

Dr. Graeme Sherriff

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Education

Ph.D. December 2005, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, including four months at Zentrum Technik und Gesellschaft, Technische Universität Berlin “The Human Ecology of Urban Food: Understanding Environmental Justice Through Participative Research in Community Projects” (see abstract below)

MA with distinction, 1999: Environmental Law and Policy, Keele University

BSc (Joint Honours) Mathematics and Music – 2:1, Keele University.

'A' Levels Maths (A), Music (B), Physics (B), General Studies (B)

Ten GCSE A-C Grades including Maths, Science, English, French and German

Employment

Current Project Worker, Longsight Transport Project (part-time)

The Longsight Transport Project is part of Friends of the Earth's (FoE) 'Action for Justice' programme and aims to empower the communities in the Longsight area of Manchester to demand better transport services. The project, set up by me as a volunteer in 2002, is pioneering the work of the organisation on bringing together environmental justice, social inclusion and transport. The work is varied and includes website management, running meetings, carrying out consultation with residents, running a monthly radio show, analysing and commenting on local and, where relevant, national transport policy, supervising a student project, working with local and national media, taking part at the national level in discussions on FoE's environmental justice work, and working at the local level with a wide range of public sector and voluntary sector organisations.

Post-doctorial Research and Teaching Associate, University of Manchester (part-time)

Since completing my Ph.D., I have been working in the School of Environment and Development on a project commissioned by DCLG to assess the effectiveness of consultation in the Local Development Framework and a University project to look at the consultation process for the RSS. Alongside this I have been working on the UK Climate Impacts Programme, for which I have been responsible for editing the newsletter and organising a dissemination conference. I have also given lectures on research methods, at the University of Manchester, and environmental justice, at the University of Belfast.

April 2006 Consultant, Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO)

I was commissioned to carry out an evaluation of two community involvement projects carried out by GMCVO over the financial year '05 to '06. The work involved carrying out interviews in Manchester and writing up my own analysis of the projects. The report 'Talking Transport' is explained further below.

April 2002- Ph.D. Student

December 2005 During this time, I did various teaching and research work. I gave two lectures on environmental justice and led numerous undergraduate seminars on planning issues.

July 2001- Assistant Policy Officer, Transportation and Health, Stockport MBC

April 2004 Working in the department dealing with sustainable transport policy, I was responsible for several particular areas of work. 'Civilising Cities', a project carried out in conjunction with the University of Westminster, involved planning and carrying out a community consultation exercise on local transport issues and analysing the results to suggest local priorities for transport spending. I worked on Green Travel Plans, which involved liaising with businesses to encourage them to implement work place sustainable transport plans. I continued part-time after the start of my Ph.D., focusing on developing the Council's approach to the nascent accessibility planning agenda, resulting in the publication 'Eating Well in Stockport'.

- July 2000- Research Assistant, University of Manchester
- July 2001 I worked in the Centre for Regional and Urban Ecology (CURE) in conjunction with Groundwork UK on an EU project developing a website resource to facilitate the community-led regeneration of the UK's derelict land. I also researched, wrote and produced teaching materials for undergraduates about the regeneration of Manchester after the 1996 bomb.
- September 2000 – Voluntary Project Assistant, Ground Rochdale, Oldham and Tameside
- June 2001 I worked with young unemployed people on environmental projects to help them to develop skills and motivation to gain employment. I also worked with local businesses to encourage and facilitate their participation in a programme of environmental improvements.
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Other Activities

I have been an active member of Manchester Friends of the Earth for six years. During that time I have been coordinator for three years, newsletter editor for two and transport campaign coordinator and spokesperson throughout. In 2004 I won the national 'Earthmovers' award for 'Inspirational Voice in Campaigning' for creating the Longsight Transport Project. I designed the group's Internet-site, which was nominated for an Earthmovers award in 2005. I have promoted and debated our campaigns in local and regional printed and electronic media and inputted into relevant consultations. I recently secured thirty thousand pounds of funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to carry out the 'Love Your Bike' campaign, which involved working closely with a public relations company to co-ordinate a city-wide advertising campaign to promote cycling and using Google-mapping technology to build up an Internet database of cycle routes and the experiences of cyclists. For the Love Your Bike campaign I received another Earthmovers award, for 'Communicating Powerfully'.

I am on the steering group of the Environment Network for Manchester.

Other Skills

Languages In 2006 I passed the internationally recognised Goethe-Institut Zentrale Mittelstufenprüfung (central middle-level exam) in German. As a result of continuing study, I have a good working knowledge of the language. I worked at Technische Universität in Berlin for four months and have a continuing working relationship with their Zentrum Technik und Gesellschaft.

