CASE

Centre for Analysis of
Social Exclusion

annual report 2016

CASEreport 112

Staff and Associates 2016

Director

Professor John Hills (to September; then Chair)

Dr Tania Burchardt (from September)

Research Staff

Dr Tammy Campbell (from February)

Laura Lane

Dr Eleni Karagiannaki

Dr Abigail McKnight (Associate Director from September)

Dr Polina Obolenskaya

Prof Anne Power (Head of LSE Housing and Communities)

Dr Bert Provan

Nicola Serle (to August)

Dr Kitty Stewart (Associate Director from September)

Dr Polly Vizard (Associate Director from September)

Dr Lin Yang (from April)

(Total 6.525 FTE in October 2016)

Visiting Professors and Research Fellows

Dr Francesca Bastagli (ODI, to February)

Dr Jo Blanden (Surrey, to June)

Dr Moira Dustin (Equality and Diversity Forum and Sussex University)

Dr Leon Feinstein (Office of the Children's Commissioner)

Dr Ludovica Gambaro (UCL Institute of Education and DIW, Berlin)

Professor Ian Gough

Dr Aaron Grech (Bank of Malta)

Bruce Katz (Brookings)

Professor Ruth Lupton (Manchester)

Dr Lindsey Macmillan (UCL Institute of Education)

Liz Richardson (Manchester)

Professor Holly Sutherland (Essex)

Professor Jane Waldfogel (Columbia)

Moira Wallace (Oriel College, to February)

Professor Asghar Zaidi (University of Southampton)

Visitor

Thijs Van den Broek (Social Policy, LSE)

LSE Associates

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Professor Frank Cowell

Professor Emeritus Howard Glennerster

Professor Stephen Jenkins

Dr Neil Lee

Professor Julian Le Grand

Professor David Piachaud

Professor Lucinda Platt

Dr Amanda Sheely

Dr Hyun-Bang Shin

Professor Wendy Sigle

Research Students

Caroline Bryson

Kerris Cooper

Rikki Dean

Eileen Herden

Elena Mariani

Nick Mathers

Alice Miles

Julia Philipp (from October)

Nora Ratzmann

Ellie Suh

Kate Summers

Joel Suss (from October)

Milo Vandemoortele

Research assistants

Irene Bucelli (August-October)

Alice Belotti

Eileen Herden (April-May)

Emily Jones (to August)

Husnain Nasim (October-December)

Ellie Suh (to June)

Kate Summers (to May)

Centre Manager

Jane Dickson

Administrative and IT Support

Cheryl Conner

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Michael Rose (from July)

Jessica Rowan

Nic Warner

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Professor Stephen Jenkins (Head of LSE Social Policy Department; ex-officio)

Professor David Piachaud (LSE Social Policy Department, until June)

Professor Carol Propper (Bristol University and Imperial College

Contents

Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion

The Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), established in October 1997 at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), is a multi-disciplinary research centre exploring social disadvantage and the role of social and public policies in preventing, mitigating or exacerbating it. Social disadvantage is taken to be multidimensional, and often best understood in a dynamic or lifecourse perspective, and with individual, family, local, national and international aspects.

The work programme of the Centre includes monitoring social spending, policies and outcomes in the UK, international comparisons of poverty and of the association between social outcomes and labour market and welfare institutions, analysing patterns of social inequality, including wealth inequality, between groups and over time, developing applications of the capability approach and human rights measurement, and studying the intersection of climate change policy and social policy; as well as studies focused on particular groups and policy areas such as vulnerable children and early years education. We have close links with the LSE's International Inequalities Institute and are pursuing a joint programme with the Institute on the relationship between economic inequality and multidimensional poverty, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. CASE also incorporates the research and consultancy group LSE Housing and Communities, which investigates the impact of policies on social housing and other tenures with a particular focus on residents in disadvantaged areas.

CASE is associated with the Department of Social Policy and a number of postgraduate students are members of the Centre. We are always interested in working with high quality PhD students and post-doctoral fellows exploring areas of research of central relevance to our work. CASE also hosts visitors from the UK and overseas, and members of LSE teaching staff on sabbatical or research leave.

Regular seminars on significant contemporary empirical and theoretical issues are held in the Centre, including the Welfare Policy and Analysis seminar series, which is supported by the Department for Work and Pensions.

We publish a series of CASEpapers and CASEbriefs, discussing and summarising our research. Longer research reports and reports on special events can be found in our occasional CASEreports series. All of our publications, including this Annual Report, can be downloaded from our website, where you can also find links to the data underlying many of the charts and diagrams in our publications.

CASE is part of the Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines (STICERD). CASE was originally funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and now receives funding from a range of organisations including charitable foundations (for example, Nuffield Foundation, and Joseph Rowntree Foundation), research councils (for example, ESRC), UK government departments, the European Union, a range of Registered Social Landlords, and a number of other charities and organisations in the UK and abroad.

For more information about the Centre and its work, please visit **sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/**

2016: The year at a glance

January

Kitty Stewart started work on a new Nuffield Foundation project on segregation in early education settings, examining the extent of segregation and peer effects. She was joined on the research team by Ludovica Gambaro (ex-CASE, now DIW Berlin) and Tammy Campbell, a new member of CASE.

We also had a joint seminar with the International Inequalities Institute, presented by Peter Whiteford (ANU) and John Hills on comparing welfare myths and realities in the UK and Australia.

February

Tony Fahy, from UC Dublin, presented a paper on family patterns and social inequality among children in the US since 1940, and Daniela Silcock, from the Pensions Policy Institute, gave a paper on pension reforms and the danger of being left behind.

Polly Vizard and colleagues were awarded an extension to our project on multidimensional disadvantage of groups of children who are often missing from statistical analyses, to cover newly arrived migrant children (funded by the Nuffield Foundation).

March

Abigail McKnight started work on an evidence review of the links between poverty and inequality in the UK for Oxfam GB.

We held a joint workshop with the UK Administrative Justice Institute on sanctions and inequalities, organised by Lucinda Platt.

Annie Austin, University of Manchester, presented a paper on the effects of economic crisis on personal values.

April

We launched a book published by Policy Press, bringing together the work done under the *Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme, Social policy in a cold climate: Policies and their consequences since the crisis*. The book offers a data-rich, evidence-based analysis of the impact Labour and Coalition government policies have had on inequality and on the delivery of services such as health, education, adult social care, housing and employment, in the wake of the recession.

Lin Yang joined the Centre as a research officer on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation programme on economic inequality and multidimensional poverty, which we are conducting jointly with the LSE's International Inequalities Institute.

John Hills at the book launch for Social Policy in a Cold Climate

May

We had two seminars in May, one on household debt and spending by Philip Bunn (Bank of England) and one on UK welfare reform and the intergenerational transmission of dependence by Jim Siliak, University of Kentucky.

Anne Power launched her book *Cities for a Small Continent: International Handbook of City Recovery* in conjunction with La Fabrique de la Cité, which details 10 years of ground-level research into the ways Europe's ex-industrial cities are treading new paths in sustainability. The book uses seven case-study cities to detail how and why city change happens, and how cities in the world's smallest, most crowded, most city-loving continent can build a more viable, balanced and sustainable urban future.

Jointly with Age UK and NHS England, we held a series of interactive workshops for healthcare practitioners on improving older people's care in hospitals, building on our research on dignity and help with eating for elderly in-patients.

June

We held a one-day workshop on "Tackling Education Inequalities" organised by CASE Associate, Jane Waldfogel, and funded by the Sutton Trust. The workshop brought together 18 scholars from the UK, US, Canada, Japan, Ireland, Italy, and international organizations such as OECD and UNICEF to review what we know and what we need to learn about the determinants, magnitude, and remedies for inequalities in achievement and related aspects of child development and well-being in the early years, school years, and post-secondary years.

Nikki Luke, University of Oxford, presented a paper on the educational progress of looked-after children in England, Simonetta Longhi, University of Essex, presented work on the role of partner effects in getting back to work after a job loss, and Karen Rowlingson, University of Birmingham, presented work on lifetime gifts, family relationships and inequality.

2016: The year at a glance (continued)

September

This month saw a change in the management structure of the centre, with John Hills moving to become the Chair of CASE, as a result of his involvement in the new International Inequalities Institute. The Director of CASE is now Tania Burchardt, assisted by three Associate Directors, Abigail McKnight, Kitty Stewart and Polly Vizard. Anne Power continues to head up the LSE Housing and Communities group.

Tania Burchardt and Eleni Karagiannaki started an ESRC-funded project on intra-household allocation of resources and its implications for poverty, deprivation and inequality across the EU.

October

We welcomed two new PhD students to the Centre: Joel Suss, working on how economic inequality affects individual behaviour and decision-making, and Julia Philipps, in her second year working on the effect of different gender identities on work and the domestic division of labour.

November

We had two seminars in our Social Exclusion Series, both by members of the LSE's Social Policy Department: David Piachaud on the rights and wrongs of a Citizen's Income, and Sonia Exley on open policy-making in education. We also had presentations by Ricky Kanabar, University of Essex, on low income dynamics among ethnic minorities in the UK, and Susan Harkness, University of Bath, on the effects of motherhood and lone motherhood on income and poverty risks.

At the LSE Research Festival, Kerris Cooper won the LSE's Three Minute Thesis competition, which challenges PhD students to communicate the significance of their research to a non-specialist audience in under three minutes, with the aid of one presentation slide. Well done, Kerris! Other exhibits from CASE featured in all three categories of the research festival (Headlined abstract, poster and photograph) and although our exhibits did not win any of the prizes, two were mentioned as particularly excellent, including an abstract by Tammy Campbell, Ludovica Gambaro and Kitty Stewart on their work "Universal" Pre-schooling: who benefits? Three-year-olds from higher-income families access more free early education than less affluent peers". Also commended was a powerful photo "I Have to Rely On So Many People For So Much" by Eileen Alexander, representing her PhD research into the role of financial support from family among those on low incomes (see page 32).

Susan Harkness' seminar on the effects of motherhood and lone motherhood on income and poverty risks

CASE held the first event in a new seminar series "Climate Change, Inequality and Social Policy" co-hosted with the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (GRI) and the International Inequalities Institute (III). It is convened and chaired by Prof Ian Gough, Visiting Professor at CASE and Associate at Grantham. The series will explore and develop the important but under-researched overlap between environmental pressures and degradation on the one hand and the "social dimension" of inequality and human wellbeing on the other. They focus on global warming and climate change rather than a wider range of environmental problems, and on the UK and other rich countries – the "welfare states" of the OECD.

December

Polina Obolenskaya, Bert Provan and Kitty Stewart presented their research at a conference held in Paris entitled "Government and Public Services in an Age of Fiscal Consolidation: Comparative views from France and the UK". The event was jointly organised by the Universities of Paris 1 and Paris 3, together with the London-based Policy Network and IPPR. The programme included plenary sessions and workshops on governance and finance, and sectoral studies (energy, employment, education, housing, and health) with a round table on Brexit. There were over 200 attendees, including former Coalition Cabinet Minister Vince Cable MP.

Rikki Dean successfully defended his thesis on the different meanings and functions of public participation in policy-making. Rikki developed a new typology of approaches to participation, and conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis of data collected from interviews with expert informants involved in a range of different participatory exercises in social policy.

The final seminar of the year was by Jane Waldfogel on improving the measurement of poverty in the US.

2016: Review of the year

This has been a year of continuity and change for CASE: continuity, in that we remain focused on our research agenda on disadvantage in all its many dimensions and the social policies that prevent, mitigate or exacerbate it; and change, in that our founder and long-standing director John Hills has stepped up to become Chair of CASE, allowing him more time to devote to his role as co-director of the International Inequalities Institute. Day-to-day management of the Centre has passed to me and a newly-appointed team of Associate Directors (Polly Vizard, Abigail McKnight and Kitty Stewart). We are grateful that John continues to provide invaluable advice on the overall direction of the Centre and delighted that he remains closely involved in many of our research projects.

New research

One such project is part of a new joint programme with the International Inequalities Institute, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, on the relationship between economic inequality and multidimensional poverty (see pages 18-19). This three year programme is extending the empirical, cross-national evidence on the association between different measures of poverty and of inequality across time and across countries, and reviewing existing theory and evidence across disciplines about the relationship between them. The first phase is being led by Abigail McKnight and Polly Vizard with Lin Yang. The aim is to develop a better understanding of the extent to which and how anti-poverty strategies need to incorporate interventions to reduce economic inequalities, and in the second part of the programme we will be homing in on specific possible mechanisms and policy responses. Alongside this, Abigail McKnight was commissioned by Oxfam GB to produce a report on the relationship between poverty and inequality specifically in the UK, including differences within and between regions and population sub-groups.

Another significant project on poverty that got underway this year is exploring the implications for estimates of poverty, deprivation and inequality across the EU of different assumptions about the sharing of resources within households, particularly in relation to complex households (Tania Burchardt and Eleni Karagiannaki, funded by the ESRC). This was prompted by the observation that the assumption of equal sharing that is implicit in the use of standard equivalence scales to adjust household incomes for variations in household size was particularly unlikely to hold in households containing adults of more than one generation. The proportion of households of this type varies at least three-fold between, for example, some Nordic and Mediterranean countries, so the distorting effect of the equal sharing assumption on poverty estimates may vary correspondingly.

Two other current research projects in the Centre focus on disadvantage among children, both supported by the Nuffield Foundation. The first, led by Kitty Stewart and Ludovica Gambaro (Institute of Education) with Tammy Campbell, is investigating the clustering of children in early years education by socio-economic characteristics (see pages 10-11). The phenomenon of polarisation vs mixing and its effects is well-researched at primary school level but this is the first study to examine whether similar or different dynamics are observed in pre-school settings.

