

The Research Register 1992/93

by Dr. Peter Davis

The appended Register of current or recent research in the UK on the Co-operative movement has begun to take on some substance in this its third appearance in the Society's Journal with 49 researchers conducting 64 separate projects. My general assessment is - two cheers for Co-operative research!

For the collection of information a central effort was a questionnaire to all the institutions listed in the Social Sciences Research Abstracts, whose entries indicated research or interest in Co-operatives; this was supplemented by distribution of the questionnaire to other likely areas. My thanks to all those who responded to the questionnaire and a particular acknowledgement for the help of Frank Dent (CRS Ltd. and Membership Secretary for the Society), Mervyn Wilson (Co-op Union) and Lindsey Ewing (NACO) in ensuring a comprehensive circulation of the questionnaire within the movement and its known friends.

The Sections

I have developed the Register by organising it into seventeen subject headings. This works out at about four projects per section. This very thin spread for many subjects presumably crucial for the future of the movement is made worse when one realises that about 25% of all the entries are located primarily in the Historical section. Within this section there is some very interesting and scholarly work being undertaken. With the contemporary individualism and the "no such thing as society" attitude people need to be reminded of their roots. As the recession continues, there is much contemporary relevance in the Cultural and Historical studies for today's movement as it struggles to revitalise and find an identity that it can communicate to the average person, particularly to the average young person.

Management and Marketing are particularly disappointing when one reflects how the agricultural and consumer Co-operative societies dominate in economic significance the rest of the UK Co-operative movement. Are these sections of the developing, or should I say contracting, Co-operative Commonwealth so successful that there are really no questions that need to be researched within them? Which brings me to what is becoming the annual theme of the notes accompanying the Co-operative Research Register and that is the low level of Co-operative sponsorship of research.

The Record among Co-operatives

The Co-op Union is mentioned twice; once for the statistical research of David Wadsworth and once for Johnston Birchall's commission to write a celebration of the 150th anniversary of Rochdale; and the CWS reports its study of adult and child attitudes towards the environment. Ilkeston remains the only consumer Society to have linked up with a University to explore and review its trading prospects. If there are others they have been too shy to report their projects to us. In respect of CRS, CIS and the Co-operative Bank we have no reports and it may be that somewhat different approaches to them, and indeed to the CWS to establish fully their position in the promotion of research are needed.

On a more positive note the Bank seems most advanced amongst the consumer Co-operative organisations in recognising the marketing potential with the Green and ethical movements of identifying the Co-operative difference and in trying to go beyond this to the even more uncharted waters of a business ethics – driven management culture. For the worker Co-operatives these issues have been almost their *raison d'être* along with job creation. It is good to see that such a small and economically fragile sector is grappling with the positive promotion of a common Co-operative image in the marketplace.

The presence of a number of DTI funded projects should be a matter for some congratulation to those who have succeeded in attracting such support and suggests that there are some good pieces of applied research work coming through and this is clearly a good basis on which we can build.

Lines of Future Research

If there is one area in particular that the Co-operative Union should be addressing it must be the inadequacy and lack of standards in Co-operative accounting. This is surely a serious matter both from the stand-point of effective management and for management accountability to the membership, particularly when the question of mergers comes up. Another area that has hit the headlines and looks as if further investigation would be appropriate is how to get co-operation amongst the Co-operatives - even among just the consumer Co-ops for a start (the milk delivery trade might make a good case study here).

Thanks to a wide range of projects initiated by the Plunkett Foundation (not aimed solely at agricultural Co-operatives) Management and Director Training has a higher profile than ever before. It is also pleasing to see that at a time when competition for internal university research funds is intense in all institutions of higher education, one project at least in the field of Co-operative management has been backed jointly by the Universities of Loughborough and Leicester.

In developing Co-operative research it is always a chicken or egg question as to whether the results are needed to encourage investment or investment to produce results. How to develop the constructive dialogue and collaboration of academics with managers and practitioners is not simply a problem for the Co-operative movement but it clearly is as much a problem for us despite the movement's commitment to the principle of education.

One move towards a solution might be for the Society for Co-operative Studies to sponsor a seminar for chief executives and academics entitled "Generating Co-operative Research Projects": possibly limited to twenty participants - 10 chief executives and 10 academics (drawn from a range of disciplines). Such a seminar might break down barriers and help to establish a research agenda that would get the support of the senior management and would also make the kind of impact that researchers often promise but rarely deliver.

