The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015: A ground-breaking piece of legislation?
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Introduction
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFG).
- "a model for other countries" (UN,...)
- 'Ground-breaking' because it requires all public bodies to adhere to the Sustainable Development Principle
- Similarities between international legislation

Research Questions
- How does the WFG compare to other international sustainable development legislation?
- How has the WFG been interpreted in the local space?
- What challenges are there to implementing the WFG?

Comparative International Legislation

Sustainable development
- 'improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales:
- 3 pillars of sustainable development identified by the Brundtland Report (1987), plus cultural.
- Comparable to Hungarian, New Zealand, and Finnish legislation.

Sustainable Development Reps (Chronological)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Independent</td>
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Sustainable Development Principle
- All public bodies must adhere to the Sustainable Development Principle
- 44 public bodies are subject to the Act
- Unique in legislation (Davies, 2016; Wallace, 2019).

What's in the Act?
- The Act is the Welsh Government's fourth Sustainable Development Strategy since its commitment to sustainable development
- Creation of 19 Public Service Boards as a level of governance
- 4 Statutory Members and invited members
- 5 Ways of Working and 7 Wellbeing goals

Welsh Government Sustainable Development Legislation | Year
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"Learning to Live Differently" Sustainable Development Strategy | 2000
"Learning to Work Differently" Sustainable Development Strategy | 2004
"One Wales: One Planet" Sustainable Development Strategy | 2009

Research Methods
- Critical Geography
  - Government to Governance
  - Localism
- Case studies of 4 Public Service Boards
  - Interviewing
  - Welsh Government Officials, Future Generations Office, Policy Support Officers in Local Authorities, PSB members

Early Findings (Ongoing)

- Austerity
- Lack of funding and different uses of the £25,000
- Public Service Boards vs. Regional Partnership Boards

Varying Involvement
- Local authorities, statutory members, etc.
- We don’t feel like we are really doing the five way of working properly yet...
- Do you think the plan is fit for purpose?
  - Yeah, already done it. Totally done, totally done.
  - Do I think that everyone is applying the five ways of working systematically? No.

Relationship between Stakeholders
- Tension e.g. Letter from Future Generations Commissioner
- Individual detailed letters
- to receive a 30-page letter back... which I’m not sure anybody read in it’s entirety
- It (the letter) just covered everything

Further Research
- Continue interviewing
- Academic Journal article and blog
- Event bringing together stakeholders to discuss implementation

References: