

The 2015 SURF Annual Conference: 25 Aug, Edinburgh

Biographies of Keynote Speakers, Guest Experts & Panelists (a-z by surname)

Sir Tony Atkinson | Economist, Research Fellow & Author | Nuffield College, Oxford



Sir Tony Atkinson is a Fellow of Nuffield College, of which he was Warden from 1994 to 2005, and Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics.

He is an Honorary Fellow of Churchill College. He has been President of the Royal Economic Society, of the Econometric Society, of the European Economic Association, and of the International Economic Association.

He has served on the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth, the Pension Law Review Committee, and the Commission on Social Justice. He has been a member of the Conseil d'Analyse Economique, advising the French Prime Minister, and of the European Statistics Governance Advisory Board, appointed by the EU Council of Ministers. He was knighted in 2001 for services to economics, and is a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

His most recent books are *'Public economics in an age of austerity'*, published in 2014, and *'Inequality: What can be done?'*, published in April 2015 by Harvard University Press.

Stephen Boyd | Assistant Secretary | Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC)



Stephen is STUC Assistant Secretary, with responsibility for economic and industrial policy, the environment, utilities, transport, and arts & culture.

He is currently a member of the First Minister's Energy Advisory Board for Scotland, the Aerospace, Defence and Marine Industry Advisory Group, the National Textiles Forum, the Highland Economic Forum, the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's Executive Committee, the Scottish Government's Public Procurement Advisory Group and the Scottish Government's Regulatory Review Group.

Stephen is a regular media contributor on economic and labour market issues. Prior to joining the STUC in 2003, he was a policy officer with the Scottish Government.

Margaret Burgess MSP | Minister for Housing and Welfare | Scottish Government

Margaret Burgess is Minister for Housing and Welfare. Margaret is a lifelong member of the SNP, was born and bred in Ayrshire and has lived in the Cunninghame South constituency for 40 years. She was previously employed as the manager of East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau.



Margaret was formerly SNP Council Group Leader at Cunninghame District Council. She knows what it's like to capture a Council seat from Labour and repeated this by becoming an MSP in May 2011.

Margaret spends her spare time walking and reading.

Pippa Coutts | Chair of SURF and Evidence Exchange Lead (Scotland) for Nesta



Pippa is the Evidence Exchange Lead of the Alliance for Useful Evidence, Nesta: a programme promoting increased understanding of use and evidence in social policy, across the UK.

Working at a senior level in Scotland since 20013, Pippa has a longstanding involvement in the development of effective health and social care services. She has been a driver of mental health policy in Scotland, and put policy into practice - leading teams and organisations to develop fruitful partnerships and more effectively deliver better health outcomes and increased social return on their investments. Pippa specifically has worked to promote holistic programming, population wellbeing, and the employability and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Previously, Pippa worked for over ten years in international development, firstly as a project manager, and then co-founding a successful international livelihoods consulting company.

Wendy Hearty | Public Health Adviser | NHS Health Scotland



After a number of years working in psychology services for head injury rehabilitation, Wendy moved in to the field of public health. She has worked in health improvement and public health research for 15 years, and in 2006 joined the Evidence for Action team at NHS Health Scotland where she has a portfolio for health inequalities with a specific focus on fundamental causes of inequality.

She is currently working on evidence to contribute to the understanding of the social and economic causes of health inequalities and effective interventions to address inequality. Wendy was a co-author on the Health Inequalities Policy Review for the Scottish Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities and current research interests include action to reduce income inequality and comparative analysis of social and economic policy across countries.

Diarmaid Lawlor | Head of Urbanism | Architecture and Design Scotland



Diarmaid is Head of Urbanism with Architecture and Design Scotland.

An urbanist with a multi-disciplinary background, he has worked on projects involving the shaping and implementation of change for clients in Ireland, the UK and Europe, for the public, private and tertiary sectors.

He has almost 20 years' experience of helping clients make well informed decisions about complex, connected urban policy and investment challenges. He is an educator, communicator and collaborator who writes and speaks on creative approaches to making better places.

Mike McCarron | Chair | GalGael Trust



Mike qualified as a community development oriented social worker in 1978 and worked in Glasgow in criminal justice, children and families and disability settings. He was social work lead officer in the setting up of New Life for Urban Scotland in Castlemilk, one of four Government supported regeneration projects across Scotland during late 1980s/90s.

