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Scottish Poverty Information Unit

The story so far

Morag Gillespie, Deputy Director

Scottish Poverty Information Unit

- **Established 1995**
- **applied research unit in School of Law and Social Sciences at GCU.**
- **In pursuit of the ‘common weal’: SPIU contributes to social and economic regeneration of communities in Scotland**
- **Poverty is caused by the distribution of opportunities and resources rather than the lack of resources in society. Poverty can therefore be reduced or eradicated**



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What we do

- Generate knowledge
 - research, consultancy evaluation
- Communicate knowledge
 - publication, advisory work, public presentations, conferences and events
- Educate
 - University teaching, capacity building, short courses



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Thematic Priorities

- **Measuring Poverty**
- **Public Understanding of Poverty**
- **Poverty and Equalities**
- **Poverty, Community and Well Being**
- **Financial Inclusion**
- **Tackling Poverty: Work and Welfare**



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Past work

- **Early focus on information about poverty in Scotland including:**
 - **Poverty in Scotland series**
 - **Briefing sheets series addressing key debates and issues of concern**
 - **Contract research, consultancy and evaluation**
 - **Commissions/ funding from e.g. government, EU, voluntary sector, local government, health, charitable foundations**



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Past projects - examples

- **Low Income Households with Children** (Scottish Executive)
- **Community based participatory appraisal of the Healthy North Ayrshire** (North Ayrshire CHP)
- **Media, poverty and public opinion in the UK** (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)
- **Mental Health Financial Inclusion Project** (North Lanarkshire Council and SAMH)
- **Service User Involvement Project/ Advice and transitions to work** (both EU EQUAL Theme A)
- **Poverty in Scotland:** various years, incl 2007



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Current Projects

**Financial Inclusion Knowledge Exchange Project/
Sustainable funding models for money advice**
(Friends Provident Foundation)

Debt Research Project (Citizens Advice Scotland)

Economics for Equality (with Business School for
Oxfam)

Evaluation of Secured by Design (led by
Sustainability Centre for Glasgow Housing
Association)

**Evaluation of GAMH Mental Health Financial
Inclusion Project** (Glasgow City Council)

**Living with the Credit Crunch: Financial Well-Being
of Veterans in Scotland in 2009** (Scottish Veterans
Fund)



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Current Staff

- **Dr John McKendrick, Director**
- **Morag Gillespie, Deputy Director**
- **Dr Stephen Sinclair, Deputy Director**
- **Kate Lindsay, Research Fellow**
- **Louise Dobbie, Research Assistant**
- **Brenda Graham, Administrator**
- **Fiona McHardy, Research Assistant**



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