

Abstract for review

European Research Network On Philanthropy
8th International Conference Copenhagen, July 13-14, 2017

Click [here](#) for the abstract evaluation form.

Exploring the characteristics and motivations of community foundation donors: insights from Scotland

Reference:	48432608
Number of authors:	4
Author/submitted by:	Tobias Jung ()
Organisation:	Centre for the Study of Philanthropy & Public Good, University of St Andrews, , Scotland, UK
Authors:	Tobias Jung - Charmaine Ferris - Giles Ruck - Jan Torrance
Keywords:	community foundation, donor motivation, giving typology
Topic:	Private and public foundations
Theme of abstract:	
Research method:	Qualitative
Geographical focus:	Single country (European)
Type of article:	Research article

Abstract:

Exploring the characteristics and motivations of community foundation donors: insights from Scotland

Over the last two decades, community foundations have become one of the fastest growing foundation form globally. With combined financial resources of \$63.3bn, they are emerging as a major force in philanthropy (Harrow et al. 2016). Despite a growing research and practice agenda aimed at developing better understanding of and for community foundations (see Global Fund for Community Foundations, 2017), work to-date has focused predominantly on developments in North America, community foundations’ originating context. Stronger insights on community foundations’ workings and characteristics from within European contexts are urgently needed (European Community Foundation Initiative, 2017).

Building on the wider research literature on donor motivation and donor types (Pharoah, 2016) and on community foundation development and capital (Graddy and Wang, 2008), our paper examines donors’ involvement and approaches to engaging with community foundations. Using an insider-outsider perspective approach (see Brannick and Coghlan, 2007) and focusing on

developments in Scotland, the paper explores: community foundation donors' characteristics and source(s) of wealth; their motivations and drivers for philanthropy; their rationale for and access to a community foundation as their vehicle of giving; and their mode, capacity and propensity to give within this context. The analysis reveals eight distinct types of community foundation donors.

The paper makes three important contributions to academia and practice. From an academic perspective, it first of all contributes to strengthening our understanding of European community foundations and their workings. Secondly, it adds and complements existing research on and understanding of donors by highlighting similarities and differences of community foundation donors in comparison to other donor types identified within the literature (e.g. Ronney and Frederick, 2007; Schervish and Herman, 1988). From a practice perspective, the work aids in developing community foundations' work towards resource mobilisation and donor service activities.

Most important references:

- Brannick T & Coghlan D (2007) In Defence of Being 'Native', *Organisational Research Methods*, 10(1):59-74
- European Community Foundation Initiative (2017)
<https://www.communityfoundations.eu/home.html>
- Global Fund for Community Foundations (2017) Community Foundation Atlas,
<http://communityfoundationatlas.org>
- Graddy E and Wang L (2008) Community Foundation Development and Social Capital, *NVSQ*, 38(3):392-412
- Harrow J, Jung T & Phillips SD (2016) Community foundations. Agility in the duality of foundation and community, in Jung T, Phillips SD & Harrow J (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Philanthropy*
- Pharoah C (2016) What motivates people to give their own private resources for the public good? in Jung T, Phillips SD & Harrow J (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Philanthropy*
- Rooney PM & Frederickm HK (2007) *Study of High Net-Worth Philanthropy*, Bank of America
- Schervish PG & Herman A (1988) *The Study on Wealth and Philanthropy Final Report*, Social Welfare Research Institute