The second project, led by Polly Vizard with Polina Obolenskaya, Tania Burchardt and Isabel Shutes, is exploiting a range of administrative and secure-access survey datasets to gain insight into the disadvantages experienced by four groups of children who are often overlooked or missing in standard poverty and deprivation analysis: young carers (see pages 8-9), children at risk of abuse or neglect, Gypsy and Traveller children, and recently arrived migrants. Building on our previous work on the Equality Measurement Framework, we are investigating indicators of disadvantage across the four dimensions of standard of living, education, health, and physical security, in so far as data sources allow.

In addition, the LSE Housing and Communities group led by Anne Power within CASE has been successful in building on their Housing Plus Academy at the Tenants National Resource Centre in Trafford Hall to secure new funding for a series of Citizen Think Tanks on social housing and welfare reform. The Academy has had huge success bringing together housing associations and other social landlords, local and national policymakers, tenants and their organisations and opening up new avenues of research and policy attention to private renting for low income households.

Tania Burchardt, Director of CASE

2016: Review of the year (continued)

Enjoying some cakes together at CASE

New people and people moving on

New research means new people and we were delighted to recruit Research Officers Tammy Campbell and Lin Yang to join our team. We have also welcomed two new doctoral research students: Joel Suss, working on how economic inequality affects individual behaviour and decision-making, and Julia Philipp, in her second year working on the effect of different gender identities on work and the domestic division of labour.

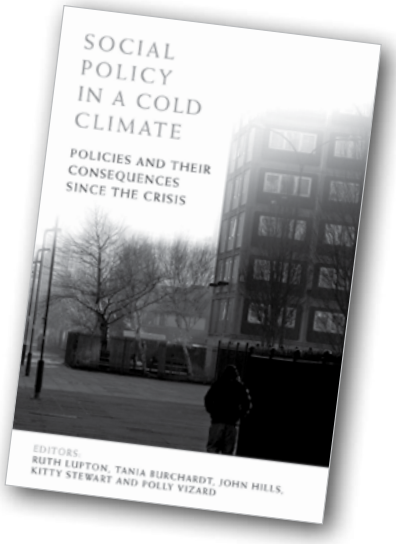
Meanwhile congratulations are due to Rikki Dean and Elena Mariani who completed their PhD theses this year. Rikki's is on how policymakers, participants and other stakeholders think about and frame public participation in policy-making and the implications for how systems of participation should be designed. Elena's is on the role of family processes in explaining job satisfaction. We wish them all the best in their continuing careers. Nicola Serle, a long-standing and highly valued member of the LSE Housing and Communities team, took the plunge this year and embarked on a new career in teaching. She is keeping us posted with insights from the frontline!

Jane Waldfogel, Columbia University, returned once again to CASE, and we are privileged that she will this time stay with us for a full year, continuing her work on child poverty and early years policies on both sides of the Atlantic and in China (see pages 12-13). We were also pleased to host Thijs van den Broek, a research officer with the ALPHA research group, working with Emily Grundy on a project exploring the health and wellbeing outcomes of intergenerational exchanges.

CASE enjoys a reputation for being a supportive and enjoyable place to work, and we were very proud that the LSE-wide staff survey confirmed that impression, with more positive results overall than many other units in the School. Particular thanks are due to the Centre manager and administrators, Jane Dickson, Cheryl Conner and Jess Rowan, and first-class IT support from Nic Warner, Yusuf Osman and Michael Rose, as well as to our unofficial social secretary Kerris Cooper, all of whom play a key part in maintaining the pleasant working atmosphere. The staff survey also highlighted some areas for improvement for us, particularly in relation to job security and careers advice for research staff, which we are seeking to address in 2017.

New publications, new events and new impact

Space does not permit me to give a full account of the wealth of new publications and events that were produced by the Centre during the year. Fortunately details are provided elsewhere in this annual report (pages 40-43 and 44 respectively). One particular highlight was the launch in April of our book, *Social Policy in a Cold Climate: policies and their consequences since the crisis*, which brought together the findings of our eponymous four-year programme. Altogether, there have been 1.2 million downloads of our publications from that programme (according to standard metrics), and we have been invited to provide briefings for politicians from across the political spectrum, as well as for other policymakers and a wide range of civil society organisations. There is also interest from academics



and commentators in other countries in comparing experiences of the policy response to the economic crisis and we participated in an Anglo-French conference on this theme in December, at which Vince Cable MP offered some frank and revealing commentary on decision-making within the Coalition government. Our thanks to Bert Provan, CASE Knowledge Broker, and to Cheryl Conner, for facilitating this and many other such activities. A fuller report on our knowledge exchange activities can be found on page 31.

Continuity and change

I began this review by noting that it had been a year of continuity and change for CASE. This has also, arguably, been true for the UK as a whole. The dramatic referendum result and political fallout challenged some long-held assumptions about the social, economic and political landscape, but also brought to the fore some of the inequalities and divides that CASE research (among others) has highlighted over many years. Now more than ever it seems important to keep track of how the policies that are being adopted in response, in the conditions of considerable uncertainty associated with the transition to Brexit, are affecting these inequalities and the most disadvantaged groups, and we are in the process of seeking funding to continue our programme of work monitoring policies, spending and outcomes over the lifetime of the current parliament.

Tania Burchardt, Director of CASE

2017: Looking forward to the year ahead

Spring term
In February, Abigail McKnight and Eleni Karagiannaki will be giving a lecture in the LSE Works Series on "The Relationship between Inequality and Poverty: mechanisms and policy options". This series showcases some of the latest research by LSE researchers, demonstrating the implications of their studies for public policy.

This will be followed in March with a launch event for the Oxfam GB and CASE report on the links between poverty and economic inequality in the UK.

Policy Press will be publishing a substantially revised second edition of John Hills' book *Good Times, Bad Times: The Welfare Myth of Them and Us*. Also this spring, John is presenting at the LSE Literary Festival event *Stagnation Generation: Exploring intergenerational fairness*, alongside Georgia Gould (Cabinet member for Young People, Adults and Health, London Borough of Camden), Omar Khan (The Runnymede Trust), and David Willetts (The Resolution Trust, formerly MP for Havant and Minister for Universities and Science) hosted by the Resolution Foundation and the International Inequalities Institute at LSE.

Elena Mariani will defend her thesis on job satisfaction and family context.

Summer term
Forthcoming seminars as part of the new *Climate Change, Inequality and Social Policy* series include

"Would income redistribution result in higher aggregate emissions?" with Lutz Sagar, LSE Geography and Environment (27 April) and "Postgrowth and Wellbeing" with Milena Buchs, University of Leeds and Max Koch, Lund University (25 May).

A set of papers will be coming out from the first two phases of the research programme "Improving the Evidence Base for Understanding the Links between Inequalities and Poverty", in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. We will then be moving onto phases 3 and 4 focussing on specific mechanisms and policies.

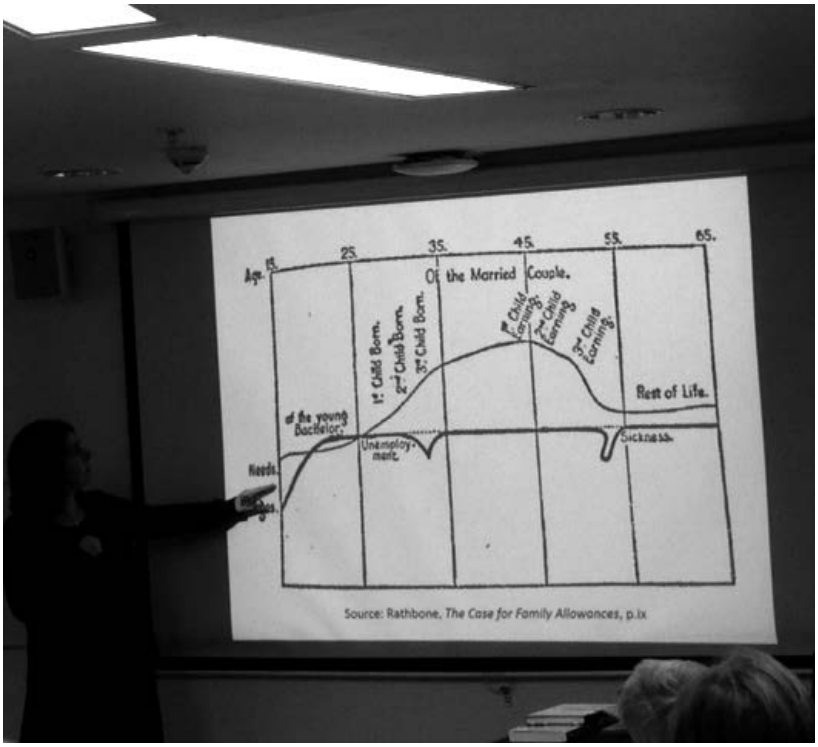
The innovative Housing Plus Academy developed by LSE Housing and Communities to promote knowledge exchange and participative learning among frontline staff and tenants of social landlords continues with four further events this summer. There will be Tenant Think Tanks on Housing and Health and Estate Regeneration and Policy Think Tanks on Private Renting and Estate Regeneration: the New Agenda, all hosted at the National Communities Resource Centre, Trafford Hall, Chester.

Autumn term
The launch of results from our Nuffield Foundation project on multidimensional disadvantage of vulnerable children will be in the autumn.

Tania Burchardt and Eleni Karagiannaki will start work on a new project in collaboration with Fiona Steele (LSE Statistics) from October. Their project "Methods for the Analysis of Longitudinal Dyadic Data with an Application to Intergenerational Exchanges of Family Support" has been funded by the ESRC.

Ian Gough's book *Heat, Greed and Human Need: Climate Change, Capitalism and Sustainable Wellbeing* is due to be published by Edward Elgar.

It's the 20th anniversary of CASE in October. Plans for a celebration to be announced soon!



Kitty Stewart's public lecture to commemorate Eleanor Rathbone

“Missing” and “invisible” children: Poverty among young carers in the UK

Polina Obolenskaya, Polly Vizard and Tania Burchardt

While young carers as a group are recognized as “children in need” as well as being at risk of poverty and multidimensional disadvantage, they have remained “missing from”, or “invisible within” national reporting of child poverty due to the fact that poverty statistics are not reported for them separately as a group. Our work shows that young carers in the UK have had a distinct path of poverty risks compared to all other children since before the recession.

As part of the project funded by the Nuffield Foundation on the “Multidimensional poverty and disadvantage among ‘missing’ and ‘invisible’ children”, we used a number of poverty measures from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) and Households Below Average Income Survey (HBAI). We compared risks of income poverty among dependent children and young people aged 5 to 19 who were young carers and those who were not during the period between 2005/07 and 2011/13. Young carers are defined as those who provide care for a person who experiences physical or mental ill-health or disability, or problems relating to old age, inside or outside of their household on an unpaid basis. Our findings show that young carers are more likely to be disadvantaged on a range of indicators compared to other children and young people. For example, using three year pooled data for 2011/13, we found that a higher proportion of young carers lived with a disabled parent compared to non-carers (66 per cent vs 21 per cent, respectively), in households headed by a lone parent (34 per cent of carers vs 25 per cent of all other children), and in workless households or households where not all adults are in work (34 per cent of carers vs 14 per cent of all other children).

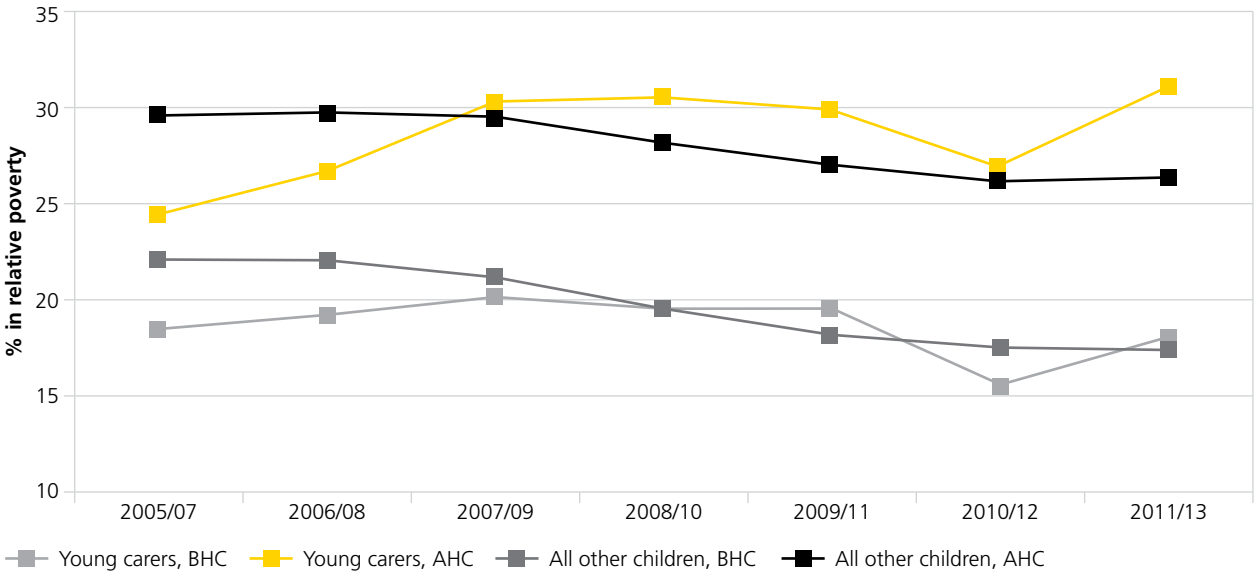
The operational measures of child poverty used in this study are based on the definitions set out in the Child Poverty Act (2010). We used absolute and relative poverty measures based on the net total equivalised household income before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC). The relative poverty measure refers to income below 60 per cent of contemporary median income, while the absolute measure of poverty refers to income below 60 per cent of 2010/11 median income held constant in real terms.