Developing the Register

Apart from greater involvement by practitioners in the generation of research we need to encourage more academic interest in the movement and to redouble our efforts to ensure the Register is providing as comprehensive a coverage as possible - from short term marketing studies to PhDs and beyond. Facilitating the exchange of information between researchers and encouraging further research into the Co-operative movement is the justification for continuing to develop the Research Register and I hope I have the continued support of those who have helped in the past as well as new friends as I work towards a three figure entry for the next Register.

So please remember that you do not have to wait for me to contact you. Work on the 1993/4 Register has commenced so please send in any leads you get as and when they come to your attention. I would also welcome any suggestions for the further development of the Register's organisation and coverage.

The Author

DR. DAVIS, the Research Correspondent of the Society, is a former student of the Co-operative College. He graduated from the University of Sussex and completed his M.Phil, and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Leicester. His experience has included work with U.S.D.A.W., posts in the School of Management and the Co-operative Management Unit at Leicester Polytechnic and service as a Senior Consultant with Moores Rowland and with NMHC Ltd. at the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

He is now on the staff of the International Centre for Management, Law and Industrial Relations of Leicester University at the Fielding Johnson Building, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH.

(Includes on-going research and research completed since 1980 in the U.K. on the Co-operative movement: for research linked to a recent article in the Journal the issue is given).

Subject Headings:

Accountancy and Finance

Business Policy

Culture

Communications and Media

Employee and Industrial Relations

History

Law

Management

Marketing

Membership

Organisation

Political Economy

Politics

Social Economy

Training

Values (including Principles and Social Philosophy)

Women

Each entry is cross referenced under the researcher's name where the research covers more than one subject. Each item is letter coded (see below) to indicate which segment of the Co-operative movement the research is focused upon.

Segment Classification

A = Agriculture, B = Building Societies, C = Consumer, COMM = Community, CU = Credit Union, F = Fishery, G = General Co-op movement, H = Housing, OM = Other membership-based organisations/ social economy organisations, SF = Small Firms, U = Utilities, W = Worker.

Accountancy and Finance

D. Hutton
23 Summerlee Ave,
London, N2 9QP

(with P A Collier)

1. Communications and accounting to Co-op members. (1987-88) C
2. Analysis of variations in accounting policies in top 18 Co-op Soc. (Post - Doctoral 1988-89) C

(with Dr. R Vis)

3. Historical survey of
market share, capital
structure, standardised net surplus
of the UK retail Co-ops.
(Post-Doctoral 1990-91) C

T N Jenkins
Dept. of
Agriculture and
Marketing,
Univ. College Wales,
Aberystwyth,
SY23 3DD

Finance for dairy
Co-ops across the
EEC (1983 cont.) A

D Wadsworth
Manager -
Statistics,
Co-op Union Ltd.,
Holyoake House,
Hanover Street,
Manchester,
M60 0AS

Annual volume
of Co-op stats. &
econ. prospects.
Current Indicators
of Co-op performance
(three times per year).
Monthly retail
turnover analysis
& research into
surplus earning
capacity. (Co-op Union cont.) C

Business Policy

P Allen,
Business School,
University of Teeside,
Middlesborough,
Cleveland, TS1 3BA
(with E Snape and A Wilkinson)

TQM at the Co-operative Bank
(Post Doc.) (Journal 73)

Dr. J Birchall
Dept. of Gov.
Brunel University,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex, UB8 3PH

1. The Future of the
Small Co-operative
Store. (1986-88) C, COMM, W, SF
2. See History
3. See Training

Prof. T F Carbery
24 Fairfax Ave,
Glasgow, G44 5AL

Review of the
progress and
contraction of the
Brit. retail Co-ops (Cont.) C

Sarah Carnegie
David Hall
Partnership
Design Works,
William Street,
Felling,
Tyne and Wear, NE10 0JP

Success criteria for Co-operative
business action research based
on CDA participation (DTI
Funded 1992-93) W See also
Organisation

Ilkeston Consumer
Co-op Soc. Ltd.,
12 South Street,
Ilkeston,
Derbyshire,
DE7 5SG

1. The Consumer
versus the Travel
Industry (KN Scott 1975 cont.)
2. Trading prospects
for the Ilkeston Soc.
(with Univ. of Warwick 1975 cont.)

