**Making meaning differently: The role of representation in local decision making processes**

We are a team working across the School of Education and Town and Regional Planning at the University of Sheffield who are funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council to prepare a policy brief on 'Community governance in the context of decentralisation' from November 2012– April 2013. This involves working with community groups and activists and local authorities from England and South Africa who are experimenting with new forms of community governance and innovative, particularly arts-based approaches to representation. We will be carrying out workshops in which representation takes place 'in real time', bringing together people from the state and communities to explore the key issue of what forms of representation are allowed, and how these are made more or less effective by existing and emerging understandings of legitimacy and accountability.

For more information please contact: Dr Kate Pahl on k.pahl@sheffield.ac.uk or Dr Steve Connelly on s.connelly@sheffield.ac.uk

Researchers: Dr Stuart Muirhead s.muirhead@sheffield.ac.uk and Dr Dave Vanderhoven d.vanderhoven@sheffield.ac.uk

This review is being managed by RESS. For more information on RESS please contact Jess McEwan on j.mcewen@sheffield.ac.uk