers, and indeed anyone interested in the language. It gathers language samples from real-life communication and presents them in a searchable online 'corpus', allowing users to explore Welsh as it is actually used.

Welsh speakers from all kinds of backgrounds, and of all abilities, can get involved by:

- Sharing their Welsh language with CorGenCC, in the form of spoken, written, or electronic language such as SMS messages, blogs, websites and emails
- Helping the project team to categorise materials held in the corpus
- Contributing to a discussion forum
- The project offers everyone an opportunity to contribute to a Welsh language resource that will be useful to people today, and to generations to come.

cwps.aber.ac.uk/language-culture-and-identities

Informing language policy

A team of researchers in Aberystwyth is conducting influential, interdisciplinary research into language policy. Specifically, their work analyses the actions of European sub-state governments to revitalise regional and minority languages. They have found that such revitalisation policies need to:

- Strike a balance between increasing the absolute number of minority language speakers and increasing the language's social use
- Take greater account of the implications of social changes – e.g. increased personal mobility, the rise in networked forms of social interaction, and the declining significance of local and territorial communities
- Place more emphasis on regional level initiatives, alongside more familiar community-based ones
- Respond to immigration by working in partnership with current speakers of the minority language, as exemplified by the *Voluntariat per la Llengua* programme in Catalonia

This research influenced discussions that led to the Welsh Government's latest national language strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers*, published in July 2017.

www.literaryatlas.wales

A literary atlas of Wales

The Digital Literary Atlas is an interactive online atlas of **English-language** novels set in Wales. It maps the main geographical locations of all such novels in the collections of Cardiff University, Swansea University, and the National Library of Wales.

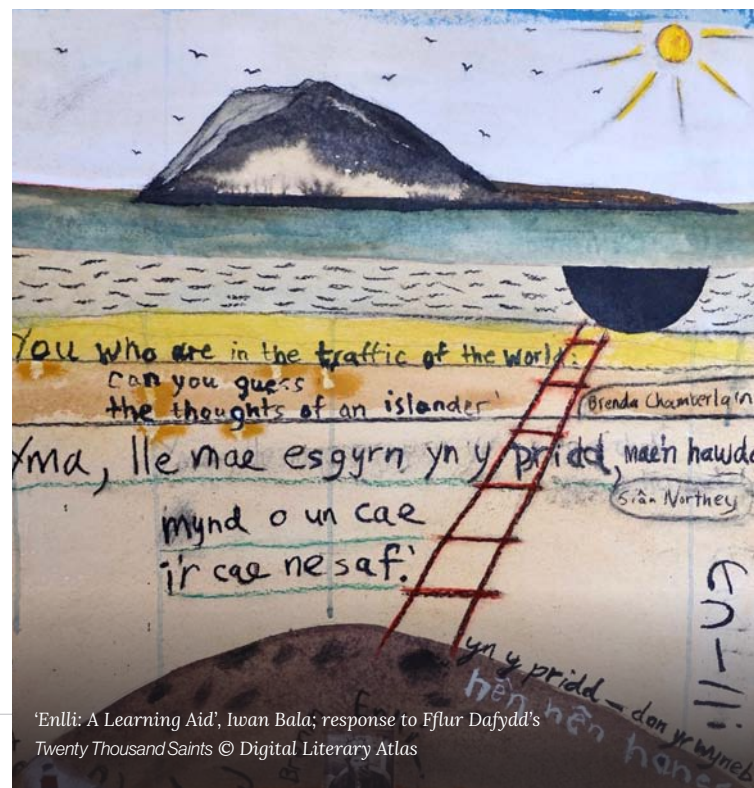
The Atlas also features maps all of the geographical references (or 'plotpoints') in twelve novels primarily set in Wales. It offers unique and provocative interpretations of the 'literary geographies' of these books. Other maps locate all of the blue plaques which commemorate the links between geographical sites and famous Welsh writers.

Through using 'distant', 'deep' and 'artistic' variations on mapping, the Atlas aims to stimulate new understandings of literature and place and the geographical nature of the human condition.

The Atlas is a 'living document', and the team behind it welcomes comments on its development. Visitors are encouraged to suggest new titles they would like to see included, or to suggest or contribute materials that can be added to existing plotlines (e.g. images, histories, films). There is even the opportunity for users to add their own literature to the site by contributing a short story of no more than 200 words, set in a location in Wales.



John Abell, 'Hiraeth for Beginners'; response to Tristan Hughes
Revenant © Digital Literary Atlas



'Enlli: A Learning Aid', Iwan Bala; response to Fflur Dafydd's
Twenty Thousand Saints © Digital Literary Atlas

www.bangor.ac.uk/ysgolygymraeg

Histories of people and culture

The histories of Wales are too many and varied for this booklet to do them justice. Among the diverse publications of recent times are:

- ***The Cambridge History of Welsh Literature***, edited by Geraint Evans / Helen Fulton. This is the first comprehensive history of Welsh literature from Roman Britain to post-devolution Wales. It considers the nation's two literatures together, against a backdrop of key historical events in Britain.
- ***Wales Since 1939*** by Martin Johnes. The first major survey of Wales in this period, this book emphasises social history and national identity. It incorporates traditional topics of Welsh history such as nationalism, language and mining, alongside accounts of people's hopes and fears, struggles and pleasures.
- ***A Little Gay History of Wales*** by Daryl Leeworthy. This pioneering work traces Welsh LGBT life and politics from the Middle Ages to the present. It draws on a rich array of archival sources from across Britain, together with oral testimony and material culture.

wordpress.aber.ac.uk/devolved-voices/

English-language poetry since devolution

The **Devolved Voices research project** at Aberystwyth University sought to investigate and record the diversity of Wales's English-language poetic life in the period since the devolution 'yes' vote of 1997.

The project's bibliographic research identified over 100 poets whose careers were predominantly established in the post-1997 period, whilst extended video interviews created a record of poets' perspectives on issues such as the relationship between ideas of Wales and their own creative practice. Analysis generated through the project's publishing programme showed the particular importance of female poets to the post-1997 period, examined the place of poetry in the publishing culture in Wales, and considered potential connections between poetic practice and Wales's devolutionary journey. A peripatetic public lecture series took discussions of key poets into the wider community.