

Centre for Citizenship, Identity and Diversity Research Seminar March

Date: Tuesday, 24 March 2020

Time: 1.15-2.15pm

Venue: Harold Wilson 3/17

Title: The symbolic power of charity

Speaker: Dr Jon Dean, Reader in Sociology, Sheffield Hallam University



Abstract: As a society, we rightly praise those people who do things for others. But doing something for charity often serves as a personal shortcut to making oneself look good, and charity misbehaviour or bad governance can be overlooked due to this 'good glow'. This presentation will draw on theories of symbolic power and charisma to examine the positioning of charities in social life and policy. By drawing on case studies of mega-philanthropy and the collapse of Kids Company, this presentation will examine how the voluntary sector is operating in an environment where charities aren't 'heroes by default' anymore. It will show how charitable acts can be both used and misused, but also how the environment for charities to operationalise such symbolic power has become much tougher, especially as their moral credit has reduced after myriad scandals.

Dr Jon Dean's research focuses on inequalities within the voluntary sector, and qualitative methods. *The Good Glow: Charity and the Symbolic Power of Doing Good* is published by Policy Press (June 2020).

Attendance is free and all are welcome, but please book in advance.

Book your tickets here: <http://hud.ac/gkm>