While young carers were relatively protected from income poverty pre-recession, they fared significantly worse than other children by 2011/13.

Our findings show that there has been a reversal in fortunes in terms of poverty rates over the period between 2005/07 and 2011/13 among young carers and all other children. In 2005/07 young carers were significantly less likely to be in poverty compared to all other children based on relative and absolute low income measures (both BHC and AHC) and by 2011/13 young carers were significantly more likely to be in AHC poverty (using both relative and absolute measures).

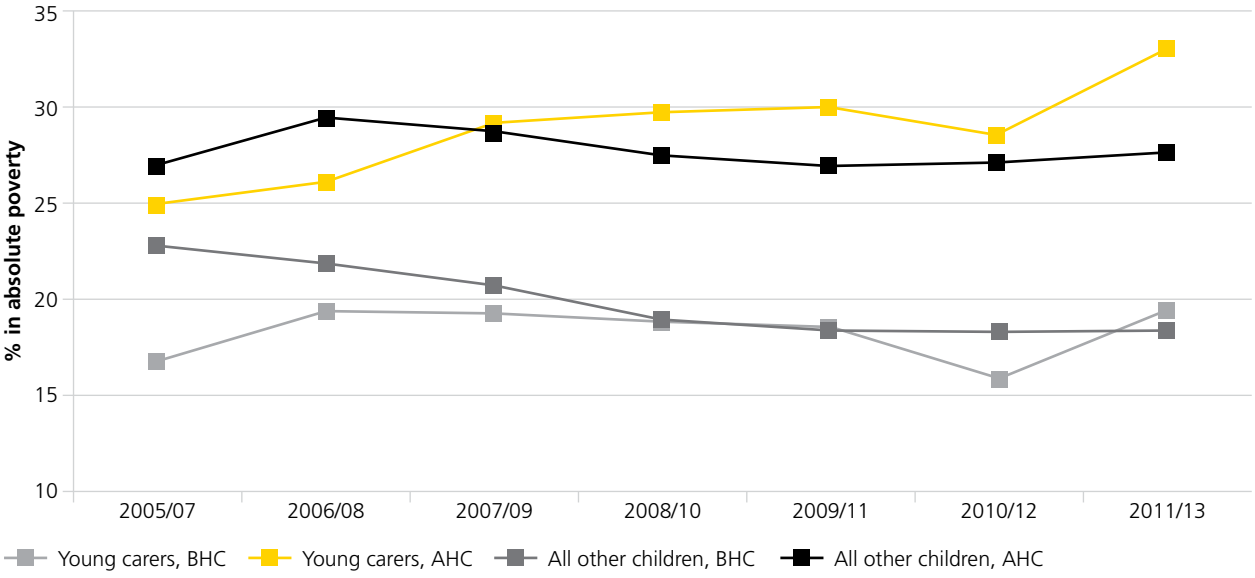
In 2005/07, 18.4 per cent and 24.2 per cent of young carers were in relative BHC and AHC poverty, respectively, significantly lower proportions compared to all other children (with corresponding BHC and AHC figures being 22 per cent and 29.5 per cent, respectively). By 2011/13, young carers were significantly more likely to be in relative AHC poverty:

Figure 1: Percentage of young carers and all other children in relative poverty, Before Housing Costs (BHC) and After Housing Costs (AHC), three-year pooled data between 2005/07 and 2011/13



Source: Authors’ analysis of the FRS/HBAI data

Figure 2: Percentage of young carers and all other children in absolute poverty, Before Housing Costs (BHC) and After Housing Costs (AHC), three-year pooled data between 2005/07 and 2011/13



Source: Authors' analysis of the FRS/HBAI data

31.0 per cent of young carers compared to 26.3 per cent of other children and young people (Figure 1).

Using the absolute poverty measure, we found that 18.6 per cent and 29.6 per cent of young carers were in BHC and AHC poverty in 2005/07, respectively, with the corresponding figures for all other children at 18.6 per cent and 24.8 per cent. By 2011/13, 31.0 per cent and 32.9 per cent of young carers were living in relative and absolute AHC poverty, respectively – significantly higher proportions than all other children (26.3 per cent and absolute poverty 27.6 per cent) (Figure 2).

The reversal in poverty patterns of young carers compared to all other children can partly be explained by increasing housing costs and rates of worklessness that had a particularly adverse impact on young carers' income.

While many experienced loss of work during the recession and downturn, some groups were hit more than others and young carers appear to have been particularly affected. In the period between 2005/07 and 2011/13, the proportion of young carers living in workless households increased by almost 10 percentage points from 25 per cent to 34 per cent, while remaining relatively flat among all other children (15 per cent in 2005/07 and 14 per cent in 2011/13). The increase in worklessness among households with young carers is reflected in the fall in the share of income coming from employment from 69 per cent to 58 per cent during the period, and again, remaining flat for other children (81 per cent and 80 per cent).

Although there was an increase in the proportion of income coming from benefits along with a greater increase in the median benefits amount received by households with carers compared to all other children during the period, a much higher increase in the housing costs among young carers meant that the AHC income fell substantially more for them. Among young carers, housing costs have increased by almost 15 per cent over the period, but among all other children it was only by 4 per cent. We explain this pattern by the fact that young carers were less likely to gain from the reduction in housing costs, resulting from falling mortgage interest rates in the wake of the financial crisis and economic downturn. This is because young carers were increasingly more likely to be living in rented accommodation.

Regression analyses confirmed our findings and showed that the risks of household AHC poverty have increased significantly for young carers after controlling for a range of compositional factors. It also confirms the importance of worklessness as an explanatory factor underlying changes in poverty among young carers, as well suggesting that caring status became a stronger predictor of child poverty in 2011/13 than in 2005/07.

With an upturn in child poverty forecast, and with ongoing reforms to benefits and transfers that are likely to impact on households with young carers, these findings highlight the importance of monitoring and reporting on young carers' poverty risks separately from all other children and young people's.

Further information

Vizard, P., Obolenskaya, P. and Burchardt, T. (forthcoming), "Extending the evidence base on child income poverty and material deprivation: the case of young carers in the UK", CASEpaper.

“Universal” pre-schooling: who benefits? Patterns in access to the full duration of the entitlement to free early education in England

Tammy Campbell, Ludovica Gambaro and Kitty Stewart

For a decade, all autumn-born children in England have been entitled to five terms of pre-school provision. One of the aims of this policy is to close the developmental gap between higher-income and low-income children. But the success of the initiative may be compromised if low-income families do not access the full hours available.

Since the turn of the century, early education in England has been funded for all children from the term after they turn three. As most start primary school at the beginning of the academic year in which they turn five, this means that autumn-born children are entitled to five terms’ free pre-schooling, spring-borns to four terms, and summer-borns to three. Currently, all three-year-olds are eligible for 15 funded hours per week, with a rise in 2017 to 30 hours for families with working parents.

Indications of the success of these free hours in impacting children’s development – and, in particular, the progress of low-income children – have, to date, been limited.[1] There are a number of reasons why this may be the case – including disparities according to children’s backgrounds in provision quality[2] and minimal changes post-funding to attendance patterns.[3]

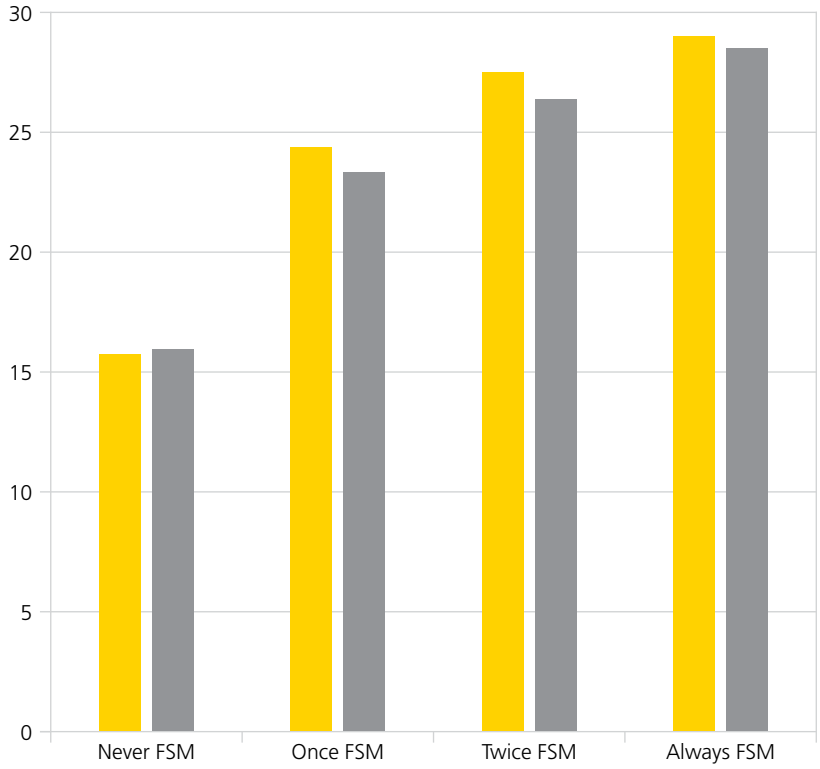
In this work, we interrogate another aspect of the implementation of the free hours: differential take-up according to family characteristics. If low-income children are proportionately less likely to attend for the full duration of their pre-school entitlement, this may, in practice, result in a relative boost to their higher-income peers, which could widen – rather than narrow – developmental gaps.

We focus our analyses on autumn-born children, because the available data can be exploited to explore whether they take up the five terms to which they are eligible, or not. We combine data from the national Early Years Censuses and Spring Schools Censuses to create a whole picture of attendance in spring 2010 (age three) and Spring 2011 (age four) among one cohort of children, born between September 2006 and August 2007. We also match later information from the National Pupil Database to construct a proxy for low-income: whether and how many times a child claims free school meals (FSM) in their first three years of primary school.

We find that 18 per cent of the children in our cohort do not attend in 2010, so are not present for the full five terms of their entitlement. This rises to 29 per cent among children who claim FSM in each year of their early education. We find that children speaking English as an additional language (EAL) are also less likely to attend (39 per cent do not take up their five terms, compared to 14 per cent of English speakers). However, our analysis suggests that having EAL does not account for lower national levels of attendance among low-income children.

Nor does a pupil’s ethnicity, though we illustrate wide variation in take-up according to this factor: 50 per cent of Bangladeshi children attend for fewer than five terms, compared to 13 per cent of White British children. Figure 1 shows the probability of families who claim FSM for varying periods in early primary school not attending their full duration – firstly, as a raw percentage, and secondly, as a predicted probability from a regression accounting for EAL, ethnicity, gender, and month of birth. Little moderation of patterns by income-level can be attributed to these characteristics: nationally, low-income children remain least likely to attend.

Figure 1: Patterns in non-take-up of full duration of free pre-schooling



So why else might low-income families access less free provision than their higher-income peers? The data allow us to investigate variation by local authority (LA) as one possible factor. We find enormous disparity according to local area – from 53 per cent non-attendance in 2010 in the LA with the lowest take-up, to 4 per cent in the LA with the highest. And we see that there are differences in access according to the proportion of children in an LA attending maintained (school / local authority) provision in 2011, and that there are also inequalities according to an area's deprivation level.

Our modelling indicates that some of the national inequity in take-up according to income-level can be explained by these factors, but that much remains unexplained. Low-income autumn-born children continue to be less likely to utilise their full five terms of pre-school education, and we cannot account substantially for the causes of this using the administrative data available.

We therefore suggest that further, detailed research into the reasons for and implications of attendance patterns according to income-level be prioritised by policy-makers devising strategies on early education and care. Particularly given the expansion of spending on this area, this will ensure that resources can most effectively and equitably be allocated.

Further information:

The paper discussed here is one part of a Nuffield Foundation-funded project investigating clustering and social mix among pre-school children. Other strands include a comparison of patterns of pre-school peer composition to local area make-up/later primary school peer constitution; an examination of the relationships between pre-school peer group and early educational outcomes; an unpicking of the drivers of clustering within pre-schools; and an exploration of trajectories of transition from pre-school to primary school, and of variations in pathways by pupil characteristics.

1.Blanden, J., Del Bono, E., McNally, S., and Rabe, B. (2016). "Universal pre-school education: The case of public funding with private provision," *The Economic Journal*, 126(592): 682-723

2. Gambaro, L., Stewart, K., and Waldfogel, J. (2015). "A question of quality: Do children from disadvantaged backgrounds receive lower quality early childhood education and care?" *British Educational Research Journal*, 41(4): 553-574

3. Blanden et al, ibid.

Improving the Measurement of Poverty in the United States

Jane Waldfogel

An accurate measure is essential to gauge the impact of government efforts to reduce poverty. This was the case in the UK, when Tony Blair and Gordon Brown waged their war on child poverty, and it was also the case in the US, as we marked the 50th anniversary of our War on Poverty. Although trends in the official poverty measure (OPM) suggest "we waged a war on poverty and poverty won" (as President Ronald Reagan famously remarked), the OPM is badly flawed. In recent work, a group of us at Columbia re-examined trends in poverty using an improved measure and found that the story was quite different.

The Official Poverty Measure (OPM)

The OPM was developed in 1961 by Mollie Orshansky for "temporary emergency use." At that time, food was the primary household expenditure, with 1/3 of expenses going toward food, so the cost of a minimally adequate diet in 1955 was multiplied by three and adjusted for family composition to set thresholds. These absolute thresholds are updated annually for inflation, but not changes in living standards, so they are now much lower, as a percentage of median incomes, than in the past.

The problems with the OPM are well known. Today, housing, not food, is the largest household expenditure. Thresholds are not adjusted for geographic variation in cost of living. Income in the OPM does not include many government transfers, eg, tax credits and non-cash benefits such as food stamps (SNAP) and public housing. Nor is income adjusted for necessary expenses – child support, work expenses, child care, and medical out-of-pocket expenditures (MOOP). The unit of analysis is family or unrelated individuals, with cohabitors treated as unrelated individuals. The equivalence scale is flawed. No distinction is made between different types of owners and renters. And thresholds assume elderly people require less money for food than non-elderly.

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

Moving to a new measure is challenging – for both political and technical reasons. The Obama administration therefore decided to implement an improved "supplemental" measure alongside the official one. The SPM sets more appropriate "quasi-relative" thresholds and better accounts for resources (cash and non-cash transfers including food stamps and tax credits, work and medical expenses).

Census has released SPM estimates since 2009, but not historically. My colleagues Liana Fox, Irv Garfinkel, Neeraj Kaushal, Chris Wimer, and I provided the first historical estimates using SPM (Fox et al., 2015), and estimates using an "anchored SPM" where thresholds are anchored to today's SPM poverty line and then taken back historically adjusting for inflation using CPI-U-RS (Wimer et al., 2016).

Estimating the SPM

Following Census procedures, we set thresholds using the Consumer Expenditure Survey (1961-2012) at the 30-36th percentile of expenditures on food, clothing, shelter, utilities for all two-child households (plus 20 per cent for other necessities). To set anchored thresholds, we define 2012 thresholds using data for 2007-2012 and then carry them back historically adjusting for inflation using the CPI-U-RS. The shelter component of the threshold is estimated separately by housing status (renter, owner with mortgage, owner without mortgage). A three-parameter equivalence scale is used to adjust for family size/composition. Thresholds are then adjusted for geographical differences in cost of living.

We obtain income data from the 1968-2013 CPS ASEC, adding the value of in-kind benefits including food stamps, energy subsidies, housing subsidies, school lunch, and WIC. In years when these benefits are not recorded in the data, we impute values. We also adjust income for tax liabilities/credits using NBER's TAXSIM model for years when those are not available in the data. We also deduct MOOP, child care, and work expenses which we impute using data from CEX.

Results Using the SPM

Using the SPM has altered our understanding of the record since War on Poverty. While trends with OPM show no progress, trends using the anchored SPM show that poverty has fallen by about 40 per cent since 1967 (Figure 1). In addition, the SPM allows us to see that the safety net plays a substantial and growing role in reducing poverty (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Official vs Supplemental Poverty Rates, 1967-2012

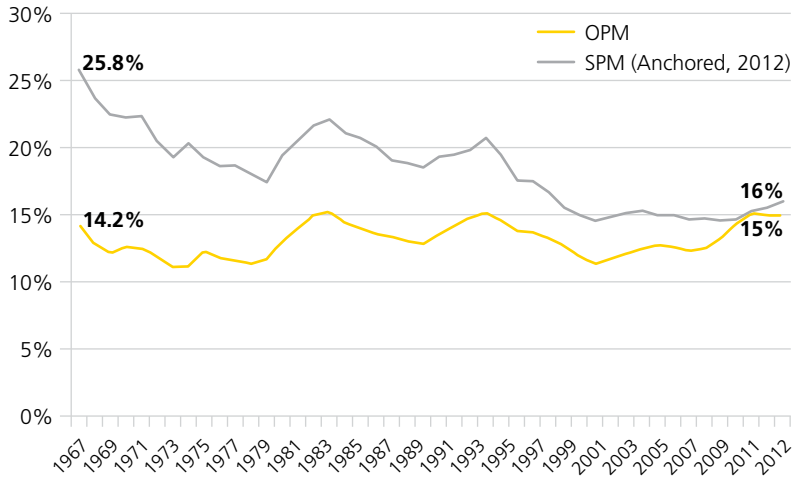


Figure 1 from Wimer et al., 2016

Figure 2: Effects of Taxes and Transfers on Poverty Rates, 1967-2012

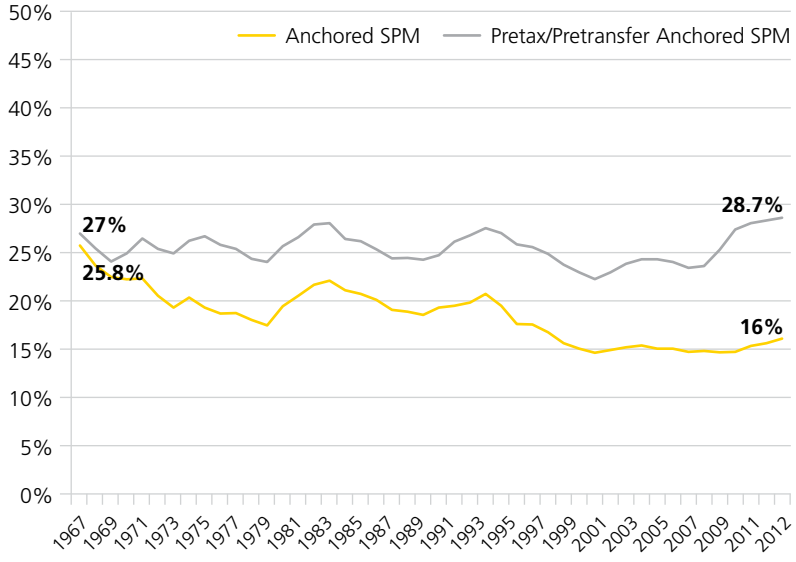


Figure 2 from Wimer et al., 2016

The reduction in poverty, and the role of the safety net, would be obscured if we limited our analysis to OPM. Our SPM results were widely cited in the US press and in the Economic Report of the President. They were also cited by President Barack Obama in his remarks on the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty:

We need to set aside the belief that government cannot do anything about reducing inequality… Without Social Security, nearly half of seniors would be living in poverty — half. Today, fewer than 1 in 10 do… And because we've strengthened that safety net, and expanded pro-work and pro-family tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit, a recent study found that the poverty rate has fallen by 40 per cent since the 1960s.

Next Steps

The US has substantial state policy variation, so we are extending our analysis to the state level. We have produced a State Poverty Chartbook that shows SPM rates, and trends by state (using a geographically adjusted measure). We have also used the SPM to estimate the impact of a "race to the top" in cash assistance, EITC, child tax credit, and food stamps. We are also using the SPM to estimate trends for key subpopulations (eg, young children, young adults, foster children) and by factors such as race/ethnicity, family structure, urban vs rural residence. And, in the year ahead, we will be using the SPM to model the impact of proposed policy reforms at both the federal and state level.

Further information:

Fox, L., Wimer, C., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., and Waldfogel, J. (2015). "Waging war on poverty: Poverty trends using a historical supplemental poverty measure." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 34*(3), 567-592.

Wimer, C., Fox, L., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N., and Waldfogel, J. (2016). "Progress on poverty? New estimates of historical trends using an anchored supplemental poverty measure." *Demography*, 53(4), 1207-1218.

To learn more about our work with the SPM, go to the Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy website: **povertycenter.columbia.edu/**

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Back to basics?

David Piachaud

The idea of an unconditional basic income, often known in Britain as a Citizen's Income, is something which, like Brexit, is surrounded by confusion and controversy. For some, it is an old idea with little to offer; for others it is the best hope for future economic and social policy. A recent CASE paper, Citizen's Income: Rights and Wrongs, attempts to clear up some of the confusion and examine the case that has been made for it.

Once upon a time, on a small island, it was discovered that under the surrounding sea there was oil worth lots and lots of money. Some people suggested that the fairest use of the revenue from this oil was to distribute it equally among all the citizens of the island. Others said it would be fairer to give more to those who were poorest or spend the revenue on education and health. Others wanted other taxes to be reduced. Finally, the Treasury decided it would do a bit of each of these – and the opportunity to introduce a Basic or Citizen's Income for all was missed. Now there is no windfall like North Sea Oil revenue in prospect and to introduce a Basic Income would require more taxation, and if it were to be paid to everyone it would be extremely expensive. So why do some favour a Basic Income?

Britain, as a whole, is not a poor country and it can afford to provide a minimum standard for everyone. Some see a minimum standard of living as a human right that should be available to all unconditionally. What could be simpler than paying this minimum to every citizen without any conditions? The present social security system is horribly complex with tests of contributions, age, disabilities, job-seeking, dependents, and the income and capital of claimants. If everyone got the same basic income then all complexities could be swept away. And in the future if, as some foresee, robots replace many, perhaps even most, current jobs, then all would still be assured a minimum income.

Yet, with no windfall to pay for such a basic income, the cost of providing even a poverty level minimum to all would be enormous. It could well involve doubling existing tax rates. Of course on average there would be no gain or loss, and most would be receiving the basic income and at the same time paying much more in taxes. The result might seem simpler, but would it be fairer?

One of the proclaimed advantages of a basic income is that it would be "unconditional" – all would get it whatever they did (providing they were a citizen or met some residence requirement). This avoids discriminating between "deserving" and "undeserving" in the way that the social security system discriminates. It also avoids discriminating between those who want to work and are seeking work and, by contrast, those who choose not to work because they are idle, lazy and prefer to do nothing or prefer, for example, to go surfing (the example chosen by van Parijs, a leading exponent of unconditional basic income). If people chose to use their time surfing, why should they be treated any differently from those who are sick or unemployed?

Here the simple – some would say naïve – case for an unconditional basic income begins to unravel. Clearly if everyone chose surfing over more productive activities then not much would be produced and incomes would fall drastically. But if some choose to surf then why should those in work – often in gruelling, poorly paid work – be willing to support the life-style preferences of surfers, whether drugged-up or not? The social security system sets conditions for receipt of unemployment benefits relating to availability for work, suitable employment and job-seeking. These conditions may be unduly harsh, as Ken Loach's film "*I, Daniel Blake*" portrays; but without any conditions at all social security would be politically dead in the water.

Nor, if the goal is to meet human needs effectively, is it obvious that giving everyone the same basic income whether they need it or not, makes any sense. Some have greater needs, for example if they suffer disabilities or have very high housing costs, which the present social security system attempts to take into account. The cost is added complexity but the result may be a fairer system.

The claimed attractions of an unconditional basic income – unconditionality, simplicity, efficiency and political support – each need to be carefully thought about. Sadly, each one of these apparent attractions is a delusion. There is no crock of gold nor any magic mechanism that will result in a fairer society. If social justice is to be promoted there is no escape from the hard graft of improving social security and ensuring full employment.

Further information:

Piachaud, D. "Citizen's Income: Rights and Wrongs", CASEpaper 200, November 2016

Evidence Reviews for the European Commission

Abigail McKnight

In 2016 we completed three evidence reviews for the European Commission. Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion commissioned the reviews to establish an evidence base to help inform key areas of policy. The three reviews covered: the effectiveness of linking different forms of activation with income support; preventative measures and preventative approaches to low pay and in-work poverty; and, how education, labour market policy and welfare states can create more equal societies.

One clear message that came out of these reviews is the potential for active labour market programmes to do much more in terms of improving the long-term outcomes for a particularly disadvantaged group of workers, helping to tackle low pay, in-work poverty and inequality. There is now a strong body of evidence to support the case for training programmes to increase the productive ability of a group of workers occupying the lowest tier of the labour market.

"Work-first" activation programmes help some job seekers return to work sooner than they would have, particularly where job seekers are assisted with job search, job applications and interview preparation. Many individuals entering unemployment need little help finding work while others are in need of additional support and can remain unemployed for long periods of time.

The availability of longitudinal data which track individuals over long periods of time and improved statistical techniques has shown that activation programmes that "push" job seekers into the labour market have poorer longer-term outcomes than alternative forms of activation such as training. This is due to a number of factors including the precarious nature of many entry-level jobs and few opportunities for progression. Training on the other hand increases job seekers' productivity, improves the quality of the types of jobs available to them including remuneration and chances of retention and advancement.

Clearly there are cost differences between different types of activation with training being more costly than monitoring and work search assistance, but the cost differential needs to be considered alongside long-run returns. Some countries put training at the heart of their activation programmes but there has been a tendency across European countries to move further and further towards work-first activation programmes. This can appear attractive in the short-term particularly in an environment where austerity looms large and budgets are being cut.

Another trend has been towards contracting employment services out to private providers who are paid according to the results they achieve. Although these payments can be linked to employment sustainability, the amounts on offer are not sufficient for these providers to offer higher cost interventions such as training. For example, although the UK Work Programme (the current active labour market programme for long-term unemployed and those identified as needing extra assistance finding work) is contracted out to private providers who are given freedom to innovate within guidelines and paid according to outcomes, still around two-thirds of those who join the programme return to the Public Employment Service (JobCentre Plus) after two years because they have not managed to secure sustainable employment. Although the Work Programme doesn't perform badly relative to similar programmes, it is clear that a new approach is required to design a programme where the majority rather than the minority are able to secure sustainable employment in the medium term. It could help if policy makers considered training within active labour market programmes an investment rather than a costly form of welfare.

