**THE CASE FOR A SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY WORKING PAPER SERIES (ONLINE)**

Briefing Paper for Research Committee

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Emeritus Professor Philip Rees

**What is the Working Paper Series?**

The Working Paper series can be found at <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/research/wpapers>. It is an online, self published series of papers reporting on progress with departmental research.

**History**

It was founded in 1971 by Professor Alan Wilson as a pre-publication outlet for departmental research. The Working Paper series was printed (photocopied) at A4 or A5 size depending on year from 1971 to 2004. In 2004 it became a purely electronic series when software for converting MicroSoft Word documents into Portable Document Format files became reliable and easy to use. The Working Paper series was supported by a Working Paper series up to 2004 by a secretary who managed the supply of documents to libraries (including the British Library and the University of Leeds Library) and to individual customers at cost price. From the retirement of Christine MacDonald in 2004 this support function lapsed and the series became purely academic. Various members of staff functioned as Series Editors (e.g. Philip Rees, Alan Grainger), whose function was to lightly review the paper and make mainly formatting suggestions. Since 2009 with my retirement the Working Paper series has been author-managed, i.e. authors prepare papers and then ask a member of the IT team (usually David Appleyard) to upload the paper to the server and supply the necessary link on the web page. This has worked well and papers continue to uploaded.

**Function**

The purpose of the Working Paper series is to enable swift reporting of research results by departmental researchers (academics, research fellows, research postgraduate). This makes the results available 12 to 24 months before the publication of peer reviewed papers from the research. However, it has always been regarded as an intermediate stage in research publication and authors are encouraged to publish journal paper versions of their research as soon as possible. I would estimate about half the papers have formed the basis of articles in peer reviewed journals.

**Examples of Working papers with a companion published paper**

2008

*Working Paper 08/4*, Estimates of Ethnic Mortality in the UK,

Phil Rees and Pia Wohland

Rees, P., Wohland, P. and Norman, P. (2009) The estimation of mortality for ethnic groups within the United Kingdom. *Social Science and Medicine*, 69(11), 1592–1607.

2010

*Working Paper 10/2*, Ethnic Population Projections for the UK and Local Areas, 2001-2051

Pia Wohland, Phil Rees, Paul Norman, Peter Boden, Martyna Jasinska

Rees P., Wohland P., Norman P. and Boden P. (2011) A local analysis of ethnic group population trends and projections for the UK. *Journal of Population Research*, 28(2-3): 149-184.

2011

*Working Paper 11/01,* The Tale of Two Cities: Diversity in Leeds and Warsaw.

Aneta Piekut, Philip Rees, Gill Valentine and Marek Kupiszewski

Piekut, A., Rees, P., Valentine, G. and Kupiszewski, M. (2012) Multidimensional diversity in two European cities: thinking beyond ethnicity. *Environment and Planning A*, in press.

**Recommendations**

The School continue to support a Working Paper series.

The School ask an academic to be editor of the series.

The School asks one of the research support assistants to act as editorial assistant.

The Series be re-launched with the new School website with a clear statement of purpose and advice for School authors on preparing papers.

The School continues to place the older catalogue in the series using the School’s excellent new MFD for scanning papers. The back catalogue is housed in a filing cabinet in Geography East. This activity might be supported by employing undergrads to help the editorial assistant.

If this were done, the Working Paper series would accrue new value, preserving part of the intellectual capital of the School, and encourage research teams to write up work early and so receive feedback on the work.