



Transcript from March 8, 2011 to March 9, 2011

All times are Pacific Time

March 8, 2011

3:31 pm **commutiny:** I'm in #Leeds for this tomorrow w/ Timescapes >> <http://ow.ly/4a6BJ> Want to float a memory/history idea for the whole thirdsector #vcstardis

March 9, 2011

10:33 am **commutiny:** #Thirdsector Time Lords are gathering for #vcstardis <http://ow.ly/4aGCI>

10:52 am **commutiny:** Time Lords have a non-linear peception of time. Will these specialists in longitudinal studies & life histories like the name? #vcstardis

11:02 am **commutiny:** Creatively engaging qualitatively with time helps us understand lived experience of change and continuity in the social world. #vcstardis

11:04 am **commutiny:** Bren Neale, Professor of Life course and Family research, University of Leeds, and Director of ESRC Timescapes <http://ow.ly/4aHvr> #vcstardis

11:10 am **commutiny:** Prof Neale's intro covers time flows, turning points, intersections of time & space, understanding the present through the past. #vcstardis

11:13 am **commutiny:** In Pursuit of the #Future <http://ow.ly/4aHlf> < Amazing collection of briefings from Creating Futures project at Cardiff Uni #vcstardis

11:16 am **commutiny:** First presentation from Sue Bond, Senior Research Fellow:at Edinburgh Napier University <http://ow.ly/4aHS5> #vcstardis

11:16 am **ScotCenRegen:** RT @commutiny: In Pursuit of the #Future <http://ow.ly/4aHlf> < Amazing collection of briefings from Creating Futures project at Cardiff Uni #vcstardis

11:17 am **leilil:** RT @commutiny: In Pursuit of the #Future <http://ow.ly/4aHlf> < Amazing collection of briefings from Creating Futures project at Cardiff Uni #vcstardis

11:20 am **commutiny:** Sue's project > Changing Public Services Landscape in #Scotland: Opportunities & Challenges for #ThirdSector <http://ow.ly/4aHW5> #vcstardis

11:24 am **commutiny:** Policy context for Sue Bond's research >> Scottish Govt Enterprising #ThirdSector Action Plan 2008-2011 <http://ow.ly/4aI4V> #vcstardis

11:25 am **DavidMiller_UK:** RT @commutiny: Policy context for Sue Bond's research >> Scottish Govt Enterprising #ThirdSector Action Plan 2008-2011 <http://ow.ly/4aI4V> #vcstardis

11:30 am **commutiny:** Baseline findings for Sue Bond's three year qualitative longitudinal study on the #thirdsector in Scotland <http://ow.ly/4aIbc> #vcstardis

11:32 am **EllaITC:** RT @commutiny: In Pursuit of the #Future <http://ow.ly/4aHlf> < Amazing collection of briefings from Creating Futures project at Cardiff Uni #vcstardis

11:34 am **commutiny:** #Thirdsector orgs are adapting services to meet changing policy & funding priorities, diversifying funding base, reducing costs #vcstardis

11:46 am **commutiny:** What's changing for #thirdsector orgs? "Some things you don't change because of our values, others change to improve our work" #vcstardis

11:48 am **commutiny:** Orgs were happy to take part in focus groups; participants valued the chance to share their responses to changing environment #vcstardis

11:51 am **commutiny:** Q: Will key informants understand their orgs journeys differently as a result of being part of the research? A: Yes #vcstardis

11:55 am **commutiny:** Next up Professor Fred Robinson of Durham University <http://ow.ly/4aJ52> looking at "What makes a #thirdsector organisation tick?" #vcstardis

12:00 pm **commutiny:** Briefing paper from Northern Rock Foundation #thirdsector trends study (Northeast England & #Cumbria) <http://ow.ly/4aJ9q> #vcstardis

12:07 pm **commutiny:** Prof Robinson says the story from infrastructure orgs is partial & often more negative than direct experiences of front line orgs #vcstardis

12:17 pm **commutiny:** Rather than storytelling, researchers scored #thirdsector orgs on foresight, enterprise, capability & impact <http://ow.ly/4aJE5> #vcstardis

12:20 pm **commutiny:** Prof Robinson & the team wanted to avoid simply finding 'juicy quotes' to support their view, and avoided imposing a typology #vcstardis

12:21 pm **commutiny:** Emerging findings: #Thirdsector orgs feel confident about the immediate future but have an 'abyss mentality' in the longer term #vcstardis