We were invited to present findings from these reviews to the European Commission's Social Protection Committee, European Social Policy Network, at a specially organised workshop in Brussels for policy officials across the European Commission and at an EU conference on Work, Welfare and Inequalities in Europe.

The evidence reviews are free to download from the European Commission's website.

Further information:

McKnight, A., and Vaganay, A. (2016), *The Strength of the Link between Income Support and Activation: Evidence Review*, Brussels: European Commission

McKnight, A., Stewart, K., Mohun Himmelweit, S. M., and Palillo, M. (2016), *Low pay and in-work poverty: preventative measures and preventative approaches: Evidence Review*, Brussels: European Commission

McKnight, A., Duque, M., and Rucci, M. (2016), *Creating More Equal Societies– What Works?: Evidence Review*, Brussels: European Commission.

Experiences of money for the rich and poor in London

Kate Summers and Katharina Hecht

By comparing the in-depth interviews from our respective PhD projects, Katharina Hecht and I examine how the rich and the poor in London think about and experience money. We find that although there are sharp distinctions between these two groups there are also similarities. We make the case that money's qualitative, as well as quantitative, similarities and differences need to be taken into account when studying income and wealth inequality. A summary of our work in progress follows.

This joint project arose opportunistically via our participation in the Piketty masterclass. Katharina Hecht has been researching perceptions of income and wealth among the rich using a sample of 30 in-depth interviews with individuals who fall into the top one per cent of the income distribution. My own research project is concerned with how social security recipients understand and use their money and comprises 38 in-depth interviews (to date) with people who are unemployed or working and on a low income who are receiving state benefits.

The study aims to offer qualitative insights in a field where quantitative approaches are most prominent. In order to understand wealth and income inequality more fully, the experiences and perspectives of those at the top and bottom of the distribution need to be understood in more detail.

We characterise the rich group's overarching experience of money as one of "stock". This in part describes how ultimately this group were aiming towards the accumulation of wealth, but also describes their experience of money as something secure and reliable.

The poor (social security) group on the other hand experienced money as "flow". This captures the group's inability to build up any assets and their reliance on short-term incomings and outgoings from wages and benefits, and also captures the notion of money as something transient, and often unreliable.

However, we find similarities as well as juxtapositions between our samples, as shown in the following two key themes:

Security and insecurity

Broadly speaking the social security group experienced money as a source of insecurity, while the rich group experienced money as security. However, we found that this distinction has important complexities.

For the social security group money often entered and left the household quickly, as various expenditures had to be met and there was often not enough money to cover everything. At times social security money added to this insecurity, with payments stopped at short, or no, notice due to the rules of the system or administrative faults.

However, many participants had ways of creating security while on a low income. The timing and amount of different payments were often used as budgeting tools, and a way of sectioning off money for different purposes. Participant 13, for example, always ring-fenced her wages for her rent, and then her tax credits for the remaining rent and some bills. This monthly pattern of incomings and outgoings established a degree of security for her:

> *"My wages come in, and you cannot trouble that. It's not enough, literally to pay for [the rent], I will pay half of what I owe, and then when the tax credit come in I will phone up and pay the next bit…. the rent, and the, my heating. Your heating and your lights. So long, they have to be your main priority. Because the rent is the big lump sum of the money, if you get behind with that, you're finished." (Participant 13, social security group)*

This predictability of regular payments from social security money and wages meant some participants were reluctant to move into work or increase their working hours, as this could upset the delicate routine they had established for themselves.

Members of the rich group on the other hand were financially secure because their accumulated stock of capital (including property) provided security. However, for many members of this group reliance upon income from wages was seen as insecure, and true security could only be achieved when they built an asset base and could draw on income from capital. Richness for this group was often described as security. For some, richness consisted of intergenerational security; true security is only established when one can guarantee it for one's children. As participant 13 explains:

"Well I'm ambitious to make more [money] always […] for me it is just to enable us as a family to build our asset base further, to make sure that the next generation and the one beyond are gonna be comfortable […] financial security in a general sense, not having enough just to live, but […] live the lifestyle the way you want to lead it and for us as a family that means making sure our children and grandchildren are well looked after, and are well-educated and all those sorts of things […] without having to worry [about your long-term security]" (Participant 13, rich group)

Experiences of both security and insecurity featured in both groups. Ultimately both groups were pursuing financial security, and both had ambivalent attitudes towards the role of the labour market in providing for this. For the social security group, the labour market potentially represented a less secure form of income, and had the potential to unsettle the security they had established through the receipt of predictable social security benefits. For the rich group true security could only be achieved when they had decommodified themselves, and could rely on capital income.

Deserved and undeserved money

A second key theme was that of deserved and undeserved money. It is well established in the social security and poverty literature that there is a longstanding conception of the "deserving" and "undeserving" poor. What was striking was that we also found evidence of the "deserving" and "undeserving" rich.

Among the social security group there were examples of participants clarifying why they themselves were deserving of the money they received, while others were not. It has been documented in other work that social security recipients use tactics of "othering" (often by reference to popular imagery) to distance themselves from the stigma of claiming social security. Explanations tended to hinge on social security being used as a last resort, and on individuals having made social contributions (through work, care, etc.). Participant 26, for example, spoke about how some people are not entitled to social security money, which in turn clarifies and justifies the basis for her own deservingness:

"No, some people aren't entitled to it. There are some people out there that aren't entitled to it. Like, I don't like them people that, you know, just have got no, you get some people that just keep having babies, and babies and babies. Like the baby will get to the point where now you've got to go and find a job, they'll have another baby." (Participant 26, social security group)

For the rich there was also a distinction between deserved and undeserved money which rested on how one had earned it. The most deserved form of money was seen by many to be money from entrepreneurial activity, where an individual had taken personal risks to achieve their richness:

"I would say anybody that makes 200 thousand pounds above I think it's really nice, anybody making over a million, you are either an entrepreneur and you have taken a lot of risk in your vision and you should be making that money, I don't have a problem with that, or you are a trader and I have a question mark here, on do you deserve that?" (Participant 10, rich group)

Based on our comparative work, we found that ideas of deservingness and undeservingness feature across both samples, and were motivated by participant's understandings of self-reliance and personal responsibility (key ideas in liberal market economies such as the UK).

Although these two groups of interviewees come from opposite ends of the income distribution, it is striking that various themes cut across these two groups in terms of how they think about and experience money.

Further information:

If you have any comments or questions, please get in touch via **k.summers@lse.ac.uk**

Exploring the relationship between economic inequality and poverty

Abigail McKnight and Eleni Karagiannaki

Inequality and poverty are conceptually different phenomena and have tended to be studied separately. However, the aftermath of the financial crisis brought to the fore concerns that globalisation had not benefited all, despite a prolonged period of growth in the decades leading up to the crisis. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is funding a three year programme of research exploring the relationship between inequality and poverty, involving a variety of different approaches including exploring the conceptual basis, reviews of the literature and empirical analysis. Here we summarise some of the emerging findings.

There has been a well-documented general upward trend in inequality since the 1970s across middle and high income countries, although trends vary both in terms of timing and levels. The form of inequality also varies with greater concentration of income in some countries and wider overall dispersion in others. As Atkinson (2015) observed, countries with high levels of inequality tend also to have higher rates of poverty. The aftermath of the financial crisis seemed to mark a sea-change in thinking about anti-poverty strategies, away from a focus on improving the economic circumstances of the poor towards an approach in which poverty reduction needed to be accompanied by inequality reduction. This is reflected in the twin goals and recommendations to tackle poverty and inequality in both rich and poor countries set by a number of large international organisations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and the OECD.

However, there has been a distinct lack of evidence on the form of the relationship between inequality and poverty, how aspects of measurement affect this relationship, what are the key mechanisms that link inequality and poverty and what is the most effective policy response given these mechanisms. Our ongoing programme of research aims to fill some of these gaps.

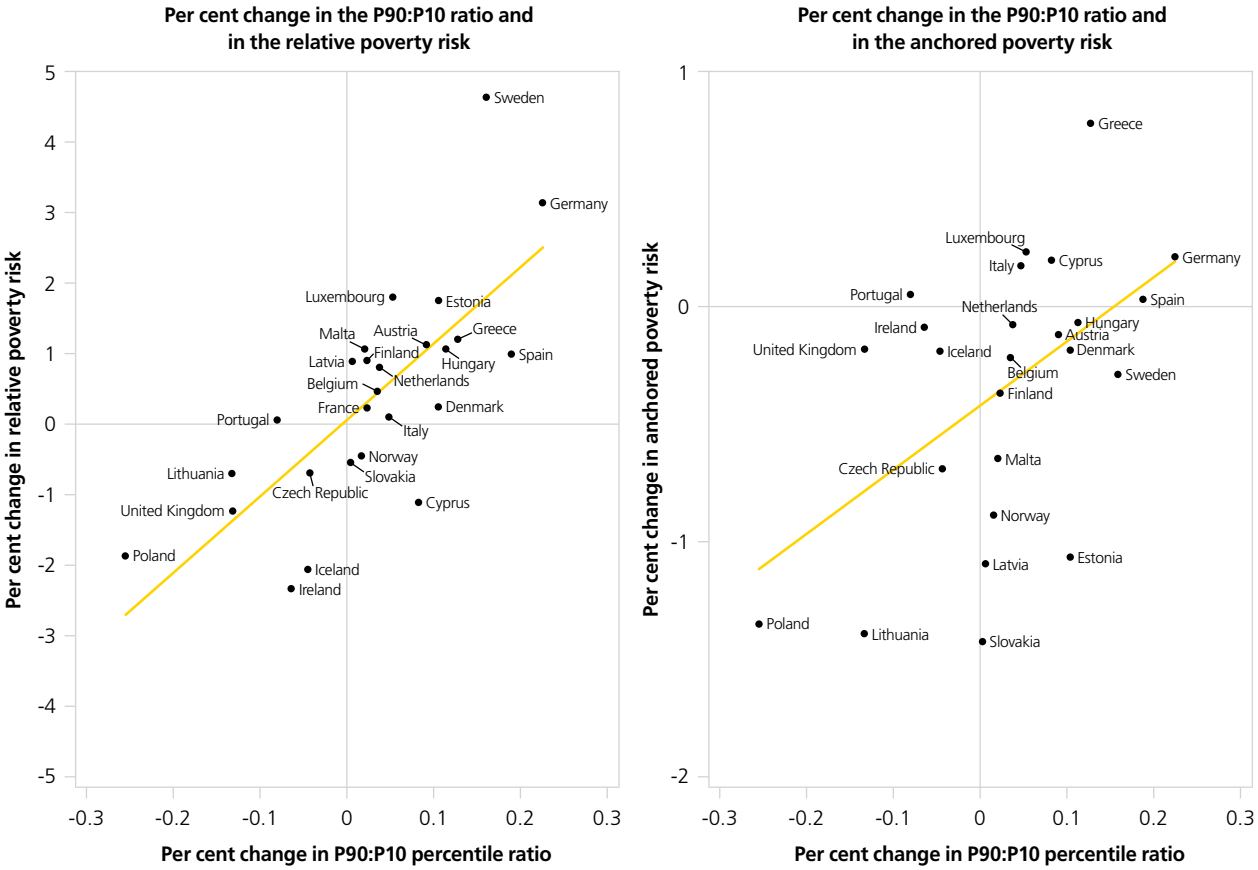
Cross-country analysis shows a strong positive relationship between income inequality and relative income poverty both when we look at differences in the levels of inequality and poverty across countries as well as when we look at differences in the changes of poverty and inequality over time. As one would expect the correlation between the two statistics is stronger for inequality measures sensitive to dispersion in the lower half of the income distribution.

The graph in the left-hand side of Figure 1 plots changes in the income inequality as measured by the 90:10 percentile ratio against changes in the relative poverty risk for 26 European countries over the period 2005-14 using distributional statistics from the Eurostat Income and Living Conditions Database. The graph in the right-hand side plots changes in inequality (again in terms of the 90:10 ratio) and changes in the poverty risk with the poverty line anchored at its 2005 levels (which is an indicator of the evolution of the absolute living standards of the poor). As is clear from this figure, over the period 2005-14 rising inequality was the dominant inequality trend for the countries under examination: the 90:10 percentile ratio increased in 18 out of 26 countries (72 per cent).

In most countries where inequality increased the relative poverty risk also increased while the anchored poverty risk either increased or fell by less than in countries with falling inequality (suggesting smaller improvement in the absolute living standards of the poor relative to the rest of the population). Overall, we find a quite strong positive correlation between changes in the 90:10 ratio income inequality and changes in the relative poverty risk. A positive but weaker correlation is also estimated between changes in inequality and changes in anchored poverty risk.

Despite the positive correlation between changes in inequality and poverty, the analysis also identified the varying experiences across countries in how inequality and poverty evolved: there were countries in which inequality and poverty trends have moved in different directions, indicating the importance of both policy and institutions (for more details on the empirical relationship between poverty and inequality see Karagiannaki, forthcoming).

Figure 1: The relationship between changes in income inequality (as measured by the 90/10 percentile ratio) and changes in relative and anchored poverty risk over the period 2005-2014



Source: Karagiannaki, (forthcoming) based on poverty and inequality statistics extracted from the Eurostat Income and Living conditions database. Note: The figure includes all 26 countries for which distributional statistics are available in 2005 and 2014. Relative poverty risk is defined as the percentage of persons in households below the 60 per cent of the median equivalised household disposable income in each country. Anchored poverty risk is defined in a similar way except that the poverty line fixed at the 2005 levels (indexed for inflation).

