

## Some think tanks

This is a selection of think tanks of interest to anyone interested in working in policy research.

### **Adam Smith Institute**

[www.adamsmith.org](http://www.adamsmith.org)

"Is the UK's leading innovator of practical market-economic policies". Website has overviews of issues, events and publications listings, etc.

### **Centre for European Reform**

[www.cer.org.uk](http://www.cer.org.uk)

"A think-tank devoted to improving the quality of the debate on the future of the European Union". Website has events and publications listings, summaries of research topics, etc.

### **Centre for Policy Studies**

[www.cps.org.uk](http://www.cps.org.uk)

"Exists to promote coherent and practical public policy, to roll back the state, reform public services, support communities, and challenge threats to Britain's independence". Website has articles, publications, links, etc.

### **Chatham House**

[www.riia.org](http://www.riia.org)

(Formally known as The Royal Institute of International Affairs) "is Europe's leading foreign policy think-tank...It is an independent membership-based organization that brings together people from government, politics, business, NGOs, the academic world and the media...works to stimulate debate and research on political, business, security and other key issues in the international arena". Website includes research programme details, publications, events.

### **David Hume Institute**

[www.davidhumeinstitute.com](http://www.davidhumeinstitute.com)

"Promotes research, analysis and debate on public policy issues. Its work is primarily focused in areas linking economics and law, with a particular interest in the interaction between institutional or legal frameworks and market forces". Website has reports, seminar transcripts, events listings, publications, etc.

### **DEMOS**

[www.demos.co.uk](http://www.demos.co.uk)

Is "the think tank for 'everyday democracy'". Focussing on six areas: public services; science and technology ; cities and public space; arts and culture; identity and global security - DEMOS has a collaborative approach to analysing social and political change. Website has downloadable publications, jobs and internships listing, events listing and some interesting profiles of current interns which show the background of interns and what projects they have worked on.

### **The Fabian Society**

[www.fabian-society.org.uk](http://www.fabian-society.org.uk)

"Aims to explore the political ideas and the policy reforms which will define progressive politics in the future". Website has research overviews, events, publications.

## **The Federal Trust**

[www.fedtrust.co.uk](http://www.fedtrust.co.uk)

Is "a think-tank that studies the interactions between regional, national, European and global levels of government". Website has events, publications, essays.

## **Foreign Policy Centre**

[www.fpc.org.uk](http://www.fpc.org.uk)

Is a "European think tank launched under the patronage of the ... Tony Blair to develop a vision of a fair and rule-based world order" and promotes multilateral solutions, democracy, inclusive citizenship, etc. Website includes events, publications, articles on regional issues".

## **Institute of Economic Affairs**

[www.iea.org.uk](http://www.iea.org.uk)

"Seeks to explain free-market ideas to the public, including politicians, students, journalists, businessmen, academics and anyone interested in public policy. Website contains news, events, publications, etc.

## **Institute for Fiscal Studies**

[www.ifs.org.uk](http://www.ifs.org.uk)

"Is a research institute which exists to provide economic analysis independent of government, political party or any other vested interest". Website includes publications, links, jobs listings, etc.

## **International Institute for Environment and Development**

[www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)

Is "an international policy research institute and non governmental body working for more sustainable and equitable global development.

## **International Institute of Strategic Studies**

[www.iiss.org](http://www.iiss.org)

Is "the world's leading authority on political-military conflict". Website includes events, publications, details of the research programme and conferences, etc.

## **Institute for Public Policy Research**

[www.ippr.org](http://www.ippr.org)

Is "a progressive think tank, producing cutting edge research and innovative policy ideas for a just, democratic and sustainable world. Website includes publications, events, articles, job listings, etc.

## **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**

[www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

Is "one of the largest social policy research and development charities in the UK. For over one hundred years the Foundation has been searching out the causes of social problems, investigating solutions and seeking to influence those who can make changes".

## **The Kings Fund**

[www.kingsfund.org.uk](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk)

Is "an independent charitable foundation working for better health, especially in London.

## **National Centre for Social Research**

[www.natcen.ac.uk](http://www.natcen.ac.uk)

Is "the largest independent social research institute in Britain. We design, carry out and analyse research studies in the fields of social and public policy - including extensive research among members of the public". Website includes research details, publications, seminars and conferences, job listings.

## **National Institute of Economic and Social Research**

[www.niesr.ac.uk](http://www.niesr.ac.uk)

"Aims to promote, through quantitative research, a deeper understanding of the interaction of economic and social forces that affect people's lives so that they may be improved". Website includes research overviews, events, publications, jobs, etc.

## **New Economics Foundation**

[www.neweconomics.org/gen](http://www.neweconomics.org/gen)

"Is an independent think-and-do tank that inspires and demonstrates real economic well-being. We aim to improve quality of life by promoting innovative solutions that challenge mainstream thinking on economic, environment and social issues. We work in partnership and put people and the planet first". Website includes jobs, articles, publications, news, links, etc.

## **New Local Government Network**

[www.nlgn.org.uk](http://www.nlgn.org.uk)

Is a "not-for-profit making, independent think tank, NLGN seeks to transform public services, revitalise local political leadership and empower local communities. NLGN is also the primary advocate of New Localism". Website has news, events, articles, publications, jobs, etc. and some interesting profiles of former interns.

## **New Policy Institute**

[www.npi.org.uk](http://www.npi.org.uk)

The New Policy Institute is "a progressive think-tank, founded in 1996". Current projects (Jan 2008) are around for example poverty, exclusion, credit/personal debt. Website includes project summaries, publications, vacancies, links, etc.

## **Overseas Development Institute**

[www.odi.org.uk](http://www.odi.org.uk)

Is "Britain's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues". Website includes publications, events, detail of research programmes and networks, jobs, etc.

## **Policy Exchange**

[www.policyexchange.org.uk](http://www.policyexchange.org.uk)

Is "an independent think-tank whose mission is to develop and promote new policy ideas which will foster a free society based on strong communities, personal freedom, limited government, national self-confidence and an enterprise culture". Site has event and publications details.

## **Policy Network**

[www.progressive-governance.net](http://www.progressive-governance.net)

Is "an international think tank dedicated to promoting progressive policies and the renewal of social democracy. Policy Network facilitates the sharing of ideas and experiences among politicians, policymakers and experts on the centre-left". Site includes publications, research programme details, events, links, etc.

## **Policy Studies Institute**

[www.psi.org.uk](http://www.psi.org.uk)

Is "one of Britain's leading independent research institutes, conducting research to promote economic well-being and improve quality of life". Publications event, news, links, etc can be found on the site.

## **Regulatory Policy Institute**

[www.rpieurope.org](http://www.rpieurope.org)

Is "an independent, charitable organisation dedicated to the study of all aspects of regulation and deregulation, including the institutional processes through which public policy is formed as well as the development, implementation, enforcement and impact of particular policies". Has events, publications, links, etc on website.

## **Scottish Council Foundation**

[www.scottishcouncilfoundation.org](http://www.scottishcouncilfoundation.org)

"Develops leading edge thinking and world-class practice to address Scotland's strategic challenges". Site has news, events, publications, etc.

## **The Smith Institute**

[www.smith-institute.org.uk](http://www.smith-institute.org.uk)

The Smith Institute is an independent think-tank, which has been set up to undertake research and education in issues that flow from the changing relationship between social values and economic imperatives.

## **Social Market Foundation**

[www.smf.co.uk](http://www.smf.co.uk)

The SMF was established in 1989 to provide a source of innovative economic and social policy ideas.

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Stephen Hill and Jeff Riley, March 2008