- 12:23 pm **commutiny:** Emerging findings: #Thirdsector orgs are not very interested in innovation, generally paying lipservice when necessary #vcstardis
- 12:25 pm **DameHilaryBlume:** RT @commutiny: Emerging findings: #Thirdsector orgs are not very interested in innovation, generally paying lipservice when necessary #vcstardis
- 12:27 pm **commutiny:** All the reports from the NRF Third Sector Trends Study are here >> <http://ow.ly/4aJTn> #vcstardis
- 12:32 pm **commutiny:** Q: How were possible skewed views of senior staff/dominant orgs accommodated? A: Pragmatism, frequent testing, wide range of orgs #vcstardis
- 12:35 pm **commutiny:** Comment: The job of #thirdsector infrastructure orgs is to identify problems/challenges & be critical - this is not negative #vcstardis
- 12:38 pm **commutiny:** Audience comment: Challenging the language - The abyss mentality is not 'crying wolf' - the sky really is falling in on many orgs #vcstardis
- 12:41 pm **commutiny:** Response: Some infrastructure orgs have overplayed difficulties in goodtimes, current crises at risk of not being taken seriously #vcstardis
- 12:43 pm **commutiny:** Next up - Rob Macmillan of TSRC #thirdsector resarch centre in Birmingham [video] <http://ow.ly/4aKwi> #vcstardis
- 12:48 pm **commutiny:** Rob outlines substantive & theoretical contexts for their research which is "a prospective longitudinal case study design" #vcstardis
- 12:51 pm **commutiny:** More on potential of qualitative longitudinal research for developing understanding of #thirdsector dynamics <http://ow.ly/4aKLy> #vcstardis
- 12:55 pm **commutiny:** Fascinating insights from TSRC researchers about recruiting informants & implications of how relationships developed over time #vcstardis
- 1:01 pm **commutiny:** I'm #socialreporting from #vcstardis as I strongly believe #thirdsector academics deserve better exposure & connections w/ practitioners.
- 1:08 pm **commutiny:** Very many difficulties for recruitment, retention & co-operation of #thirdsector informant orgs reported by researchers at #vcstardis
- 1:17 pm **commutiny:** Ethical & methodological dilemmas for researchers: negotiating close encounters with orgs, how to see familiar social worlds anew #vcstardis
- 1:19 pm **commutiny:** Audience Qs: What is the right timescale for org stories? What kind of feedback is given to the studied organisations? #vcstardis
- 1:20 pm **ejanderton:** @commutiny just reading through your #vcstardis tweets, v.relevant to conversations happening in whitehall at the moment...
- 1:22 pm **commutiny:** A: Orgs do have pressing concerns. Often, researchers can provide verification - an objective reflection of what orgs are doing #vcstardis
- 1:51 pm **commutiny:** Quick lunch break... more later. You can get the transcript here >> <http://ow.ly/4aNmy> #vcstardis
- 2:05 pm **kateduckworth:** @commutiny I was wondering what #vcstardis was?
- 2:06 pm **commutiny:** After an intense morning of "prospective tracking" studies we now move on to "retrospective life history" studies #vcstardis
- 2:08 pm **commutiny:** First up is Professor Irene Hardill of Northumbria University sharing her research on "Volunteering Journeys" <http://ow.ly/4aOaO> #vcstardis
- 2:12 pm **commutiny:** @kateduckworth #vcstardis is a lighthearted tag we've given to the Timescapes event today <http://ow.ly/4aOp5> I have plans to develop it...
- 2:14 pm **commutiny:** Cold chill and nervous laughter in the room at #vcstardis as Irene takes us quickly through policy context from Third Way to #BigSociety
- 2:18 pm **commutiny:** The Work of Volunteering in a Community Beset by Worklessness <http://ow.ly/4aOGI> < Prof Hardill's past work #vcstardis
- 2:19 pm **commutiny:** Prof Hardill became very involved in the the community she studied. Volunteers were keen to know her own volunteering experiences #vcstardis
- 2:24 pm **NCVOForesight:** Amazing briefings: Creating Futures project at Cardiff Uni <http://ow.ly/4aP6Q> via @commutiny < hey, #vcstardis peeps, see www.3s4.org.uk !
- 2:45 pm **commutiny:** Prof Irene Hardill's "life history" research builds on past ESRC funded work <http://ow.ly/4aQ9V> #vcstardis
- 2:48 pm **commutiny:** Next up, Prof David Lewis from the LSE opens with a reminder of the "ubiquitous three sector idea" - unproven? <http://ow.ly/4aQuq> #vcstardis
- 2:52 pm **commutiny:** Prof Lewis became interested in people who are 'boundary crossers' when comparing Bangladesh, Philippines and UK #vcstardis
- 2:58 pm **commutiny:** Exchanges of professionals between public & non-governmental sectors: life-work histories from Bangladesh <http://ow.ly/4aQRq> #vcstardis
- 3:00 pm **commutiny:** It's easy to see why academics get evangelistic about "life histories" research methods, they're very rich & personally engaging #vcstardis