A review of the literature has identified a number of important mechanisms including:

Economic mechanisms: fundamental drivers such as the distribution of abilities and their economic returns; changes in rates of return to abilities driven by for example, technological change or globalisation.

Political mechanisms: where command over economic resources is linked to political power, inequality can result in resistance against policies that threaten the rich and powerful's economic position such as poverty reduction policies; social gradients in voter turnout can lead governments to favour policies that favour a richer electorate rather than the general population.

Social and cultural mechanisms: unequal societies are also often found to be more punitive with high rates of incarceration. This may be affected by people from advantaged family backgrounds dominating positions of power including the judiciary and underlying beliefs about why some people are rich while others are poor.

There are also important **dynamic mechanisms** which help to shape the relationship between inequality and poverty. Higher inequality is often associated with lower mobility making it harder to escape poverty. Evidence of a positive relationship between inequality and intergenerational mobility (the so-called "Great Gatsby Curve") suggests that poverty risks are more likely to be passed from parents to children where/when inequality is higher. Limited downward mobility driven by the ability of better-off families to hoard the best opportunities for their children can limit the extent to which children growing up in poverty can be upwardly mobile.

Further information:

Karagiannaki, E. "The empirical relationship between inequality and poverty in rich and middle income countries" CASEpaper (forthcoming)

For more information on this project please visit the programme webpage on the CASE website.

LSE Housing and Communities

LSE Housing and Communities' main body of research focuses on how social, economic and environmental changes affect households and communities. We use qualitative analysis to look closely at the experiences of individuals and communities, to explore how policies and trends play out at ground-level. This article looks at seven projects that we worked on in 2016.

Wilmcote House

Wilmcote House is a council tower block in Portsmouth that is undergoing energy efficiency retrofit to EnerPHit standard, a highly regarded international certification of energy efficiency for existing buildings. This is an ambitious three-year project, funded by Portsmouth City Council. The insulation provider for the work (Rockwool) has commissioned LSE Housing and Communities to carry out a longitudinal in-depth study of 15 families living in the block.

The research design mirrors that of *High Rise Hopes* and *High Rise Hopes Revisited*, published in 2012 and 2014 respectively, which looked at residents' experiences of retrofit on the Edward Woods estate, in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The aim of the Wilmcote House research project is to capture the residents' living conditions at the start of the project, their experience during the retrofit works, and finally their lives in their homes and in the retrofitted block after completion of works. The team carried out Round One interviews in 2015. The findings showed that residents were living in poorly-insulated flats that were too expensive to heat properly. These findings corroborated the council's evidence of the extent of the problem of poor insulation of the building, and led the team to conclude that the project was timely and much needed to improve residents' quality of life in their homes, as well as their finances.

Round Two interviews started in January 2016 and were carried out while the individual flats were undergoing internal work. The evidence collected is fed back to the council at regular research meetings, to help better inform the work they are doing and to try and minimise disruption to residents. The final round interviews will take place in 2018 when the project is completed.

The Housing Plus Academy

The year 2016 saw great progress on the Housing Plus Academy knowledge exchange programme, which was launched in November 2015 in a partnership between LSE Housing and Communities, Trafford Hall, the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Housing Federation, with the support of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Trafford Hall hosted nine Think Tanks in 2016; four for tenants and resident involvement workers and five for frontline and senior housing staff. The topics we covered in the first year of the Housing Plus Academy included: private renting; energy saving and retrofit; community enterprise; housing association and local authority partnership working; changing policies and their impacts on the social housing world; how tenants can do more for less; and the challenge of housing younger tenants under 35. In May 2016, LSE Housing and Communities hosted the first Thinking Ahead Group (TAG) meeting, which brought together all the sponsoring organisations and which will be held regularly throughout the duration of the Housing Plus Academy knowledge exchange programme.

In total, 445 participants from across the country have attended Housing Plus Academy events in 2016. After each event, the LSE team circulated headlines. The findings from two tenant events were written up and published as CASEreports 108 and 110.

The Academy grew its sponsor base over the course of 2016, winning the support of other social landlords and bringing the number of its sponsors up to 16. The Academy has also gained the support of the University of Manchester and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.

There are eight Think Tanks planned for 2017 and two Thinking Ahead Group meetings. We will run a Continuing Professional Development workshop accredited by the Chartered Institute of Housing and led by LSE Housing and Communities.

Housing Plus Academy Tenant Think Tank on Community Enterprise, June 2016

Private Rented Sector Research

In March 2016 the Housing Plus Academy hosted a Policy Think Tank looking at social landlords' involvement in the private rented sector (PRS), a relatively new development in housing but of great policy relevance. The Think Tank uncovered such a wealth of under-researched evidence and experiences that LSE Housing and Communities decided the topic deserved a research project of its own. The team issued a call for funding among housing associations involved in the Housing Plus Academy network and received a good response. The project is funded by Clarion Housing Association as the main sponsor, and is receiving additional funding support from the Wheatley Group, PoplarHarca, South Yorkshire Housing Association, Futures Housing Group, Crisis and the International Inequalities Institute (based at LSE).

The team started working on the project in September 2016. The aim of the research is to look at what difference social landlords can make in improving the private rented sector, which has been so far largely unregulated, despite housing a growing number of families with children and vulnerable members of society. The research entails quantitative analysis of available PRS data, as well as a series of semi-structured interviews with social landlords involved in PRS delivery (both housing associations and councils); local authorities that are playing an active role in regulating the sector; charities such as Shelter and Crisis; the Residential Landlords Association; and representatives from the UK, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish governments.

So far, the team has carried out 12 interviews with housing associations that own and/or manage a PRS portfolio and has collected quantitative evidence to illustrate the main characteristics of the private rented sector to date. Emerging findings show that housing associations involved in PRS delivery stock are bringing quality and a greater degree of security to the sector. The final report will be published around March 2017. LSE Housing and Communities will be hosting a roundtable at LSE to present the findings.

LSE Housing / Ulster University – Post Conflict Communities as Constructs of People and Architecture

LSE Housing and Communities are collaborating with colleagues within Ulster University in Belfast on a project examining Post-Conflict Communities as Constructs of People & Architecture. The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and is due to end in late 2017. We are looking at how the architecture of local areas affects how residents use the area and engage with others within their own community and in other parts of the city. Our role is to contribute social policy knowledge and expertise and to help deliver the community engagement aspects of the work. There are 5 case study areas in both inner and outer Belfast and the areas cover a broad range of housing design, neighbourhood type and proximity to the centre. Some areas are mostly Protestant and others are mostly Catholic but all contain an interface area linking the two communities. We

"Architectural roadblocks" in Belfast

Truncating streets as architectural barriers
Photos source: David Coyles, Ulster University

are currently doing resident interviews and focus groups in the case study areas asking people about: basic household information, work history, housing, their area – physical and social, schools, health, community and family, crime and policing, tourism, and the future.

We are hoping to produce the final report from this work towards the end of 2017/ early 2018.

Evaluation of the Rayners Lane regeneration programme

In 2016, we finished our evaluation of the regeneration of the ex-London Borough of Harrow "difficult estate" – Rayners Lane, and it was published in May. The research involved working closely with the estate team on site, and extensive interviewing with the residents and local neighbourhood service providers. We had conducted these 50 household interviews in the previous year, and continued our evaluation of the data.

Several aspects of the evaluation reinforced the positive nature of the regeneration. A very popular move was the early decision to ensure that the existing residents were the first to be moved into the new blocks that were being built on site to replace the dilapidated old local authority buildings. This initiative increased community cohesion and the satisfaction of existing residents, as well as enabling the housing association now running the estate – Home Group – to retain and build on existing community links without any long periods of decanting off the estate. A key and well-thought out approach of Home Group was their negotiation with the London Borough of Harrow to provide a new community centre, and develop an extensive menu of sports, educational, social, and job related activities run in the centre which increased social and physical well-being on the estate.

Home Group's regeneration plans resulted in high satisfaction levels in two resident surveys and LSE Housing were able to demonstrate that the regeneration received a very high score in the HACT "Social Return on Investment" scale.

Social mobility and home ownership

The team also worked with the Social Mobility Commission (SMC) on the housing chapter of their annual "State of the Nation" social mobility report. This research focused on the extent to which low-cost home ownership schemes (LCHO) helped low-income people and other groups become home owners.

There has been considerable cross-party agreement and activity by all governments since the early 2000s to promote LCHO schemes. While the "Right to Buy" provisions introduced in 1980 are different in that they convert council (and some Registered Social Landlords) properties into owner occupation, nevertheless that policy has also seen many low-income social tenants move to ownership.

Evidence from our research around LCHO schemes suggests they may be being taken up by households who are very similar to other first time buyers, rather than low-income households who really need the help provided and concerns have been expressed throughout the life of these schemes about the scale and success of reaching their target audience. We will be publishing a fuller account of the impact of these schemes in 2017, as a continuation of our contribution to the SMC report.

Cities for a Small Continent

May 2016 saw the publication of Anne Power's latest book "*Cities for a Small Continent: International Handbook of City Recovery*". This was the culmination of a longitudinal study by LSE Housing and Communities of seven ex-industrial European cities; Torino, Leipzig, Belfast, Sheffield, Saint-Etienne, Bilbao and Lille. *Cities for a Small Continent* found that these post-industrial cities, rather than dying, were in fact revived through what we call the Re-economy – a new post-industrial economy that reuses existing infrastructure, generates renewable energy, rebuilds and reskills existing, stranded communities, and recovers waste. The seven City Stories included in the book were testament to the fact that sustainable, energy efficient, recovery of these previously heavily industrialised cities was not just possible, but happening – and could be used as a model for other cities.

The launch of *Cities for a Small Continent* was celebrated with a roundtable on City Recovery, with participants from the United States, France, Northern Ireland and across the UK, followed by a public lecture at LSE.

Further information:

Provan, B., Belotti, A. and Power, A. "Moving On Without Moving Out: The Impacts of Regeneration on the Rayners Lane Estate", CASEreport 100, May 2016

Belotti, A. "Changing Rules and Spending Cuts: Helping tenants help themselves and their landlords. Report from two Tenant Think Tanks", CASEreport 108, July 2016

Belotti, A. "Community Enterprise: Creating Sustainable Communities Report from a Community Enterprise Think Tank", CASEreport 110, November 2016

Power, A. (2016). *Cities for a Small Continent: International Handbook of City Recovery.* Policy Press.

Evaluation of the Vicar's Relief Fund

Laura Lane

Towards the end of 2016 we were approached by the St Martin-in-the-Fields charity and asked to bid for a small-scale piece of work looking into the Vicar's Relief Fund. Our research, which will help with the design of a larger evaluation, suggests that the Fund makes an important difference to those who access it.

The Vicar's Relief Fund is an emergency fund that can be accessed by support workers across the UK to help prevent homelessness. Support workers are based in a variety of organisations including housing associations, charities, local authorities, probation services. They can apply for a maximum of £350 which can be used in a number of ways to help someone out of homelessness or prevent them becoming homeless in the first place. Grants are given for the following main purposes:

- Reducing arrears in order to avoid an eviction
- Obtaining a debt relief order to prevent eviction
- Helping towards a deposit for a new tenancy
- Household items such as beds and white goods when someone is moving into an unfurnished property

The Fund responds quickly to applications and money is normally paid within 2-3 days of the application being made. All applications are done online through a special online portal administered by staff at St Martins. The Vicar's Relief Fund gave out grants to a value of over £600,000 in around 3,000 grants in 2015.

The Fund is resourced through the St Martin-in-the-Fields/BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal and is now in its 92nd year of operation.

The St Martin-in-the-Fields charity is planning to do a large-scale thorough evaluation of the Fund and our preliminary research will feed into and help with the design of the evaluation at a later stage. They want to know if the Fund is as effective as it could be, or whether it could do more and/or be used differently to ensure more sustainable outcomes for recipients.

We have carried out interviews and focus group sessions with staff working on the Fund at St Martins to find out what they believe the role of the Fund to be, what it does in reality and what it should achieve. We have also carried out interviews with support workers across the country from a representative group of organisations to gain a better understanding of perceptions of the Fund, experiences of applying and receiving the Fund, and outcomes for clients.

We are currently writing up the draft report and this will be available in the Spring of 2017. There is strong evidence of the value of the Fund to those who access it. It is used by many of the support workers we have spoken to as an absolute last resort, for clients who have no other possible source of money that can be used to either help them move away from street homelessness or to prevent the loss of an existing tenancy.

Gentrification in London

Alex Fenton

The physical fabric of London changed rapidly and visibly over the early 2000s as the capital drew further away from the rest of the UK on aggregate economic indicators. Official deprivation indicators fell rapidly in some inner boroughs, but overall rates of poverty remained unchanged. Against this background, the nature, speed and location of gentrification – the change in the composition and character of urban localities in favour of residents with more resources and at the expense of those with fewer – is of more than just academic interest.

In Britain, most quantitative studies of gentrification have used occupational class data from the Census. These data present two difficulties: how to deal, firstly, with the large group of "intermediate" classes whose relative resources and power are not clear, and secondly, with the fact that it is not only the class composition of localities but the overall class structure of cities that changes over time. CASEpaper 195 *Gentrification in London: A Progress Report 2001-2013* argues, following Erik Olin Wright, for the use of poverty status as an indicator of class position, and presents an account of gentrification in London since 2000 on this basis.

