

ARVAC ANNUAL LECTURE

jointly hosted with
Community University Engagement East and
The Wellcome Trust

NOT A GAIN!

Critical approaches to the re-emergence of the impact debate
in the Voluntary and Community Sector.

08 May 2012

at the

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE

As a renewed impact debate is launched, some argue that providing evidence of what community groups do is essential to survive and those who do not may not deserve to survive. Yet, still undergoing arbitrary and disproportionate cuts, even after providing such evidence, many charities are pushed to the brink of extinction, as much as those who did not. Also, some who never did so now retain resources to meet their intended aims. Is the renewed impact debate therefore misleading the sector? Does engaging in it repeat the mistakes of the 90s? Are there echoes of bankers causing a disaster and now insisting they have the knowledge to get everyone out of it? We therefore see it as timely to answer questions such as:

- Where is the current impact debate taking community research and where should it be?
- Do we need a conceptual rethink of what impacts we really need to measure, if anything?

As in previous years, the ARVAC Annual Lecture offers the chance to hear and discuss these key issues with eminent speakers (yet to be confirmed) from the academic and voluntary and community sectors.