

## **Raj Patel, MBE**

**Associate Director of Policy and Impact Fellow, *Understanding Society***

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### **Policy, impact and research interests:**

Raj is a policy analyst and his expertise is in research, policy development, public relations, building partnerships and business development. His substantive areas of expertise include growth and regional development; entrepreneurship and innovation; labour markets and skills; and regeneration. Having worked in government, academia, business and charities at a senior level, he is particularly interested in ideas around how to better join up economic and social development. He is a strong proponent for strengthening academic and policy collaboration to improve long-term decision-making, fuel social innovation and improve lives. His current responsibilities cover the use of large scale data and evidence to understand economic and social change; facilitating knowledge exchange; and building networks and productive partnerships.

### **Current position:**

Lead *Understanding Society's* Policy and Partnerships Unit which engages and collaborates with government departments, parliament, public and third sector organisations, and business & trade unions in the use of the Study data and research findings. He plays a critical role in generating and demonstrating impact from this large scale data infrastructure investment and ensuring the Study is nationally and internationally recognised as critical for addressing major policy questions facing society. As a member of the Executive Team of *Understanding Society*, he is involved in setting the strategic direction for the Study, driving continual improvements, and managing performance.

### **Other positions:**

Editorial Board Member of the national and international *Local Economy* Journal

Founder and trustee of Action for Race Equality

### **Positions and research funding:**

- Associate Director of Policy, *Understanding Society*, University of Essex, Sept 2012 to current. ESRC Grant.
- Founding Director, Talent Economy: July 2011 to August 2012
- Director of Research and Policy, Learning and Skills Network (previously Learning and Skills Development Agency): October 2008 to May 2011
- Director of Policy, Enterprise UK: Nov 2003 to Sept 2008

- Head of Research and Development, Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities): Sept 2001 to October 2003
- Director of GLE Strategies, Greater London Enterprise (Regional Development Agency); April 1997 to August 2001
- Managing Consultant, CAG Consultants: April 1992 to March 1997

## Publications

- [\*Determinants of and barriers to active travel in Coventry and Warwickshire\*](#)  
R. Patel and S. Sen, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2021
- [\*Understanding Society COVID-19 Survey briefing note: working at home\*](#)  
P. Marzec, A. Nandi and R. Patel, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2021
- [\*Transforming Social Policies: insights, ideas and challenges in mobilising data and evidence\*](#)  
R. Patel, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2020
- [\*Understanding geographical mobility: briefing note\*](#)  
A. Pelikh, M. Borkowska and R. Patel, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2020
- [\*The Industrial Strategy: Building a more productive society\*](#)  
R. Patel, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2018
- *Understanding Society [Insights 2014 to Insights 2022](#)*  
*Annual findings from the UK Household Longitudinal Study*  
Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex
- [\*The State of Social Capital in Britain\*](#)  
R. Patel, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2016
- *Business as Usual? Increasing Employer Investment in Skills*  
B. Ashmead, J. Balfour, S. Kelly, R. Patel, D. Patel and C. Pullen, Learning and Skills Network, 2011
- *Engaging Employers to Drive up Skills*  
R. Patel, Learning and Skills Network, 2010
- *Beyond Leitch: Skills for the Upturn*  
C. Amadeo, C. Gracey, S. Kelly, B. Meyer and R. Patel, Learning and Skills Network, 2009
- *The Enterprise Report: Making Ideas Happen*  
R. Patel, Enterprise UK, 2005
- *Strategic Review of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund*  
R. Patel, Greater London Enterprise, 2004
- *Social Enterprise Strategy for London*  
R. Patel, London Boroughs Grant Committee, 2000
- *The Richness of Cities: Making Difference Matter*  
R. Patel, DEMOS and COMEDIA, 1998
- *A Guide to the Regionalisation of Governance in England for the Voluntary Sector*  
C. Parkinson, G. Clarke, A. Gray, C. Loveland and R. Patel, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 1998
- *Strategies in Community Economic Development*  
R. Patel, L. Williams and K. Zahno, CAG Consultants, 1996