- 3:02 pm **commutiny:** The sectors (public/private/voluntary) have stereotypical views of each other. Boundary crossers subvert that, says David Lewis. #vcstardis
- 3:06 pm **commutiny:** Apparently former Oxfam staff who move into the Public Sector (worldwide) are known as "Exfams" #vcstardis
- 3:09 pm **commutiny:** According to Prof Lewis the "life history" method can counter-balance overgeneralised positivist images of organisations & policy #vcstardis
- 3:14 pm **commutiny:** Martin Narey is a fascinating boundary crosser. His perspective shifts from this <http://ow.ly/4aROg> to this <http://ow.ly/4aRUG> #vcstardis
- 3:24 pm **commutiny:** The #thirdsector is resistant to academic research, due to benign views of researchers, rebufferable of uncomfortable truths & more #vcstardis
- 3:26 pm **ejanderton:** RT @commutiny: The sectors (public/private/voluntary) have stereotypical views of each other. Boundary crossers subvert that, says David Lewis. #vcstardis
- 3:29 pm **commutiny:** #Thirdsector orgs can suffer from badly executed research, esp with uncritically developed "evidence-based" policy. #vcstardis
- 3:33 pm **commutiny:** Help me show these academics that this kind of seminar deserves a bigger audience. If you're following #vcstardis, please raise your hand?
- 3:36 pm **LouiseBrown:** @commutiny *raises hand* #vcstardis
- 3:38 pm **KingfisherCoach:** @commutiny I agree! #vcstardis
- 3:40 pm **ejanderton:** @commutiny hand raised... #vcstardis
- 3:41 pm **commutiny:** Zoe is telling great stories told internally at Homestart UK, for formal training and in the culture. Sadly they're not shareable #vcstardis
- 3:45 pm **commutiny:** Stories that turn into anecdotes, how real, credible or typical are they for use as research evidence? Provocative stuff from Zoe #vcstardis
- 3:49 pm **commutiny:** Zoe Munby is throwing a challenge back to academics - how can they help #thirdsector orgs make best use of the stories we tell? #vcstardis
- 3:53 pm **commutiny:** The work of Atul Gawande is being very highly praised here at #vcstardis <http://is.gd/RyMNq9>
- 3:58 pm **inspireidiqUK:** RT @commutiny: Zoe is telling great stories told internally at Homestart UK, for formal training and in the culture. Sadly they're not shareable #vcstardis
- 3:58 pm **inspireidiqUK:** RT @commutiny: Help me show these academics that this kind of seminar deserves a bigger audience. If you're following #vcstardis, please raise your hand?
- 3:59 pm **commutiny:** RT @ncvoforesight: I plead for plain english. jargon is useful but academic writing is imposs for me to use with a busy sector #vcstardis
- 4:04 pm **commutiny:** Lots of talk about #failure and how the long view affects our perceptions of it. I haven't mentioned @gloryoffailure (honest) #vcstardis
- 4:37 pm **socialtech:** @commutiny I've been following #vcstardis although i had to pop out for an hour *raiseshand*
- 4:40 pm **commutiny:** Closing thoughts at #vcstardis. Rob Macmillan recommends a #mustread "Defining the Boundaries of Social Inquiry" <http://ow.ly/4aXvH>
- 4:43 pm **commutiny:** Scepticism about how the vast body of research is used, what happens in policymaking & org planning is badly digested evidence #vcstardis
- 4:54 pm **commutiny:** How much research do we really read and use? The 1 page, 3 page or 25 page version? We subcontract our reading to summarisers #vcstardis
- 5:10 pm **commutiny:** Many thanks @paulstpancras @DameHilaryBlume @ejanderton @NCVOForesight @KingfisherCoach @antoniabance for yr generous attention #vcstardis
- 5:15 pm **commutiny:** #thumbsup to @socialtech @LouiseBrown @kateduckworth @nicola_gilbert @inspireidiqUK @lelil @DavidMiller_UK for your support for #vcstardis
- 5:25 pm **commutiny:** Transcript of today's #vcstardis tweets >> <http://wthashtag.com/Vcstardis>
- 7:20 pm **karlwilding:** @commutiny thankyou for your tweets today from #vcstardis, which I have just read with great interest. great hashtag too...