

2012 Seminar Series

The Social Complexity of Immigration and Diversity



Professor Robert Geyer - Lancaster University Is complexity the way forward for UK Child Protection Policy? The case of the Munro Review

24th February 2012 at 1pm

The Board Room (2.016) Arthur Lewis Building

In 2010, Prof. Eileen Munro (LSE) published a radical review of the state of UK child protection. It noted that, despite multiple reviews of the policy area often driven by tragic high profile events (death of children), the key weakness in the policy area was not the lack of money, effort or expertise, but one of approach. Traditionally, the policy area had been seen in fundamentally mechanistic and hierarchical terms. Identify the problem, analyse the data, create a target, make the local policy actor apply it and make the family comply. 'Compliance' was often seen as the major policy problem. The Munro review was the first to use systems thinking to radically rethink this traditional framework and challenge most of its core assumptions. In his talk, Prof. Geyer will briefly review the Munro Review, examine how its implications expose a more general weakness with UK public policy and explore how complexity and academics working on complexity can help to nudge UK policy in a more 'complex' direction.

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