

Institution: Aberystwyth University		
Unit of Assessment: 19: Politics and International Studies		
Title of case study: Informing and influencing language policy in Wales		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2015-2020		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Dr Huw Lewis	Lecturer in International Politics	1 January 2009- present
Dr Elin Royles	Lecturer in Welsh Politics; Senior Lecturer	1 October 2013- present
Dr Catrin Wyn Edwards	Welsh Medium Lecturer in International Politics	1 January 2015- present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2015–2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? Y/N		
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)		
<p>Reflecting the growing acknowledgement of the political significance of cultural diversity, public policy interventions that seek to revitalise the prospects of regional or minority languages have become an increasingly prominent feature of the governance programmes of sub-state governments in many parts of the world. Research at Aberystwyth's Department of International Politics has demonstrated that in order to improve the effectiveness of such official revitalisation efforts, the policy interventions of sub-state governments should take account of a series of contemporary social and political changes related to social interaction, identity and mobility of populations. The research findings have been disseminated widely among public officials and stakeholders associated with the ongoing policy efforts to promote the Welsh language in Wales. The findings have significantly informed the preparation and implementation of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>, the Welsh Government's national language strategy launched in July 2017.</p>		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)		
<p>Research at the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth contributes to the interdisciplinary field of language policy research from a political science perspective. Drawing on expertise in areas such as multi-level governance, sub-state politics and policy analysis, recent research has employed comparative and content analysis methods in order to analyse and evaluate public policy interventions by sub-state governments in Europe and North America that are aimed at revitalising the prospects of regional or minority languages. Since 2016, this research has received further impetus through its association with the university's interdisciplinary Centre for Welsh Politics and Society.</p> <p>The research consists of two related strands that fall within the overarching theme of language revitalisation and social and political change.</p> <p>In the first strand, Lewis and Royles [3.1] benefitting from AHRC grant 'Language Revitalisation and Social Transformation' [3.5] have critically analysed the policy strategies that guide the language revitalisation efforts of European sub-state governments. The main findings arising from this research include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the language revitalisation strategies of sub-state governments need to strike a balance between the challenge of increasing the absolute number of minority language speakers and increasing practical societal use of the language. 		

- That official language revitalisation strategies need to take greater account of the implications of social and political changes such as the increase in levels of personal mobility, the rise in networked forms of social interaction and the decline in significance of local and territorially based communities.
- That, in response to the growth in personal mobility and changing nature of community, there is scope for official language revitalisation strategies to place more of an emphasis on regional level initiatives, alongside more familiar national and local-level initiatives.

The second research strand undertaken by Edwards [3.2; 3.3; 3.4] focuses on migration as a particular form of contemporary social and political change that needs to be incorporated into language revitalisation strategies. Based on research across three international cases (Catalonia, Quebec and New Brunswick), the main findings arising from this research include:

- That the actions of immigrant families are vital in reinforcing language-in-education policies, even where families are not fluent in the minority language.
- That that current speakers of regional and minority languages are central to efforts to ensure the linguistic integration of immigrants, and that their participation in language education projects can promote better social cohesion and intergroup relations.
- That language revitalisation strategies of sub-state governments should therefore promote response to immigration that is based on partnership between in-migrants and current speakers of the minority language, as exemplified by the *Voluntariat per la Llengua* programme in Catalonia.

This research has been communicated to beneficiaries in Wales and the UK through engagement with policy networks, co-operation with public bodies and through a series of events and policy papers [3.6; 3.7; 3.8].

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

- 3.1 Lewis, H., and Royles, E., (2018), 'Language Revitalisation and Social Transformation: Evaluating the Language Policy Frameworks of Sub-state Governments in Wales and Scotland', *Policy and Politics*, 46(3): 503-529. [Language: Welsh]. DOI: [10.1332/030557317X14938075758958](https://doi.org/10.1332/030557317X14938075758958)
- 3.2 Edwards, C. W., (2015), 'Language-in-Education Policies, Immigration and Social Cohesion in Catalonia: The Case of Vic', *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, 19 (5): 530-545. [Language: Welsh]. DOI: [10.1080/13670050.2015.1023253](https://doi.org/10.1080/13670050.2015.1023253)
- 3.3 Edwards, C. W., (2020), 'Seduir, seduce, més que dir que han de fer català: Astudiaeth o bolisïau iaith mewn addysg, integreiddio a mewnfudo rhyngwladol yng Nghatalwnia', *Gwerddon*, 31: 83-111. [Language: Welsh]. Available: www.gwerddon.cymru/en/editions/issue31/article4/

Associated research grants

- 3.4 *Language Revitalisation and Social Transformation (Revitalise)*: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Research Network Grant: (31 January 2017 to 31 July 2019): Award: GBP44,975.77: Lewis (PI). Project website: revitalise.aber.ac.uk
- 3.5 *Bridging the Gap between Research, Policy and Practice: Creating 'New Welsh Language Speakers' from migrant backgrounds in Wales*: Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, Small Grant: (31 January 2017 to 31 January 2018): Award: GBP2,500: Grant holder: Catrin Wyn Edwards.

