A warm welcome to contacts old and new to our New Year 2016 Newsletter. January is a time for New Year’s Resolutions. If you have resolved to study - either for the joy of learning or for career development - our new MA in Philanthropic Studies, delivered by distance learning, is now open for applications. Click here for more information or contact programme convenor Dr Triona Fitton.

Your thoughts on our work are always welcome, so please don’t hesitate to contact us on philanthropy@kent.ac.uk

Join the debate on who should pay for charity regulation

Public perceptions of what charity regulation should look like and who should pay for it are explored in a new report published by Dr Eddy Hogg. The research, funded by and conducted in partnership with the Charity Finance Group, found that while public knowledge of charity regulation is on the whole low, people are nonetheless clear that charities should be regulated but also that the regulator should provide guidance on best practice to charities.
On the question of how charity regulation should be funded, there was no clear preferred funding method. While some participants argued for the status quo of government funding for the Charity Commission, a number argued for some sort of mixed funding model in which government and charities contributed to the cost of regulation. A small number felt that charities should pay for the entire cost of their regulation. Where there was more consensus is that charity regulation should be properly funded, and the majority argued that any funding from charities should be over and above what government already provides.

Author of the report Dr Eddy Hogg stated, "This report explores the complexity and nuance of public attitudes towards charity regulation, and in doing so contributes to ongoing debates around how charities should be regulated. As this research shows, this argument is one on which the public have a wide range of views."

We would welcome your views on the report and on how charities should be regulated. You can read the report here, and can read CFG Head of Policy and Public Affairs Andrew O'Brien's speech from the report's launch here. You can contact Dr Eddy Hogg with your views by clicking here.

Discuss 'The Problem of Philanthropy' with our director at the British Library

An ‘Enduring Ideas’ lecture being held at the British Library from 6.30-8pm on 1st March, will feature Dr. Beth Breeze discussing ‘the problem of philanthropy’.

Beth says: “‘Philanthropy’ ought to be an uncontroversial human activity because the roots of the word simply mean ‘love of humankind’. But in our society today, to be a ‘philanthropist’ has elitist, and often suspect, connotations, evoking images of a rich - possibly paternalistic and patronising - person, dispensing money to causes of their choosing. Philanthropy rouses strong reactions in people who question the legitimacy of donors’ wealth, their right to choose who does (and who does not) get funded, and the benefits that donors gain as a result of their generosity. Yet most of us enjoy giving to the causes we care about, and we all regularly benefit from philanthropically-funded buildings, activities and advances. In this talk, which will be chaired by Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of NCVO, Beth will discuss the role of
philanthropy in contemporary society, explore why it is seen as a problem and suggest how we might find some common ground between the critics and the champions of philanthropy.

For more information and to book tickets, click here.

Read The Logic of Charity: Great Expectations in Hard Times

Charity is a consistent and important feature of life in the UK, yet there is no clear understanding of what charity is, how it operates, who it benefits, and what it can and cannot be expected to do. This book presents extensive new data from over a dozen studies, including public attitudes to giving, large datasets on the geography and funding patterns of third sector organisations, and interviews with a wide range of donors, charity leaders, fundraisers and philanthropy advisers. These studies explore the logic of charity in terms of the distribution of resources across causes and communities in the UK, and the processes behind philanthropic decision-making. The data reveals a picture of charitable activity at odds with widespread assumptions.

The book is co-authored by our director Dr Beth Breeze, and Professor John Mohan who directs the Third Sector Research Centre at the University of Birmingham.

For further information, and to order a copy, please click here.

Keep up to date with the latest news and developments for Centre for Philanthropy.

Click here to visit our website