

Investigating Links in Achievement and Deprivation- the ILiAD project in Northern Ireland: is there a similar pattern in Scotland?

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Previous studies carried out within the UK and globally have concluded that there is a positive correlation between deprivation and educational underachievement. Our analysis of Northern Ireland secondary data (NISRA, 2010) suggested that the factors involved in educational achievement within deprived areas may be more complex than is suggested by quantitative analysis alone.

This seminar will report on a government-funded three-year, community-centred study. – The ILiAD study comprises a case study of a selected number of neighbourhoods (ward areas) in Northern Ireland, identified because they illustrate patterns of differential educational achievement which appear to be anomalous and counter-intuitive in relation to the widely-accepted '*low educational achievement is linked with deprivation*' equation. IliAD is largely a qualitative study that also draws on secondary data analysis and seeks to understand questions such as:

Why do children and young people in some neighbourhoods with high level deprivation perform well educationally, relative to their counterparts in similar or less deprived areas?

How can differential educational attainment be explained between neighbourhoods that are very closely matched as regards multiple deprivation?

Using a social capital framework, the talk will report on some emergent patterns from the first eighteen months of the study and explore with the audience how these 'speak' to the patterns of achievement and deprivation in Scotland.

Ruth Leitch and Joanne Hughes are professors in the School of Education, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. Ruth is Director of Research and Joanne is Director of the Centre for Shared Education. They are co-investigators of the IliAD project along with a team of four other colleagues.