Small-area data based on a poverty proxy yield a striking picture of the changes from 2001 to 2013 (figure top). Poverty fell rapidly in the historically poorest parts of inner East London, such as the boroughs of Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets. These changes were accompanied by increases in dwelling and population density, and shifts in the dwelling mix towards higher-value dwellings (figure bottom). At the same time, poverty rates increased in relatively disfavoured parts of outer London, such as the boroughs of Hillingdon, Croydon and Enfield.

Figure 1: Changes in London 2001-2013

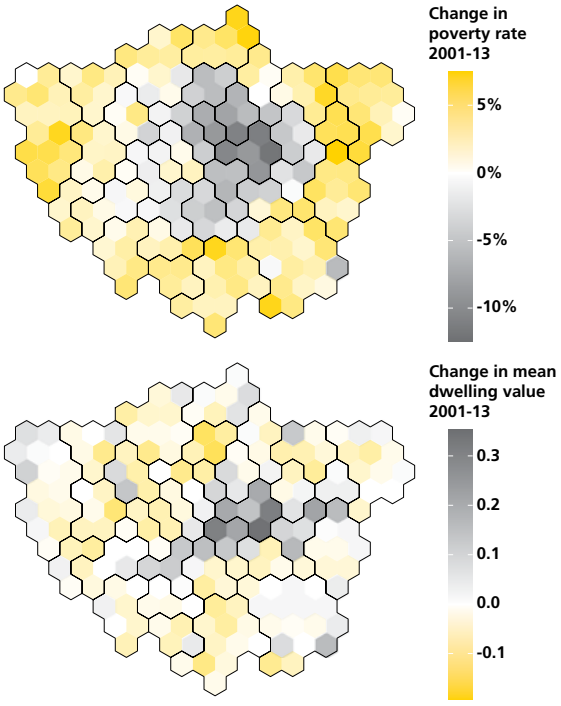


Figure (top): Absolute change in UMBR poverty proxy rate 2001 to 2013 in London. Figure (bottom): Shift in mean dwelling value, based on Council Tax banding. Based on aggregated LSOA data. Drawn areas are adjusted towards population size. Black outlines show approximate boundaries of individual boroughs.

These results confirm what official deprivation indicators had been showing, but additionally underline the role of intensive land development in the changes in Inner London. The paper goes a step further and uses novel synthetic population data from a spatial microsimulation to look at changes in the **composition** of poverty across London boroughs in the first decade of the 2000s. These show that the decreases in poverty in inner London were primarily falls in the number of workless poor – the "excluded", in Wright's schema. The rises in poverty in outer London consisted, above all, of increases in the working poor living in private housing – the "exploited".

In the early 2000s in London, rapid gentrification in much of inner East London was tied to the accumulation of land and housing capital and occurred simultaneously with the proletarianisation of neighbourhoods in less prosperous suburban areas. An analysis based on poverty data shows more unambiguously than recent analyses of class data that these processes were widespread and not confined, as sometimes imagined, to local "hot-spots". The findings also show how rapid the changes have been, and how much the relative position of districts and boroughs have changed. The socio-spatial structure of London in another decade's time is likely to be yet further from familiar patterns of the distribution of poverty and wealth in the capital.

Further information:

Fenton, A. "Gentrification in London: A progress report, 2001-2013", CASEpaper 195, July 2016.

PhD Spotlight: Economic hardship, stress and parenting in the UK

Kerris Cooper

Kerris, a fourth year PhD student in CASE, explains her work examining the relationship between poverty and parenting in the UK.

By the time children in the UK start school, those from low-income households are already behind children whose parents are better off. One clear explanation for this is that having a low income restricts how much parents are able to invest in goods and services that contribute to their child's development. For example, families on low incomes are more likely to have poor diets and poor housing conditions as well as less money for educational toys and activities. Another possible mechanism that contributes to the attainment gap is differences in parenting.

The latter explanation has been the main policy focus in recent years, in line with two influential government reports that emphasised the importance of parenting for children's healthy brain development[1] and called for resources to be directed towards improving parenting, rather than cash benefits for low-income families[2]. In other words, parenting not poverty is put forward as the appropriate target for intervention if we want to improve low income children's outcomes.

However, evidence from the US suggests that the two are very much connected: poverty affects parenting and when low-income families receive a boost to their income their parenting improves[3]. A dominant explanation for this is The Family Stress Model[4] which suggests that experiencing financial hardship causes stress and affects parents' mental wellbeing, which in turn affects how they behave with their children: parents who are stressed are less patient and lack the emotional resources required for parenting behaviours that are warm and nurturing.

Whilst this theory is well-evidenced in the US it has not been fully explored in the UK, which provides an interesting policy context given the growing focus on parenting policies, alongside ongoing austerity measures and cuts to benefits and a forecasted increase in child poverty. My research therefore explores how economic hardship is related to parenting in the UK.

I use the Millennium Cohort Study, a large representative dataset from the UK that followed around 19,000 babies born in 2000-01. This data is extremely rich with multiple measures of hardship, mothers' mental wellbeing and parenting behaviours. I focus on data from when the children are aged around five years old and use 38 measures of parenting which I group into four different parenting domains: (1) meeting the child's physical needs, (2) the mother-child relationship, (3) discipline and routine and (4) cognitive stimulation (Figure 1).

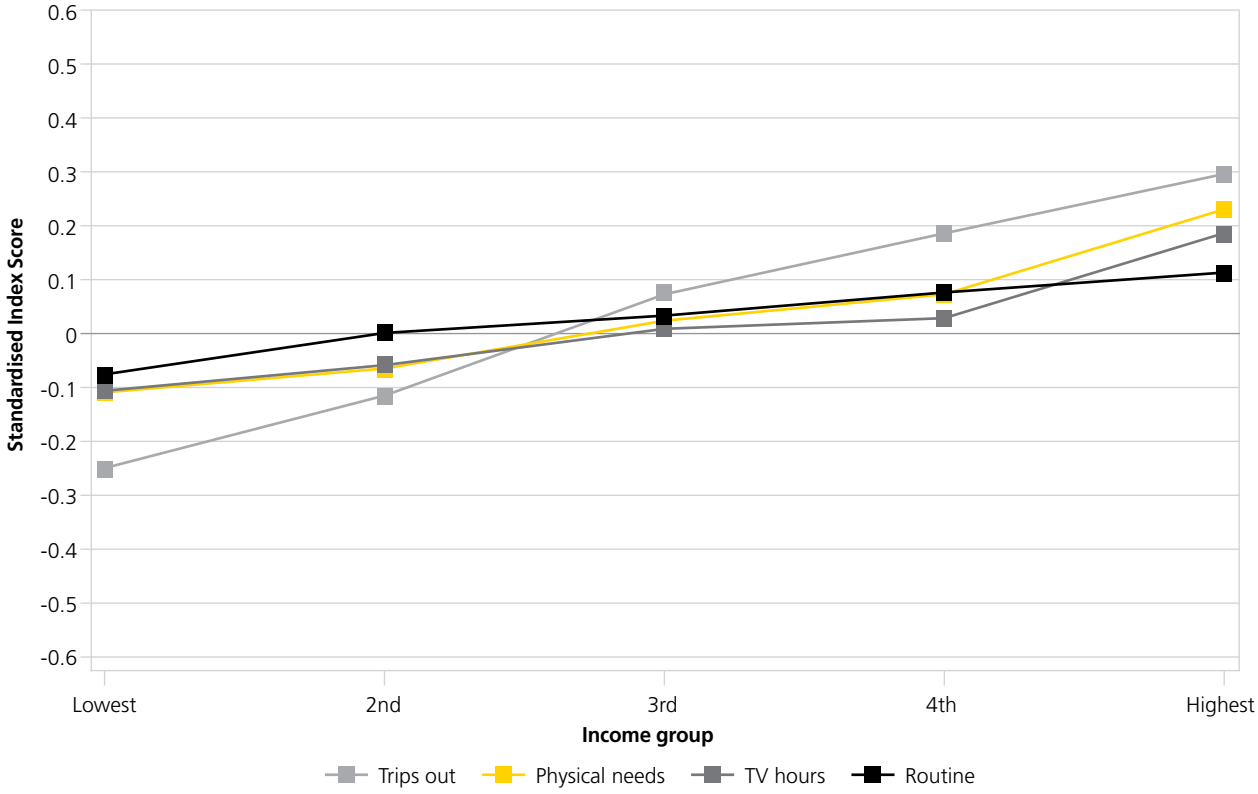
I began by analysing how parenting differs between mothers in different income quintiles, whilst taking into account other important factors such as mothers' education and work status. I found that it is not straightforwardly the case that low income parents were doing less well in their parenting: the majority of mothers regardless of income reported parenting in ways we would describe as "good". In fact there were some parenting behaviours where low income mothers were doing better than others, such as more frequently helping their child with writing and maths and taking their child to the park more often.

Nevertheless, there were some negative differences in parenting, as can be seen in Figure 2, where mothers in the lowest income group were doing worse than mothers in all other income groups. These differences persist when alternative measures of hardship are used such as being in debt, feeling poor or being deprived of necessary items.

Figure 1: Measuring parenting behaviours

Parenting domains	
1. Meeting physical needs • Nutrition, physical activities	**2. Parent-child relationship** • How close mother feels to child
3. Discipline and control • Authoritative discipline • Harsh or permissive discipline • Routine bed and mealtimes	**4. Cognitive stimulation** • Trips out • Hours of TV and computer • Play activities • Educational activities

Figure 2: Graph showing negative differences in parenting by income group



NB Higher scores indicate more positive parenting. Controlling for: mother's age, mother's education, number of siblings, one or two parents in the household, mother's ethnic group, mother's work status

Can these differences in parenting be explained by the Family Stress Model? In order to test this, I used structural equation modelling to simultaneously estimate direct and indirect relationships between economic hardship and parenting behaviours, with mothers' mental health and life satisfaction included in the model as potential mechanisms. Again other possible explanatory factors, such as mothers' education, were taken into account.

I found that mothers' mental health does play a significant role in explaining the relationship between hardship and parenting: experiencing hardship (measured as debt, deprivation and feeling poor) was significantly associated with worse mental health (symptoms of anxiety and depression) and lower life satisfaction and this in turn was associated with worse parenting (Figure 3).

How much of the relationship is explained indirectly through mother's mental health varies depending on the parenting measure. For some parenting measures, such as play activities with the child, mother's mental health **fully** explained the relationship with hardship. In other words, once the role of mother's mental health is taken into account, the direct relationship between hardship and play activities is no longer significant. For other parenting measures, such as routine meal and bed times, mother's mental health and life satisfaction explained around 50 per cent of the relationship with hardship.

There is therefore, evidence for the Family Stress Model in the UK: mothers experiencing economic hardship report some different parenting behaviours compared with other mothers. Where these differences are negative these can be explained (to a greater or lesser extent) by the negative association between experiences of hardship and mothers' mental health. Efforts to improve the outcomes of children from low income families by improving parenting, therefore ought also to take into account experiences of hardship and how this can be associated with poor mental health.

Further information:

[1] Allen, G. (January 2011). *Early Intervention: The Next Steps; An Independent Report to Her Majesty's Government*, HM Government.

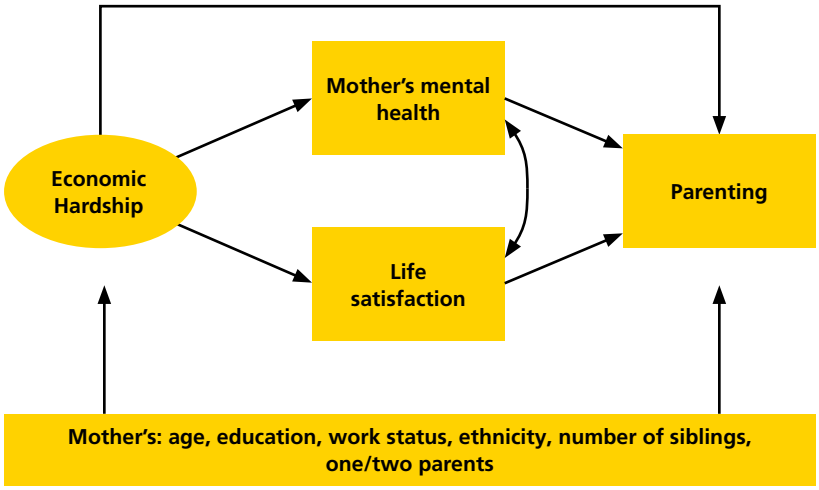
[2] Field, F. (2010). *The Foundation Years: Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults; The Report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances*, HM Government.

[3] For a review of these studies see Cooper, K and Stewart, K (2013) *Does money affect children's outcomes? A systematic review*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

[4] Conger, K. J., Reuter, M. A., and Conger, R. D. (2000). "The Role of Economic Pressure in the Lives of Parents and their Adolescents: The Family Stress Model" In Crockett, R. K and Silbereisen, R. K. (Ed.), *Negotiating Adolescence in Times of Social Change* (pp. 202-223). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Cooper, K, (December, 2016), "Poverty and Parenting in the UK", *Puzzles* **postgradpuzzles.com/2016/12/16/poverty-and-parenting-in-the-uk/**

Figure 3: Testing the Family Stress Model



PhD Spotlight: Researching the impact of financial interdependence on personal relationships and network resources in low income Britain

Eileen Alexander

Eileen completed the fieldwork for her PhD in 2016. Here she reflects on the motivation for her project, on the process of conducting qualitative interviews, and on her emerging findings.

