

Newsletter



CGAP is the UK's first research Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy. It aims to develop knowledge engaging with researchers, donors and charities.

Issue 2 Winter 2010

CGAP News

CGAP will be appointing a new Centre Manager to support its communications, engagement, publications and events.

Discussions

Join the [debate](#) on the findings of the Treasury/HMRC Gift Aid donor research. Read CGAP's [commentary](#) on the findings.

Giving News

Messages on giving mixed. [CFN](#) says an extra £35m was raised last year while the [Investec survey](#) said giving dropped by 10%.

The [DEC](#) Haiti Earthquake Appeal raises £50m so far.

The new [Voluntary Sector Review](#) will be published in March 2010

Recent Research

New CGAP research shows that [5% more households give at Xmas.](#)

Read CGAP's [Autumn 09 newsletter](#)

Events

[Festival of Social Science](#) - CGAP is running a workshop on difficult questions in fundraising. Click [here](#) to book.

Thinkpieces

The Symbolism of Giving

Why is Sir Richard Branson often photographed with other prominent figures from the world of politics and celebrity such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former US Vice President Al Gore?



Eleanor Shaw and colleagues from the CGAP programme at the University of Strathclyde are investigating the various types of capital possessed by philanthropists that are entrepreneurs. They are analysing the influence on entrepreneurial philanthropy of economic, social, cultural and symbolic forms of capital.

In a new CGAP thinkpiece Kay Henderson presents some of the ideas involved in their research, including Bourdieu's distinction of symbolic capital from other types of capital and the symbolism associated with giving. Symbolic capital is a source of power based on an individual's resources such as recognition, prestige

and reputation. Bourdieu argues that holders of symbolic capital are able to influence and control the thoughts and behaviours of others.

With this capital entrepreneurial philanthropists are able to influence the giving of others. Are they also able to influence decision-making and government policy? Do they also gain more symbolic capital from giving itself?

[Read the article.](#)

Bourdieu, P. (1986) "The forms of capital," in J G Richardson (ed) Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education, pp 241-58. New York:Greenwood Press.

Round Up

Gift Aid Forum - HM Treasury will be holding the first meeting of the new Gift Aid forum in February.

IOF meeting - The Institute of Fundraising will be holding an open meeting in February to brain-storm ideas and plans for further applied fundraising research.

Giving Forum - The regular meeting for leading figures in UK charitable giving to exchange developments and ideas will take place in February. The Forum is chaired by Lord Best.

ERNOP's annual international meeting was held in Budapest in February to discuss setting up a new international member network on philanthropy.

Erasmus Centre - At the launch of the new Erasmus Centre for Strategic Philanthropy in Rotterdam, David Carrington presented an agenda for future philanthropy research and teaching. [More.](#)

The future of Gift Aid - or Giving?

The donor should lie at the heart of all current debates about Gift Aid. The real issue is the future of UK giving, not of the Gift Aid system. As the government's consultation on Gift Aid enters a new phase with the publication of new research and the establishment of a new Gift Aid forum, there is a key opportunity for strategic thinking on how to support future giving

It is easy to lose sight of this in the plethora of issues in the Gift Aid deliberations. Questions of cost to the Exchequer, the vagaries of complicity and transaction, clarity and comprehensibility, transitional relief and the merits of opt-in or opt-out etc dominate - all further proof that there is no clear steer from either research or practice on the role of tax incentives.

We need a thorough discussion of the future of tax policy in incentivising UK giving amongst all types of donors. New Forbes Research shows that between 2001 and 2007 the percent of wealthy people leaving charitable bequests declined as US estate tax was reduced.

CGAP has pulled together recent papers on higher-rate tax relief on giving, and provided a commentary on the Treasury's important recent research. What we need to know is will all the efforts to improve the Gift Aid scheme succeed in increasing UK giving?

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