

The 2014 SURF Annual Conference: 7 Aug, Edinburgh

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

Jackie Brock | Chief Executive | Children in Scotland



Jackie joined Children in Scotland as Chief Executive Officer in July 2012. She has 12 years experience across various posts and departments in the Civil Service and most recently led the major change programme underway in Scottish education, Curriculum for Excellence, as Deputy Director of Learning and Support.

Jackie has experience across the developments in Scotland's schools including significantly additional support for learning and health and well-being but also in foster, kinship and residential care and youth justice. Prior to the civil service, she worked across local government and the third sector.

David Cameron | Founder Director | Community Land Scotland



David was born, brought up and runs a variety of businesses on the Isle of Harris. He is very committed to the principle of community land and associated asset ownership as a means of invigorating rural and urban development for the benefit of the people within these communities.

He was the first chairman and served two terms as director of the North Harris Trust, the community body which purchased the North Harris Estate in 2003. Until October 2013, he also chaired North Harris Trading which leads the renewable energy, energy conservation and community commercial business development within North Harris.

He is a past chairman and is still serves on the Board of Community Energy Scotland, the charitable membership organisation which promotes and advises communities that wish to develop renewable energy and "green" projects. He is a member of the Rural Economic Development Consultative Committee of the Scotland's Rural College.

He was elected as a founder director of Community Land Scotland, a membership organisation formed to represent the interests of community land owners and also to help groups learn from each others' experience of development. David has chaired that organisation since incorporation in 2010.

Dr Oliver Escobar | Social Researcher & Public Engagement Practitioner | Academy of Government



Oliver is a social researcher and public engagement practitioner. He works for Edinburgh University's Academy of Government and the School of Social and Political Science. His areas of research, teaching and practice are citizen participation, dialogue and deliberation, community planning, and policy-making.

He is a Public Engagement Fellow for the Beltane Network for Public Engagement, an Honorary Researcher at the Centre for Dialogue (Queen Margaret University) and the Director of ClimateXChange's Citizens' Juries. Oliver founded and coordinates the Citizen Participation Network, has trained over 200 facilitators, and is involved in developing participative innovations across various policy arenas in Scotland and beyond.

Alistair Grimes | Director | SURF



Alistair is a long-standing Director and former Chair of SURF, and a Senior Associate with Rocket Science, where he specialises in employment policy & programmes and urban regeneration.

From 1997-2005 he was Chief Executive of social enterprise support agency CEiS and from 1988-97 he was the Funding Controller of the Wise Group. In his early career Alistair worked for Age Concern, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and Lothian Regional Council.

Alistair is a graduate of St Andrews, Durham and Edinburgh Universities with degrees in History, Politics and Business Administration. He has a PhD in Political Philosophy.

Pat Kane | Musician and Writer | Yes Scotland



Pat is one half of the pop group Hue and Cry, which he formed with his brother Greg in Coatbridge in the 1980s. The group had its first UK top ten hit with 'Labour of Love' in 1987 and continues to play to big audiences 25 years on.

Pat is also well-known for his contributions to public debate on Scottish arts, politics and society, and he has been a regular contributor for, among others, The Guardian, the Scotland on Sunday, the NME, and The Herald. He was one of the founding editors of The Sunday Herald and an editor of its Seven Days section.

Pat is a long-standing independence activist and the founder of 'The Play Ethic' initiative, which aims to promote research about the underappreciated value of play and creativity to adults in modern society.

Prof Greg Lloyd | Head of the School of the Built Environment | University of Ulster



Greg is Professor of Urban Planning and Head of the School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster. Prior to this, he worked at the Universities of Liverpool, Dundee and Aberdeen. He is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.

He was Ministerial Adviser to the Northern Ireland Assembly Government on its reform of land use planning (2008-2010), and a member of the Best Commission on the future of housing in Northern Ireland.

Greg's research includes land economy, public policy implementation and land use planning, the planning and real estate relationship, institutional innovation in spatial planning practices, and the efficiency and effectiveness of new planning and regulatory arrangements. He has conducted a number of research projects for the Economic and Social Research Council, Nuffield Foundation, Scottish Economic Society, central and local government, and economic development and environmental agencies. He has published a number of books and scholarly papers.

Brian MacDonald | Chair | SURF



Brian has 33 year career in Scottish Local Government.

From 1999 to 2006, he was Assistant Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council. Between 2006 and 2008, he was Regeneration Director of the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.

He is currently director of his own consultancy, which he established in 2008. The consultancy specialises in:

- Strategic consulting, including business planning, asset management, strategy development, regeneration, economic and community development;
- Advising on formation of public/private partnerships, including business and governance structures, drafting development policies and structuring commercial transactions;
- Generating new development deals, including market analysis;
- Developing multi-agency teams to tackle regeneration issues.

Brian became Chair of SURF in early 2012.

Keir McAllister | Comedian and Playwright | 'Aye Right, How No'



Keir started stand up in April 2004 when he entered the Dundee heat of the Jongleurs J20 Last Laugh Competition. He went on to have a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe 2004 with a show called "*Rehab's for Quitter's*", where he teamed up with comedy partner Paul Pirie. The following year he was part of the sell out show "*Scotland 4 Australia 1*" in the Glasgow Comedy Festival, which went on to have a further very successful run in the Edinburgh Fringe 2005.