Policy briefing papers

- 3.6 Lewis, H., and Royles, E., *Adfywio iaith a Newid Cymdeithasol: Gwerthuso Strategaethau iaith yng Nghymru a'r Alban | Language Revitalisation and Social Transformation: Evaluating the Language Policy Strategies in Wales and Scotland*, September 2016, (Aberystwyth: Prifysgol Aberystwyth | Aberystwyth University). [Language: Welsh].

3.7 Royles, E., Lewis, H., and Edwards, C. W., *Taro'r cydbwysedd yn iawn: cloriannu cynigion Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer Bil y Gymraeg | The new language strategy 'A million Welsh speakers by 2050': lessons from recent research*, 2017, (Aberystwyth: Prifysgol Aberystwyth | Aberystwyth University). [Language: Welsh].

3.8 Royles, E., and Lewis H., *Cofnod Seminar 'Cymraeg 2050' a'r Cynllun Gweithredu | Cymraeg 2050 and the Action Plan*, April 2017, (Aberystwyth: Prifysgol Aberystwyth | Aberystwyth University). [Language: Welsh].

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Based on their research, Lewis, Royles and Edwards were well placed to inform the policy discussion that fed into the preparation of the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy and, as such, to influence key aspects of the strategy document itself as well as aspects of its implementation.

The impact was generated through close engagement with officials from the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Division, running from the initial discussion phase (between October 2015 and July 2016), through the public consultation (between August and October 2016) and into the final drafting period (January to July 2017). During this period Lewis, Royles and Edwards delivered two days of CPD training to twenty-three officials from the Welsh Language Division (11 to 12 February 2016); prepared three briefing papers for staff from the Welsh Language Division that highlighted key findings arising from earlier research (September 2016, October 2016, April 2017); hosted a closed research briefing seminar in Cardiff for five members of the Welsh Language Division (19 October 2016); prepared a detailed submission to the official public consultation exercise (October 2016); and attended three meetings with officials from the Welsh Language Division responsible for drafting strategy (17 March 2016, 31 January 2017, 4 May 2017).

A Senior Policy Officer from the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Division, and one of the authors of the final strategy, testifies to the importance of this engagement:

Officials from the Welsh Language Division had regular contact with Elin, Huw and Catrin during the process of developing the Cymraeg 2050 strategy, and this included meetings and conversations, a seminar that they organised during the consultation period and also workshops at the National Eisteddfod.

We benefited greatly from these discussions and they gave us food for thought as we developed and refined the policy. [5.1]

Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language, also publicly acknowledged the contribution of Lewis, Royles and Edwards to the work of developing the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy in a speech delivered in Aberystwyth on 10 May 2019 [5.2].

Representatives from key stakeholder organisations also confirmed that this activity helped to shape their responses to the draft version of the strategy. For example, a Research Officer from the Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner confirmed that one of the briefing papers informed their written response to the consultation exercise [5.3]. In addition, the coordinator of Language Planners Wales (LPW), an umbrella organisation representing individuals working in the field of language policy throughout Wales, confirmed that input from Lewis and Royles helped to shape LPW's response to the draft strategy [5.4].

Upon publication in July 2017, the final draft of *Cymraeg 2050* incorporated input by Lewis, Royles and Edwards in four areas:

1) Structure of strategy: The final draft was substantially restructured and its main sections (previously called 'development areas', but now called 'strategic themes') had been reworked to align better with the twin challenges of increasing the number of Welsh

speakers and increasing use of the language. This was in line with the advice offered by Lewis, Royles and Edwards during the consultation period, and their influence is evident in the summary of evidence document published by the Welsh Government at the end of its public consultation exercise. When acknowledging the need to rethink elements of the strategy's structure and the nature of its main 'development areas', this document quotes directly from the paper submitted to the public consultation by Lewis, Royles and Edwards [5.5].

2) Reflection on the implications of social and political change: A new section, 'Principles and Conceptual Grounding', was included that argues that 'language planning and policy methods' need 'to reflect the social, economic and political changes that characterise contemporary Wales', and that the strategy therefore requires 'an understanding of how speakers use and engage with language today, as well as consideration of how they are likely to do so in the future'. This reflected advice provided by Lewis, Royles and Edwards during the consultation period regarding the need for language revitalisation strategy documents to take greater account of the implications of important social and political changes. Passages on pages 14, 15 and 16 of the strategy are extremely close in terms of wording to points made in material shared with civil servants by Lewis and Royles and Edwards [5.6].

