



CBD and Forms of Capital for Local Well-being

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Abstract

This special session showcases the work done under the MAPPING THE ROADMAP (MATHER) Project and related projects funded under the Investment in Places Policy Fellowship offered by The Productivity Institute. The TPI Fellowship aims to foster a community of practice among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners dedicated to enhancing productivity across the UK. This fellowship supports projects that investigate strategic investment practices and their impact on growth and living standards, particularly within the framework of the UK government's "six capitals" approach outlined in the 2022 White Paper on Levelling Up. Fellows are expected to contribute to the understanding and operationalization of policies that improve economic and social conditions at local and regional levels.

Culture Based Development (CBD) is a research paradigm that has significantly advanced the understanding and differentiation of the three forms of capital: cultural, social, and intangible. In the economic modeling community, it is well recognized that the precise definition of model inputs is essential for accurate specification and reliable predictions. The MATHER Project, therefore, puts significant effort and employs innovative data collection and analysis methods to optimise the quantification and identification of these capitals throughout Wales and to explore their spatially varying impact on local development and well-being.

The meticulous approach to defining inputs is also a hallmark of other TPI fellowships running concurrently with the MATHER Project. Each TPI Fellowship covers a different geography of the UK. Therefore, this special session will provide a platform for presenting and comparing the initial findings of the MATHER Project together with those from related TPI fellowships and comparable studies within the regional economic research community.

Presenters:

1. **Annie Tubadji, Swansea University** – *Cultural Capital, Social Capital, Intangible Capital & All the Rest – What Eliminates Local Inequality across Wales*
2. **Tom Avery, Local Challenges Research Office (LCRO)** – *The Qualitative Differences in what capital means for Public Services Boards in Wales*
3. **Prof. Phil McCann, University of Sheffield** – *Levelling Up and Why Different Forms of Local Capital Need to Be Well Defined & Understood*
4. **Katie Penney, The Productivity Institute** – *The Qualitative Differences in what capital means for local authorities in Rochdale.*