CSaP Cohesive Societies

The BA’s Cohesive Societies Programme, Covid19 and Beyond

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@BritishAcademy_
Core aspects of cohesion

Cultural memory and tradition
Social economy
Meaning and mechanisms of social responsibility
Identity and belonging
Care for the future
Cohesive Societies landscape reviews

CSaP Cohesive Societies, June 17th 2020

10–11 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH

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Key findings

- Discussion of societal cohesion is often reactive
- Definitional ambiguity has up and downsides
- Cohesion may be a positive goal in its own right
- Cohesion can be a process or a destination
- Includes social and structural components
- Arises at different geographical/social levels

https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/programmes/cohesive-societies/
It is a vital part of the Big Society that people feel they can give, they can contribute, and they can play a part. To me that is a really important vision for the future of our country.

Prime Minister, David Cameron

Overcoming these divisions and bringing our country together is the central challenge of our time...

Shared Society
Boris Johnson urges countries to pull together in coronavirus battle

Boris Johnson will urge countries to “pull together” and share their expertise as he co-hosts an international conference to drive the race for coronavirus treatments, tests and vaccines.

The Prime Minister will describe the challenge facing humanity as the “most urgent shared endeavour of our lifetimes”.

He will add: “We are in this together and together we will prevail.”
## Forms of Cohesion

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<th></th>
<th>Prejudice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td>Benign Indifference</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Atomised, disengaged community, unconcerned about others</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>Harmonious Cohesion</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cohesive, engaged community, open and flexible</td>
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“We know the mantra of the campaign that has just gone by... It is deliver Brexit, **unite the country**, and defeat Jeremy Corbyn, and that’s what we’re going to do....we are going to unite this amazing country and take it forward..”
Historical racism may be behind England's higher BAME Covid-19 rate

BLM 'band of brothers' hope rescue of counter-protester sends message

'A nurse protests outside Downing Street over the government response to Covid-19 for BAME health workers.'
Lockdown: ‘Noisy neighbours are ruining my life’

By Manish Pandey and Will Chalk
Newsbeat reporters

12 May 2020

Coronavirus pandemic
Police attend traveller funeral as mourners flout social distancing rules after they demand body back from the undertaker - and drive it to church in back of a Transit van

- About 60 griever, some swigging beer, were watched by Bedfordshire Police at Dunstable Cemetery at 10am
- The group was blatanty flouting government lockdown rules on social distancing - brought in to tackle Covid
Favouring young over old in Covid-19 treatment justifiable, says ethicist

Prof Arthur Caplan: age a “valid criterion” to use when making the “terrible choice”

* Coronavirus - latest updates
* See all our coronavirus coverage

Age discrimination! Anger erupts at plot for tougher lockdown measures on over-70s

Older people should be denied treatment for the coronavirus if a younger, healthy person needs help, according to Prof Arthur Caplan, a prominent US medical ethicist. Age, he said, was a “valid criterion” to use when making the “terrible choice” of who should receive scarce resources during the pandemic.
In it together?
Views of cohesion as we Brexit via Covid19
% see growing or strongly growing divisions between:

Samples: Representative from Scotland, Wales, Kent, Ns circa 1500, 1500, 370* data for June 2020 are provisional and not ready for wider circulation – contact DA for details.

Source: Abrams, Lalot, Broadwood, 2020 [Nuffield Foundation/University of Kent/Belong]

*data for June 2020 are provisional and not ready for wider circulation – contact DA for details.
Priorities for deeper investigation

- How societal cohesion relates to other social goals
- How it relates to economic and political priorities
- How it works with different identities
- How it changes over time and place
- New and better ways to measure, understand and improve societal cohesion
- More coherent policy involving societal cohesion

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Whose society? Whose cohesion?

Historical perspectives show us just how limited our ideas of societal cohesion are.

Thank you