From 1995-99 he was full-time East Dunbartonshire councillor and COSLA spokesperson for Social Affairs. He led the Local Government contribution to Scotland's Drug Strategy, Action in Partnership, 1999.

From 2000-8 he was employed by Greater Glasgow NHS as Drug Action Team Coordinator, focussing on employment opportunities for recovering drug users. In 2007/8 he coordinated with Scotland's Futures Forum a year long Alcohol and Drugs Project seeking a systemic and preventive approach to substance use and harms.

He is active in participative democracy networks and has been involved with The GalGael Trust for fifteen years where he is currently Chairperson.

Vladimir McTavish | Comedian | '45 Events that Shaped a Nation'



One of the most popular - and certainly most successful - of modern-day Scottish comedians, Vladimir McTavish is a stunning professional in every sense of the word. Whether using his renowned skills as a top class compere or closing a multi-act bill as a first-rate headline act, Vladimir can adapt to any situation and let his quality shine through.

Vladimir McTavish serves up a delightful feast of social observation and topical satire, seasoned with his caustic wit and presented via a platter of breakneck-pace patter.

A regular star of the annual 'Best of Scottish' comedy showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe, Vladimir has been proving his mettle as a topical comedian of rare wit and insight as the driving force behind the highly successful live current affairs comedy show, 'A Kick Up The Tabloids'. In 2005 his show at the Edinburgh Fringe, '60 Things Scotland Gave The World' was a critically acclaimed sell-out.

Equally at home discussing the celebrity status of the Beckhams or the political intricacies of the Scottish elections, Vladimir's broad range of targets is matched by his equally broad appeal to all sections of the audience.

Andy Milne | Chief Executive | SURF



SURF is Scotland's independent network of regeneration practitioners, policy makers and academics. By sharing and channelling the experience, views and ideas and of its extensive, cross-sector membership of over 250 organisations, SURF helps to inform better policy and practice for more successful and sustainable community regeneration throughout Scotland.

Andy became Chief Executive of SURF in 2003. Prior to that, he spent 10 years as coordinator of the Wester Hailes Representative Council, which was frequently cited as a model of community led innovation and service delivery.

From 1987 to 1992, he was director of the Bathgate Area Initiatives Team, providing support and co ordination to the voluntary sector across West Lothian.

Having originally studied Architecture, Andy went into independent community work. From 1980 to 87 he developed the community owned Wester Hailes Management Agency and its 18 diverse, community run local services projects.

He is currently a Director of the Community Development Alliance Scotland.

Jim Rafferty | Chief Executive | Capital City Partnership



Jim is a Director of SURF and has been CEO of the Capital City Partnership since 2000, overseeing the transition from the original, pre-Community Planning role of the company as a co-ordinator of the city's social inclusion programmes and area-based partnerships to the current focus on jobs and growth.

The company supports Edinburgh's Jobs Strategy Partnership and manages much of the locally funded Employment Support provision in the city. He provides support, guidance and direction to the CCP staff team and has a key role in external relations, building partner relationships within and beyond the Jobs Strategy partnership, with other services and with employment partnerships in other areas as well as, of course, the council in Edinburgh.

Jim also provides support and guidance to the company's Board of Directors and, as Company Secretary, is responsible for ensuring good governance, and financial management, of the company's affairs. Previous roles include public sector housing development, area management, homelessness services and a spell working for Shelter (Scotland).

He managed Edinburgh District Council's Urban Programme and Wester Hailes partnership input and became Regeneration Programmes Manager for the City of Edinburgh Council in which capacity he oversaw the development of the city's Regeneration Strategy 'Closing the Gap'

Kate Wimpres | Director | North Edinburgh Arts



Trained in fine art at Middlesex University, Kate has worked for arts organisations across Northern Ireland and Scotland since 1990.

Currently Director at North Edinburgh Arts, Kate previously led Edinburgh's Capital City Partnership Arts for Inclusion programme, and has a wealth of experience in using art as a catalyst for change. Completing a PG Dip in European Cultural Planning she has a particular interest in working with Artists outwith the institution or studio.

North Edinburgh Arts is a registered Charity that works for, in and with the local community offering a welcoming and creative space, in what can be harsh physical and social landscape. It is dedicated to using the arts as a vehicle for personal and social development, with 30,000 visits made each year to the venue that 'floats like a bright bubble behind the Muirhouse shopping centre' (STV Local).

Kate was a founder member of the National Cultural Planning Forum, and currently sits on the Boards of North Edinburgh Childcare and Tinderbox Orchestra.