P McClenaghan
Co-op Ed., Research
& Training Unit,
Magee College,
Univ. of Ulster
Londonderry BT48 7JL

Community Co-ops
in the Highlands and
Islands of Scotland:
A comparative study.
(Jan 1987 - Dec 1987)
COMM

Janet P Osgerby
Business School,
Robert Gordon University,
Aberdeen AB9 1FR

Co-operatives in Scottish
Inshore Fishing (Doctoral)
F (Journal 72)

Edgar Parnell
Director,
Plunkett Foundation for
Co-operative Studies
23 Hansborough
Business Park,
Long Hanborough,
Oxford, OX8 8LH

1. Options for contracting out of
public services. A guide to available
models and the development of a
decision model to aid policy makers
(DTI Funded 1993/94) W
2. See Law
3, 4, and 5. See Training

Dr. Pridham &
Dr Bartlett
Centre for
Mediterranean
Studies,
University of Bristol,
12 Priory Road,
Bristol, BS8 1TU

Co-operatives and
small private firms
in Mediterranean
Europe
(ESRC Post-Doctoral 1989-1991) W, SF

Dr. Martin Purvis

See History

E Snape,

Department of Human

Resource Management

University of Strathclyde,

Glasgow G1 1RQ

(with P Allen and A Wilkinson)

TQM at the Co-operative

Bank (Post Doc.) C

(Journal 73)

R G Spear

Co-operative

Research Unit,

Open Univ.

Walton Hall,

Milton Keynes,

MK7 6AA

1. Collaboration

between small firms incl. Co-ops

(1990-94) W Also Marketing

and Organisation

2. See Organisation

Ms. L M Whitefield

Dept. of Social &

Economic Research,

Univ of Glasgow,

Adam Smith Building,

Glasgow, G12 8RT

(with Dr. D Clapham &

K Kintrea)

Assessment of

Community Ownership

Scheme in Glasgow. (1989-1991) H

Dr. A Wilkinson,

School of Management,

UMIST,

Manchester M60 1QD

1. Changing Fortunes of the

Co-operative Bank (Doctoral and

Post Doc) C (Journal 71)

2. TQM at the Co-operative Bank

(Post Doc) C (Journal 73)

(with P Allen and E. Snape)

Culture

Dr. P Gurney

Dept. of Humanities

University of Glamorgan

Pontypridd

South Wales

1. The Making of Co-operative

Culture in England, 1870-1918.

Analysis of the construction and

meaning of the movement's

culture and the reception of the

movement before world war one.

(PhD. Sussex, 1984-89)

C See History.

2. Co-operative Culture and the Politics of Consumption in England, 1870-1940. Co-operation as an alternative form of consumption and how this concept became marginalised by 1939. (Post Doc. 1991 cont.) C See also History.

Marc Stears
Dept. of Humanities
University of Glamorgan
Pontypridd,
South Wales

Co-operation and Working Class Culture 1899-1939.
Role of the Co-op store in community - did it help working women to enter the political sphere? (PhD. Commenced 92) C.
See History and Women

Employee and Industrial Relations

Nil Return

History

Ms. R E Allen &
Ms. E. Sobell
The North of
England Open
Air Museum,
Stanley, DH9 0RG

Co-operation in the
North East of
England: 1900 to
1949. (1974-92) G

Dr. A R H Baker
Dept. of Geography
Univ. of Cambridge,
Downing Place,
Cambridge, CB2 3EN

A study of the
development and
diffusion of fraternal
associations in rural
France 1815-1914.
(Post-Doc. 1973-Cont.) A

Dr. J Birchall
Dept. of Gov.
Brunel University,
Uxbridge
Middlesex, UB8 3PH

1. See Business Policy
2. The People's Business. A
celebration of 150 years of
Co-operation. (Co-op Union
1992-93) C

Ms. D L Brace
Museums and
Galleries Div.,
Huntley House
Museum,
142 Cannon Street,
Edinburgh, EH8 8DD

1. Co-operative Societies
in Edinburgh since
1800. (Oral Hist Project
plus archive based
research cont.) C
2. The Scottish Women's Guild 1896
to the present (Oral Hist
Project plus archive based
research cont.) C See Women

Dr. M S Chase
Dept. of Adult and
Continuing Ed.,
Univ. of Leeds,
Leeds,
Leeds, LS2 9JT

1. Self Help Land
and Building Soc.
in Britain:
1840 to 1870 (pub.
English Hist. Rev. No 419)
(1967-90) B and OM
2. Community Co-operation
in East Cleveland
1931 to 1938. (1968-92) COMM

Prof. J G Corina,
Thames Valley University
Ealing,
London, W5 5RF

William King
Biographical Research
(Post Doc. 1990-92) G

Dr Peter Davis

1. See Political Economy

Mrs. Jean Everitt,
Department of Information
and Library Studies,
University of Wales,
Llanbardan Fawr,
Aberystwith,
Dyfed SY23 3AS

