



Introduction: Spring 2006

The Young Foundation was originally founded in the 1950s as the Institute of Community Studies, and was relaunched in 2005. Its inspiration and founder was Michael Young, who was described by Harvard's Professor Daniel Bell as 'probably the most successful entrepreneur of social enterprises in the world', and who combined great influence in public policy, the world of ideas, and success in launching dozens of successful new organisations. The Foundation focuses primarily on practical social innovation informed by research.

Research

Our research focuses on contemporary life and changing needs in urban communities, drawing on direct observation and ethnography. The foundation has produced some of the most influential sociology of the last half century – from *Family and Kinship in East London* (1957) to *The New East End* (2006), described by several newspapers as one of the most important sociological works of recent years. A major pan-European project on city growth under Sir Peter Hall will be published this summer (*The Polycentric City*). Current projects include major exercises to map unmet needs and the design of new methods for mapping value in urban change. The Foundation also runs a new prize for young academics (the Michael Young Prize) jointly with the Economic and Social Research Council, the main academic funding body for social science in the UK.

Action research

We work closely with people, communities and organisations, linking research to action. Current projects include a major programme of work on neighbourhoods, combining research on what works in empowering neighbourhoods, pilots in major cities (Birmingham, Liverpool, Sheffield and London), policy design with government departments and the development of practical tools (including web-based tools on tasks ranging from fixing infrastructures to local history).

Launchpad and social innovation

Launchpad is our platform for turning promising ideas into new organisations. Under Michael Young the Foundation was involved in creating more than 60 organisations, including the Open University, Consumers Association, Education Extra, International Alert and the Economic and Social Research Council. The Foundation is now developing new enterprises in a wide range of fields including new model schools ('Studio Schools'), new approaches to legal services and job creation for refugees, new models of healthcare (primarily around chronic disease, diet and fitness), and new web based tools for civic organisation (building on models like Pledgebank developed by Young Foundation fellow Tom Steinberg). Launchpad is a partnership with Morgan Stanley and Saïd Business School.

Innovation centre

Our buildings in Bethnal Green serve as an expanding hub and home for over 20 organisations engaged in social innovation, from brand new start-ups to existing service providers and campaigns. These range from the School for Social Entrepreneurs and Grandparents Plus to Operation Black Vote and the London Civic Forum, the umbrella for 1000 NGOs in London.

International

Young Foundation staff have worked recently in countries as varied as Nigeria, Denmark and China. We are co-hosting a major international conference in Beijing in the autumn and work with partner organisations, cities and governments in several countries around the world.

Support

The Foundation receives support from a wide range of organisations including Morgan Stanley; Joel Joffe Charitable Trust; Robert Gavron Charitable Trust; Baring Foundation; Barrow Cadbury Trust; the European Commission; Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust; Cisco; SAP; BP; Philips Design; Vertex; the European Commission; a number of local authorities; and the Corporation of London. The Foundation has a formal association with University College London, and two of its staff are visiting professors at LSE and UCL.

Staff, fellows and trustees

The Foundation's director is Geoff Mulgan, former head of policy in the Prime Minister's office and head of the UK Government Strategy Unit. Associate directors are Simon Tucker (ex Kids Company and McKinsey) and Rushanara Ali (ex Home Office and IPPR). Fellows include Sir Peter Hall, Paul Barker, and a wide range of academics and entrepreneurs; advisers include Roger

Graef, Professor Charles Tilly, Tariq Ramadan, Halif Afshah and Professor Richard Sennett. The Young Foundation's trustees are Sir Michael Bichard, rector of the London University of the Arts and former Permanent Secretary of DfES; Amelia Fawcett, Vice Chairman of Morgan Stanley Europe; Ed Mayo, Chief Executive of the National Consumer Council; Peter Wheeler, former partner at Goldman Sachs and Chair of Futurebuilders; Kate Gavron, Chair of Carcanet Press and the Runnymede Trust; Marcial Boo, Director of Policy and Research at the Audit Commission; Kirsteen Tait, former director of the National Association for Sick Children; Malcolm Dean, associate editor of the Guardian; Kevin O'Sullivan director of the WSP Group and Chair of SOS Sahel; James Cornford former director of IPPR and the Nuffield Foundation; Tony Flower; Simon Browne-Wilkinson QC; and Tariq Modood, Professor at Bristol University.

Publications

A series of books is being published in 2006 to accompany the foundation's first full year of operation, including:

- *Porcupines in Winter: the pleasures and pains of living together in modern Britain* (edited by Alessandra Buonfino and Geoff Mulgan, with contributors including Richard Sennett, Peter Hall and Kate Gavron), described as 'telling' and 'especially timely' by the Guardian
- *The New East End* (by Geoff Dench, Kate Gavron and Michael Young, published by Profile Books), described as 'brilliant' by the Times
- *Social Silicon Valleys* (by a team of authors, published spring 2006)
- *The Polycentric Metropolis* (by Peter Hall and Kathy Pain, published by Earthscan summer 2006)
- *Good and Bad Power: the ideals and betrayals of government* (by Geoff Mulgan, published by Penguin summer 2006)
- *London Voices, London Lives* (by Peter Hall, published autumn 2006)
- *Jamaican Hands Across the Atlantic* (by Elaine Bauer and Paul Thompson published summer 2006)

The Foundation also runs a regular series of lectures. Recent lecturers include Professors Charles Tilly (Columbia University), Tariq Ramadan (Oxford), Arlie Hoschhild (Berkeley) and George Steiner (Cambridge). Forthcoming lecturers include Lord John Browne, Chief Executive of BP.