3) Regional level planning: The final draft of *Cymraeg 2050* included a new section that discussed the need for a stronger regional focus for language planning initiatives aimed at promoting the Welsh language. The strategy acknowledged that the Government is already 'planning on a national level and targeting specific local areas' but then went on to argue that 'there is scope to plan linguistically at the regional level' as well. This was in line with recommendation included in a briefing paper by Lewis and Royles shared with civil servants in October 2016 [5.7].

4) Responding to immigration: The final draft of *Cymraeg 2050* included a new section entitled 'Welcoming and integrating people who move into Wales'. This included passages that stressed the importance of developing a partnership between in-migrants and fluent Welsh speakers. This was in line with the advice offered by Lewis, Royles and Edwards during the public consultation period. Of particular note is a passage that specifically mentions the *Voluntariat per la Llengua* programme identified by Edwards as an example of international good practice during the briefing seminar for officials of the Welsh Language Division held on 19 October 2016, and which she discussed informally with the civil servants working on the strategy between June 2016 and June 2017 [5.8].

Later developments point to how impact by Lewis, Royles and Edwards on the conceptual grounding of *Cymraeg 2050* also influenced how Welsh Government officials have approached the process of implementing the strategy, specifically the task of developing policy interventions aimed at achieving some of its key targets.

5) Implementation of *Cymraeg 2050*: A research commissioning document published by the Welsh Government on August 2019 inviting tenders to conduct a review of its GBP4,300,000 grant scheme for promoting and facilitating the social use of Welsh specified that such a scheme needs to be responsive to contemporary social changes (e.g., information technology, personal mobility, new forms of community) [5.9], quoting two passages from the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy that stress the implications of contemporary social and political changes for language use habits – the same passages that were originally influenced by advice given to civil servants by Lewis, Royles and Edwards.

As the significance of language policy questions for Welsh political actors and policy makers continues to increase in the context of Wales' broader development as a devolved political community, Lewis, Royles and Edwards have continued to inform the work of various governmental and non-governmental bodies in Wales. Recent examples include:

- Welsh Government: policy briefing reports, authored by Lewis and Royles were cited in two recent Welsh Government publications [5.10].
- Welsh Parliament, Culture Welsh Language and Communications Committee: evidence submitted to its 2018 - 2019 inquiry, 'Supporting and Promoting the Welsh Language', was cited several times in the final report published July 2019 [5.11].
- The Welsh Language Commissioner: a research briefing session held with the new Commissioner 16 May 2019, and a subsequent session arranged with staff from the office's research and policy team on 3 February 2020 to inform their work on the Commissioner's next five-year report on the position of the Welsh language.

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

- 5.1 Email, Senior Policy Officer, Welsh Government's Welsh Language Division, 18 October 2017. [Language: Welsh]
- 5.2 Eluned Morgan AM (Baroness Morgan of Ely), Welsh Government Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language, text of speech delivered at the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University, 10 May 2019; see p. 4. [Language: Welsh & English]
- 5.3 Email, Research Officer, Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner, 20 October 2016, [Language: Welsh]; see also 3.6.
- 5.4 Email, Co-ordinator of Language Planners Wales, 17 October 2017; see also Language Planners Wales, A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050: Response by Language Planners Wales to the public consultation on the Welsh Government's draft language strategy, October 2016. [Language: Welsh] Available at: <http://files.constantcontact.com/c18779ab001/324bd697-5559-4626-ac03-a59543be9be7.pdf>
- 5.5 Welsh Government, Consultation on the Welsh Government Draft Strategy: A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050 – Summary of Responses, January 2017, p. 7. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-01/170110-consultation-responses-en.pdf>
- 5.6 Welsh Government, *Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers*, July 2017, see pp.14-17. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy.pdf>; see also 3.1, pp. 4-5.
- 5.7 Welsh Government, *Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers*, July 2017, see p. 76. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy.pdf>; see also 3.1, p. 2.
- 5.8 Welsh Government, *Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers*, July 2017, see p. 69. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy.pdf>; see also email correspondence with an official from the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Division, 20 June 2016; 27 October 2016; [Language: Welsh].
- 5.9 Welsh Government, Specification: Review of the Welsh Government's grants scheme to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh, August 2019, p. 4.
- 5.10 Welsh Government, *National policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families*, 11 February 2020, see p. 22. Available at: https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-02/national-policy-on-welsh-language-transmission-and-use-in-families-consultation-document_0.pdf; Welsh Government, *The Welsh language and the economy*, 22 February 2020, see p.100. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-02/the-welsh-language-and-the-economy-a-review-of-evidence-and-methods.pdf>
- 5.11 Welsh Parliament, Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, *Supporting and Promoting the Welsh Language*, July 2019. Available at: <https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s91261/Report.pdf>