Rôle of Co-operative
society libraries and
newsrooms in late 19th and
early 20th centuries.
(Doctoral) C. (Journal 76 -
on the Historical Documentation)

Dr P. Gurney

See Culture

M. Hornsby
36 Burton Road,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicestershire,
LE65 2LQ

1. Historical survey
of the Co-operative
movement in Leicester. G.
2. History of Co-partnership
Housing up to 1918. (cont.) H

W J Pritchard
Member Education
Dept.,
Leeds Industrial
Co-op Society,
Benyon House,
Ring Road,
Middleton,
Leeds,
LS10 4AA

1. See Membership
2. Centenary study of the Leeds
Co-op Women's Guild:
1889 to 1989. (1968-91) C
See Women

Dr. Martin Purvis
School of Geography
University of Leeds,
Leeds LS2 9JT

The Geography of Co-operative
Trading in the 19th century.
(Doc and cont. Post Doc
1987-cont.) C and G
See Business Policy

Christopher Richardson,
21 Devonshire Promenade,
Lenton,
Nottinghamshire, N97 2OS

Co-operative Movement
in West Yorkshire, 1840-1900
(M. Phil. 1992-1994) C

Dr. E Royle
Dept. of History,
University of York
Heslington
York, YO1 5DD

Queenswood: 1839 to 1845
Tensions between managerial
socialism and democratic
socialism in an Owenite
Community. (Post Doc 1989 cont.)
COMM.

Marc Stears

See Culture

Kevin W. Stone
26 Five Lamps Court,
Kedleston Street,
Derby DE1 3GW.

A History of the Langley Mill and Aldegar
Co-operative Society. 1870-1972.
(Archive and Oral based Research 1991
cont.) C

Tom Woodin
Gatehouse Books,
Bireley Centre,
Chichester Road,
Manchester, M15 5FU

Class Conflict in Co-operation
Debates within Congress in
late 19th and early 20th centuries.
(MA Dissertation 1992.)
C and G See Values

Law

Edgar Parnell
(Director) and others
C/O Plunkett Foundation
for Co-operative Studies
23 Hanborough Business
Park,
Long Hanborough,
Oxford, OX8 8LH

1. See Business Policy
2. Public Policy and the
Co-operative Enterprise
A study of the changes in
statutory and regulatory
provisions for the
Co-operative movement
(UKCC 1992) G

I Snaith
Dept. of Law
The University,
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH

1. Monitoring UK
legal provisions
for Co-ops. (1961 cont.) G
2. Update and analysis of
IPSA 1965-75. (1990-91) G

Management

John Barker
Centre for Extension Studies
Univ. of Technology
Loughborough LE11 3TU
and
Dr Peter Davis
International Centre for
Management,
Law and Industrial Relations,
Dept of Law,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

1. See Davis Political Econ.
2. The training provision
and needs of Co-operative
management (Joint Universities
funded research project 1993)
C and G
See also Training
3. See Davis Values

Ian Piper

See Membership

Marketing

Ms. C Harrison
Market Research
Dept. C.W.S. Ltd.,
PO Box 53,
New Century House,
Manchester, M60 4ES

Surveys & analysis
of awareness
of environmental
issues:
1. Adults (1989) C
2. Children (1989-96) C

Toby Johnson
ICOM
Vassalli House
20 Central Road,
Leeds, LS1 6DE

Corporate Marketing Project
(DTI Funded 1992-93) W
See also Training

Neil Skinner
ICOM
Vassalli House
20 Central Road,
Leeds, LS1 6DE

Ethical/Environmental Code and
Logo for Worker Co-operatives
(DTI Funded Project 1992-93) W

R.G. Spear

1. See Business Policy
2. See Organisation

Membership

Bernard Foley (Director)
and Karen Evans,
Centre for Community
and Educational
Policy Studies,
University of Liverpool,
19 Abercromby Square,
PO Box 147,
Liverpool L69 3BX

Common ownership housing
Co-ops in Merseyside area,
supported by Leverhulme Trust.
H. (Journal 77 - article on
Participation, Autonomy and
Education)

Martin P. Groombridge
St Edmund Hall,
Oxford, OX1 4AR

Co-operative Democracy in the
CRS. A case study. (Ruskin
College Dip. studies
1991-92) C.