ICT I have excellent computer skills including good working knowledge of Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X and all Microsoft Office and Open Office applications. I am experienced at Website design, having developed a number of websites in a professional and voluntary capacity.

Academic Publications

Baker, M., J. Coaffee and G. Sherriff (2006) Achieving Successful Participation in the New UK Spatial Planning System (in press: Planning Practice and Research)

Sherriff, G. (2006) A Healthy Local Food System: Just Sustainability in Manchester. (submitted to Local Environment)

Sherriff, G. and J. Howe (2006) Environmental Justice: Challenges and Opportunities for Planning Theory (in progress, to be submitted to Planning Theory)

Sherriff, G. (2005) The Human Ecology of Urban Food: Understanding Environmental Justice through Participative Research in Community Projects

Supervised by Professor Joe Howe and Dr Philip Bell, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester

Examined in December 2005 by Professor Julian Agyeman (Tufts University) and Professor John Handley (School of Environment and Development)

Abstract: This thesis employs participatory research in community urban food projects to understand not only what these projects can contribute towards environmental justice but also how the issues they raise influence the way that environmental justice is conceptualised. Following protests in 1970s USA, environmental justice has developed into a protest movement and an area of policy and research that appears to be reconceptualising sustainable development discourses around notions of social justice. In particular, concern has been raised about the inequitable distribution

of exposure to environmental pollution and access to environmental resources, exclusion from democratic decision making, and lack of recognition of particular understandings of experiences of the environment, not only in planning but in the environmental movement itself. Where food has been discussed, it has been almost exclusively in terms of food accessibility, yet the intimate relationship between food, health and the environment and social impacts of the food sector globally means that it is an important theme in understanding environmental justice. The two main case studies are understood through four conceptual lenses: involvement, access, protection and recognition. Interviews with supplementary cases and representatives of the policy community in Greater Manchester put the case studies into context. The discussion that follows addresses crosscutting themes including the dilemma of relying on volunteers, the importance of recognising cultural differences, and the tensions between pursuing democratic involvement at the same time as adopting health promotion and sustainable development as normative frameworks. In doing so, the food sector is found to pose particular challenges to the development and operationalisation of the environmental just concept. The thesis therefore not only raises important issues and tensions in environmental justice, but also shows how urban food projects can contribute to addressing these.

Schäfer, M. and G. Sherriff. (2005) "Von alten Ansprüchen und neuen Anforderungen" *Ökologie & Landbau* 3/2005

An exploration of the work of the sustainable agriculture movement towards better social conditions, such as pay and conditions. In German.

Sherriff, G. (2005) "Permaculture and Productive Urban Landscapes" in Viljoen, A. Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes, London, Architectural Press

This book chapter follows a conference presentation at 'Urban Nature 2', London, 2001. It introduces the reader to permaculture and makes a case for the importance of permaculture principles when planning for food production in urban areas.

Practitioner Publications

Baker, M., J. Coaffee and G. Sherriff (2006) *Achieving Successful Participation: Literature Review Summary* (in press: Department for Communities and Local Government)

Sherriff, G. (2006) "Talking Transport: Involving Residents in Transport Planning", Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO)

The result of commissioned research, this report documents two community involvement projects that took place in Manchester. It traces the development of two resident groups and their own surveys of transport issues in their locality. It discusses particular issues such as the ways in which lay people interpret the term 'transport' and the implications for the way that it is communicated, the difficulty of making surveys representative, and the extent to which people should be expected to volunteer to solve their own transport problems. It places these issues within a national context, in particular the deregulated bus environment, which makes it increasingly hard for local campaigns to influence the actual provision of bus services.

Sherriff, G. (2004) "Eating Well in Stockport" Stockport MBC

A report written for Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) that discusses the issue of access to food, linking it particularly with recent national policy drives from the Government's Social Exclusion Unit and health and planning policy within Stockport and Greater Manchester. The document includes a case study in Adswold and Bridgehall, an area of Stockport that is a focus for regeneration work. The case study uses participative research methods to identify problems of food access experienced by residents. The report ends with a discussion of how SMBC can take this forward, based on two practitioner workshops conducted towards the end of the study.

Sherriff, G. and S. Bullock. (2003) "Better Buses and Safer Streets for Longsight" Friends of the Earth

A report documenting the consultation work that started the Longsight Transport Project. It documents the participative approaches used, the results of the research and suggests policy options for solving the problems identified by residents.