Keir has gigged all over Scotland and the UK and can be seen regularly working for The Stand, HaHa Comedy and The Last Laugh Comedy Clubs. He has also had a string of successful festival shows with other comedians. Keir has seen his first play *Falling for Grace* preview at the Dundee Rep Theatre to critical success and then go on to do a full Fringe Run in 2006. His second play, *Death of a Critic*, premiered at the Glasgow International Comedy Festival in 2008 at the Ramshorne Theatre and went on to a national tour.

He is currently involved in a number of performing and writing projects. With Vladimir McTavish he will lead the 2014 Fringe show 'Aye Right, How No', which aims to gather left-field answers to Scotland's big question, with guest appearances from some of Scotland's finest comedians, including Fred MacAulay, Des Clarke, and Mark Nelson.

Robin McAlpine | Director | Jimmy Reid Foundation



Robin is Director of the Jimmy Reid Foundation and Editor of the Scottish Left Review.

The Jimmy Reid Foundation was established in memory of Jimmy Reid and to continue the legacy of radical political thinking his life represented.

It is a think tank and advocacy group focused on practical policy proposals for transforming Scotland, which are based on analysis and investigation of the current Scottish and global political, cultural and social situation.

Vladimir McTavish | Comedian | 'Aye Right, How No'



Vladimir's comedy focuses on social observation and topical satire, seasoned with his caustic wit and presented via a platter of breakneck-pace patter. In addition to his headline appearances throughout the UK, Ireland, Holland and Norway, Vladimir has appeared on a number of popular TV and radio shows. These have included 'The Empire Laughs Back' (BBC1), the football game show 'We're On Our Way To Wembley' (ITV), 'Velvet Cabaret' (BBC Radio Scotland) and the 'Live Floor Show' (BBC Scotland).

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. With Keir McAllister he will lead the 2014 Fringe show 'Aye Right, How No', which aims to gather left-field answers to Scotland's big question, with guest appearances from some of Scotland's finest comedians, including Fred MacAulay, Des Clarke, and Mark Nelson.

Cllr Gordon Matheson | Leader of Glasgow City Council | Better Together



Cllr Matheson was first elected to Glasgow City Council in 1999, serving the Merchant City Ward. He was re-elected in 2003, 2007 and 2012, and currently represents the Anderston Ward. He held a number of senior positions, including the City Treasurer and the Executive Member for Education, before becoming Leader of the Council in 2010.

As Leader, Cllr Matheson has established the Commonwealth Jobs and Graduate Funds; committed Glasgow to bid for the 2018 Youth Olympics; launched a major revamp of George Square; approved a scheme to reduce Glasgow's landfill by 90%; introduced winter fuel payments to pensioners; and embarked on the refurbishment or rebuild of every school in the city.

He was appointed to his current position of Chair of the City Marketing Bureau in June 2010. He is a graduate of both Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities, is a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Andy Milne | Chief Executive | SURF



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 also a director of the Community Development Alliance Scotland.

Tam Munro | Chair | West and Central Scotland Voluntary Sector Network



Tam started his working life in the shipyards as a marine engineer. While working in the yards, he became involved in trade unions and was a shop steward and convenor. The negotiating skills that he learnt from this have stood him in good stead over the years as he became a community activist.

Tam's community development experience began in 1979, when he led the establishment of one of the first tenant management co-operatives, taking over the management of 200 homes in a 'difficult' area of Glasgow. After the houses were modernised, they moved on to thinking about local facilities.

Over the last 35 years, they have created a sports centre, a resource centre, money advice centre, child-care facilities, disabled project, addiction counselling, training campus and youth provision. They've had highs and lows but always kept moving forward. Today he works as the manager of a local community/sports centre. He also has lots of voluntary activities. Locally, Tam is the Chairman of the Resource Centre, the Environment Trust and the Training Campus Board. He is an Advisor to the local drugs peer education system for school children and treasurer to two after school care groups.

Katherine Trebeck | Global Research and Policy Adviser | Oxfam



Katherine is global research policy adviser in Oxfam's research team where she is exploring an economy that delivers social justice, good lives, vibrant communities and which protects the planet. In doing so she is particularly interested in steps towards a 'new economic paradigm' - and how countries such as the UK, Brazil, South Africa and India might move towards this.

Before this role Katherine was Policy and Advocacy Manager for Oxfam's UK Programme, and prior to this she led research and policy for Oxfam's Scotland office. Here, she developed Oxfam's Humankind Index, a measure of Scotland's real prosperity developed through wide ranging community consultation. She also managed Oxfam's 'Whose Economy?' project which asked why, despite decades of economic growth, Scotland's poverty has not been addressed and inequalities have deepened.

From 2005 to 2008, Katherine was a Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow. Her work there included analysis of community development, corporate social responsibility and social housing. She has a PhD in political science from the Australian National University. She sits on the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations' Policy Committee, the Board of Energy Action Scotland and the Board of Ethical Scotland.