Prof. Roger Hadley
Dept. of Applied
Social Science
Cartmel College,
Lancaster University,
Lancaster, LA1 4YL

Participation and Common Ownership
A generational study 1960-89
(1989-93) W See also Organisation

Dr M C Mellor
Dept. of Applied
Soc. Science,
Newcastle upon Tyne
Polytechnic,
Northumberland Building,
Northumberland Place,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 8ST

Historical study of social dynamics
from the members' perspective in a
women's worker Co-operative.
(Post-Doc 1981-91)
W See Organisation and Women

Ian Piper
University of Ulster
Shore Road,
Newtonabbey,
Co. Antrim, BT37 0QB

Managerial Control and Democratic
Accountability.
(Doc. Research 1993 cont.) C
See also Management

W J Pritchard
Member Education
Dept.,
Leeds Industrial
Co-op Society,
Benyon House,
Ring Road,
Middleton,
Leeds,
LS10 4AA

1. The effectiveness of
electoral organisation, particularly in LICS,
in developing member participation
(1986-87 Revised 1990-91)C
2. See History

Organisation

Prof. Roger Hadley

See Membership

Dr M.C. Mellor

See Membership

William S. Neale

See Politics

R. G. Spear

1. See Business Policy and Marketing
2. Structures and Strategies for
developing Worker Co-ops
Comparative study between
western and third world approaches
(1984-92) W See Business Policy.

G Wade
Member Relations. Dept.
Portsea Island Co-op,
110 Fratton Road,
Portsmouth, PO1 5DB

A study of the contribution of Co-op.
Ed. to conflict regulation in
social psychology. (with Bradford
University 1991 cont.) C See also
Training

Political Economy

Dr Jenny Clegg,
Edge Hill College,
of Higher Education,
St. Helen's Road,
Ormskirk,
Lancs, L39 4QP

Research on the Chinese peasantry,
including worker Co-ops. Doctoral
and Post Doc. W. (Journal 75 - article
on industrial Co-ops in China)

Dr. P Davis
International Centre for
Management, Law and
Industrial Relations,
Dept of Law,
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH

1. The New Jerusalem versus the
the Dual Economy. A historical
survey of the interaction and
division of worker and consumer
Co-ops from Owenism to the present time.
(Doc. Research within the
Dept of Econ. Univ.
of Leicester 1981-89) C and W
See History

Politics

William S. Neale
55 Rippingham Road,
Withington,
Manchester, M20 9PL

Co-operative lobbying groups in
the European Community
(M.A. Univ. of Manchester 1990)
C, G and OM.
Also Organisation

Social Economy

Nil Return

Training

John Barker and
Dr Peter Davis

See Management

Dr J Birchall
Dept. of Gov.
Brunel University,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex, UB8 3PH

1. See Business Policy.
2. See History
3. Identification of Current
Training Resources for Housing
Co-ops. (1991) H.

Malcolm Hornsby

1 and 2 See History
3. Development of training materials for the teaching of Co-operative values (Co-op Union 1993 cont.) C See Values

Toby Johnson

See Marketing

Edgar Parnell
Director,
Plunkett Foundation for
Co-operative Studies,
23 Hansborough
Business Park,
Hanborough,
Oxford, OX8 8LH

3. Training Provisions for Directors of Co-operative Businesses
A survey of existing provisions, and methodologies and an attempt to measure their effectiveness against performance criteria. (DTI Funded 1992/93) G
4. Innovation in Director Development for Social Economy Farm Enterprises A transnational study of rural marketing and worker Co-ops on the Continent. Review of existing practice, and strategy for director development. (EEC cont.) A, W, OM.
5. Training and Development Measures for Small Business Enterprises and Self Employment. (ECC cont.) A W SF

Geoff Wade

See Organisation

Values

Dr. P Davis
International Centre for
Management, Law and
Industrial Relations,
Dept. of Law
University Road,
The University of
Leicester, LE1 7RH

1. See Political Economy
2. Vision leading Excellence: the translation of Co-op values into Co-op commercial management. (Post Doc. 1990 cont.) G
3. See (with Barker) Management

Malcolm Hornsby

1. and 2. See History
3. See Training

Tom Woodin	See History
Women	
Ms D L Brace	See History
Dr. M C Mellor	See Membership
W J Pritchard	See History
Marc Stears	See Culture

In Conclusion

It is a little curious to reflect that, while each man is a mystery to himself, he is an open book to others, the reason being that he sees in himself the perplexities and torment of the mental processes out of which action issues and they see in him only the simple and undeniable act itself.

Her Privates We – F. Manning