



A Journey Through Islands Research At The James Hutton Institute

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The James
Hutton
Institute

Islands Revival

Date: 2019

Funding: SEFARI Responsive Opportunity Fund

Aims

- Give voice to island residents who are aware of local changes in migration
- Facilitate discussion between island residents, representatives and policy-makers
- Inform national policy with recommendations for creating sustainable island populations

Methods

- Blog: Showcasing stories of population turnaround, submitted by Scottish islanders (islandsrevival.org)
- Workshop on Skye: To discuss the emerging evidence and write the Islands Revival Declaration (33 participants)

Impacts

- Raised the profile of positive population change
- Empowered island community representatives by having their observations heard by policy-makers
- Demonstrated the potential for partnership working to address place-based concerns



- Argyll Islands
- Arran, Bute and the Cumbraes
- Lewis and Harris
- Orkney Mainland
- Orkney Outer Isles
- Shetland Mainland
- Shetland Outer Isles
- Skye and the Small Isles
- Uist and Barra

Island Subregions

Aims

- Support sampling and reporting of National Islands Plan Survey results
- Identify geographical differences in responses below the local authority level

Methods

- Detailed linkage of spatial and population data
- Island stakeholder consultation

Impacts

- New insights into inequalities in perceptions within island regions (*table shows weighted, rounded figures, not tested for significance*)
- Used in Scottish Government's Islands Bond Consultation
- Being developed for use in publishing islands data and understanding change

Living Labs

Date: 2022-2027

Funding: RESAS Strategic Research Programme

Aims

- Work in depth with selected communities over five years
- Feed back findings directly to policy-makers with a view to addressing barriers
- Understand processes of change

Methods

- Case studies in Orkney's outer islands, Lewis, South Uist, Coll and Tiree
- Longitudinal qualitative interviews
- Co-designed methods, tailored to communities' needs

Impact

- By taking an active research role, we hope to enable communities to realise positive outcomes during the life of the SRP

Hutton's Island PhD Students

Name: Kirsten Gow

Funding: Macaulay Development Trust

Date: 2021-2025

Focus: Islands diaspora and potential for return migration



Name: Marcus Craigie

Funding: ESRC

Date: 2022-2025

Focus: Island repopulation in times of crisis



Kirsten and Marcus are registered at the University of Aberdeen.

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National Islands Plan Survey

Date: 2020-2021

Funding: Scottish Government

Aims

- Gather baseline data relating to the objectives of the National Islands Plan
- Secure wide representation from across the Scottish islands

Methods

- Survey of 4,347 islanders from 59 islands
- Online explorer to share results

Impact

- Informed implementation of the National Islands Plan
- Informed local authority development plans
- Presented findings to the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

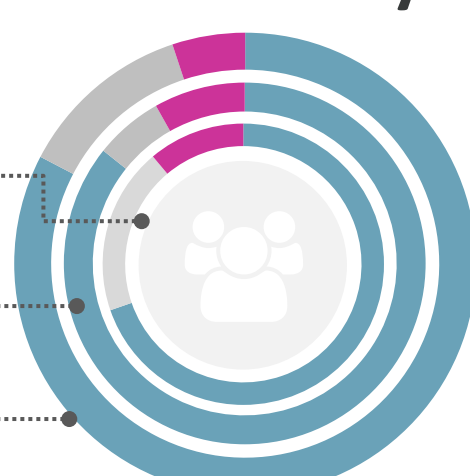
Final Report



Results Explorer

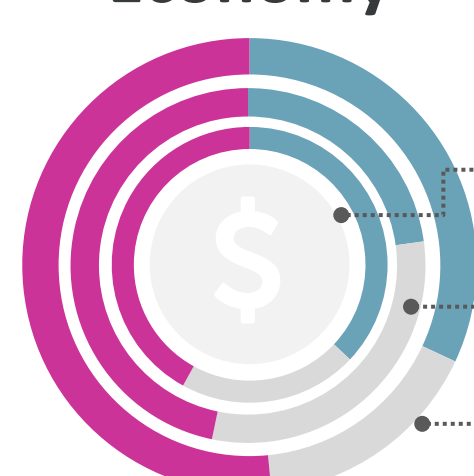


Community



There is a strong sense of community
There are physical spaces where the community can come together
I see myself as belonging to my local community

Economy



Parents have access to childcare services that suit their working hours
Businesses in my local area are growing
Jobs are available to suit different interests, skills and ambitions

Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree



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