Research Overview

In last year's CASE Annual Report I published an overview of our 2015 Is *Welfare Reform Working?* study for which I conducted 400 telephone interviews with social housing tenants to better understand people's experiences of work and welfare reform. Over the course of these interviews I heard again and again about an important source of welfare I hadn't anticipated. Close to three quarters of the participants I spoke to reported relying on regular financial support from family and friends to cover costs such as rent, food, and utilities. Participants described having to ask for or provide regular sums of money (between £5 and £300) in order to manage periods of precarious employment, financial emergencies, and diminishing or delayed social security payments.

The participants explained that their networks of family members, friends and neighbours were absolutely vital in terms of helping them weather these financial hardships. However, people also spoke of how overreliance on family and friends for financial support could lead to stress, anxiety and even to relationship breakdown.

By the end of the 400 interviews, I felt that the prevalence of this reliance on informal financial support, and the emotional responses it provoked – ranging from extreme gratitude to terrible humiliation – clearly identified an important area of study in Social Policy. I was especially interested in exploring:

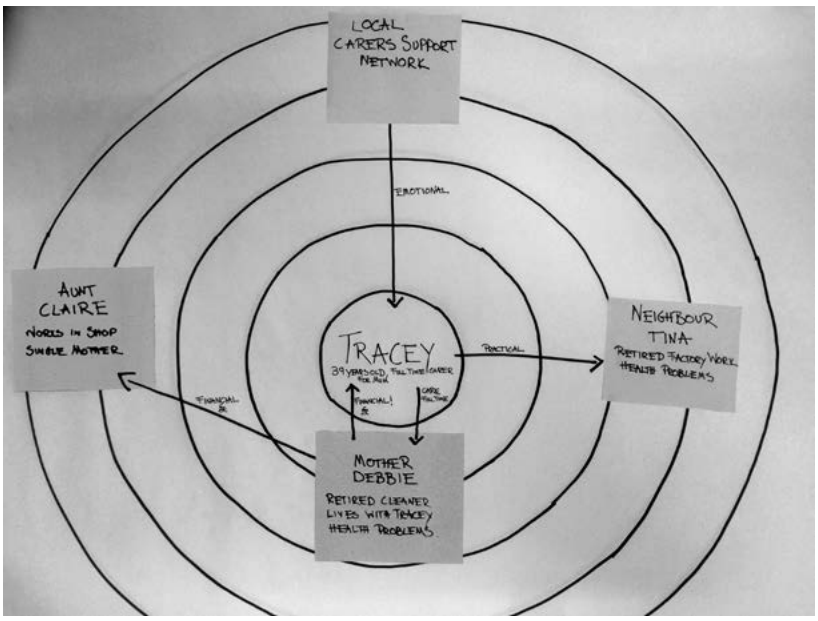
- The extent of informal financial support among people on low-incomes;
- How informal financial support is negotiated within close relationships and how financial dependency on family and friends is experienced; and
- How reliance on informal financial support may serve to perpetuate inequality.

Mapping informal support networks

I chose to conduct qualitative interviews to explore these questions. This decision was based in part on the dearth of data on informal financial support within large-scale data sets, but more importantly on an interest in understanding and capturing people's **lived experience** of financial dependence on family and friends.

I structured my in-depth interviews around the creation of a support network map, a method first developed by Liz Spencer and Ray Pahl in their work on personal communities. To construct these maps, every participant is asked to list the names of people they feel close to on post-it notes. These names are then arranged on a map made up of concentric circles. The participant is asked to imagine herself at the centre of these circles and to arrange her friends, family members and neighbours around her based on how important she feels they are in her life.

I developed Pahl and Spencer's method by collecting basic information on every member of the support network, before asking the participant to consider all the different flows of support between herself and the individuals on the map. Although I was particularly interested in financial and in-kind support, I wanted to be careful not to emphasise this point. Rather, I let people speak freely about all the different kinds of support they might give and receive, including emotional and practical support.



Tracey: "It's rewarding to help my mum. As the eldest I see it as my responsibility... We pool our resources together. Her pension and my carers allowance go into one account and my mum's in charge of that... I'd like to get a job to help take the burden off. We're always short on money. But I can't see how I'd manage it."*

Fieldwork

In January 2016 I began my fieldwork and over the following six months I conducted 50 in-depth interviews with working age social housing tenants. I returned to many of the same people I spoke to for the *Is Welfare Reform Working?* study, and cycled around the South West of England to meet people in their homes and in cafes.

I found that working on the support network maps together with the participants throughout the interview was not only an effective, but also a mutually enjoyable way to access information that people might otherwise find difficult to talk about. Instead of sitting across from participants and grilling them with pre-considered questions, I sat next to them at a table where we worked on filling out the map together.

This approach allowed the participants to really take control of the interview, to tell stories and describe relationships in their own words, and not be influenced by the language of my own questions, or what they thought I might want to hear.

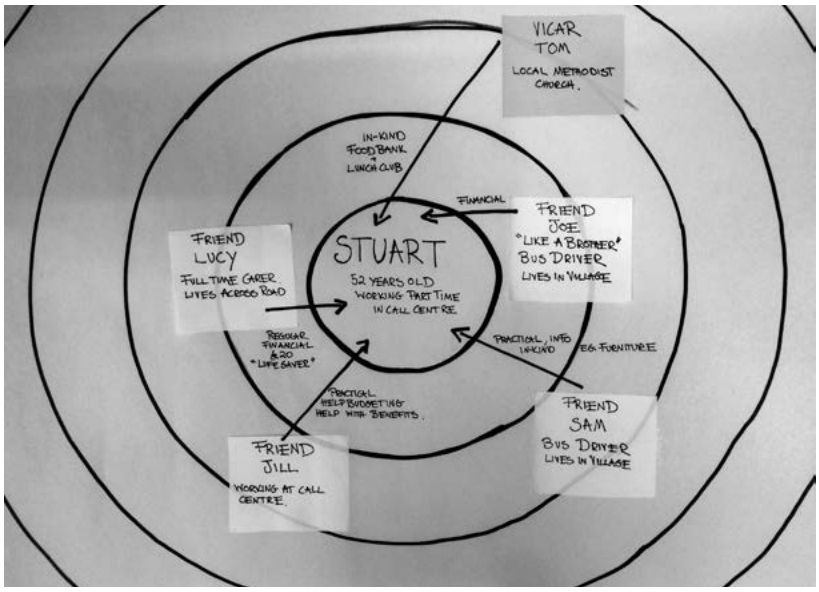
A real confirmation of this method was that participants often wanted to take photos of their maps, or described feeling emotional or moved in seeing how their support networks had rallied around them, and how people came together to help each other avoid the worst, such as homelessness, hunger, debt, and general insecurity.

One participant said:

> *"Doing this map, it's a real eye opener I think. Probably for you and definitely for me taking part in it. It just shows how people survive in this modern day and age. Especially when you're on the poor end of things. It can go many different ways. There's been many a time when I thought I'd end up just dead the way I was having to live and carry on. But by hook or by crook I seem to survive, and it's often been down to the people on this map."*

These interviews often involved difficult and harrowing stories of how people struggled to survive and make ends meet. People described the choices they were forced to make when their income didn't cover their basic living costs. They described the humiliation they felt in depending on their family and friends for basic support, and more generally they spoke about the trauma of unemployment, of poverty, and sometimes also of addiction, domestic abuse, the loss of a family member, or living with serious or terminal health conditions. Several participants spoke of having had suicidal thoughts.

Many participants said they thought they would have been dead or on the streets had it not been for their family members and friends. They described their networks as the "ultimate safety net".



Stuart: "I wouldn't have survived the sanctions without these people... My friends are my family. I don't know where I'd be without them."*

Looking forward

It's now been a year since I started my fieldwork, and I'm finally coming to the end of transcribing these interviews. Many themes are emerging as I relive these conversations, and I'm looking forward to developing them more over the coming year.

I am currently trying to come to terms with the contradiction that reliance on informal financial support can both bring people together and tear them apart. Dependence on family and friends for income is described as both "lifesaving" and "traumatising". It can strengthen and destroy relationships. Informal support can help people out of a never-ending spiral of formal debt, but accepting financial support can also lock people into a new form of indebtedness with a close friend or family member. Trying to pay off or negotiate this debt can be difficult and humiliating. And people are painfully aware that asking for financial support often means someone else, someone they are close to, will have to go without. But even after all this is taken into account, family and friends are usually described as the most significant source of support, welfare and wellbeing.

A number of Social Policy implications are emerging from this research that I hope to develop over the coming year. One emerging finding is the importance of place and living in close proximity to supportive family members and friends. Participants who have had to move out of their neighbourhoods, or are under pressure to move due to the removal of the spare room subsidy, for example, speak about the great difficulties they will face in their everyday life when these vital relationships are no longer easily accessible.

Another emerging finding has come from participants with very weak support networks. These participants are most likely to speak about living in "survival mode", and describe how they cope by heavily relying on local services and charities including food banks, soup kitchens, churches, libraries, the Citizens Advice Bureau and support networks such as carers support or Alcoholics Anonymous. At the same time, many of these services are under pressure and participants have seen and experienced cuts to these vital resources. These cuts leave people who do not have family members and friends to fall back on in terrible difficulties.

Further information:

*All names have been changed and maps redrawn to protect the identity of the participant.

If you'd like to get in touch, or are interested in discussing this on-going project please send me an email at **e.a.alexander@lse.ac.uk**

Cheryl Conner

Cheryl Conner and Bert Provan take a lead within CASE on ensuring that our research reaches beyond the walls of academia and is accessible and visible to policymakers in national and local government, third sector organisations and wider society. Here Cheryl summarises some of our activities in 2016 and looks ahead to the coming year.

One key area of engagement with policymaking this year concerned the passage of the Welfare Reform and Work Act in spring of 2016, and in particular its proposed overhaul of child poverty measurement. The government planned to drop all mention of income and material deprivation-based measures from legislation, replacing them with indicators of worklessness and educational attainment. Drawing on Kitty Stewart and Nick Roberts' analysis of a 2012 government consultation on child poverty measurement, and on previous CASE work including Kerris Cooper and Kitty Stewart's examination of evidence on the impact of household income on children's outcomes, we briefed members of the House of Lords on the evidence base against this move. Our work was cited in debates in both Houses of Parliament, and ultimately contributed to securing an amendment to the legislation. While the child poverty targets were dropped, along with the requirement on government to have a child poverty strategy, the government did commit to continuing to publish the four child poverty measures annually – an important concession.

In December 2016 we took the opportunity to disseminate key findings from the Social Policy in a Cold Climate (SPCC) research programme on UK inequality, social policy and outcomes since the crisis (2007-2015) to a European audience. Polina Obolenskaya, Bert Provan and Kitty Stewart presented their research at a conference held in Paris entitled *Government and Public Services in an Age of Fiscal Consolidation: Comparative views from France and the UK*. The event was jointly organised by the Universities of Paris 1 and Paris 3, together with the London-based Policy Network and the Institute for Public Policy Research. The programme included plenary sessions and workshops on governance and finance, sectoral studies (energy, employment, education, housing, and health) and a round table on Brexit. There were over 200 attendees, including former Coalition Cabinet Minister Vince Cable MP.

Further opportunities for more European knowledge exchange and impact are arising from a new research project from Tania Burchardt and Eleni Karagiannaki, "Intra-household allocation of resources: implications for poverty, deprivation and inequality in the European Union" (funded by the ESRC). This project will run until February 2019, and will use micro-data from the European Union Statistics on Incomes and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) to examine the sensitivity of poverty, deprivation and inequality estimates across European countries to different assumptions about the intra-household sharing of resources, to identify the groups of people (especially as defined by sex, age and household type) for whom intra-household inequality may have the largest impact, and to consider the implications for our understanding of the impact of the economic crisis on poverty, deprivation and inequality in different countries and across the EU as a whole.

We anticipate that the project will generate findings with potential impact of three kinds:

1 how deprivation, poverty and inequality are measured within countries and across the EU;

2 policymakers' understanding of which age and gender groups are the highest priorities for anti-poverty interventions;

3 more indirectly, the factors that need to be taken into account when selecting tax and benefit policy instruments in pursuit of poverty prevention or relief, or with a view to reducing inequalities.

In seeking to influence policy, our future impact strategy for the project aims to communicate with intermediaries such as interest groups, political parties, and mass media (including social media), as well as more direct communication with policymakers, at both UK and European levels. We have made a preliminary map of the end users and intermediaries most relevant for achieving impact which will be refined as the project progresses and in discussion with our Advisory and User Group. There are both pan-European and country-specific organisations. We expect to have most leverage on pan-European organisations and on organisations based in the UK, although we will be seeking connections with national organisations in other countries wherever possible, with selected country briefings to be translated into other European languages, to be identified once the most striking country findings become clear. We aim to get the project "on the radar" of key potential users at an early stage through Researchers' briefing meetings with EU Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and Eurostat in Brussels, establishing a project webpage, and using social media to alert followers to the start of the project.

The knowledge exchange strategy for the project will also operate in a responsive mode to build links, extend our existing links, and respond to emerging European and national policy debates, through snowballing contacts from our Advisory and User Group and other existing contacts to reach particular target groups/countries and promote two-way engagement.

The approach for this project represents a more forward-looking, proactive approach that we are taking for five other key projects over the next year, looking towards the next Research Excellence Framework round.

LSE Research Festival 2016

Polina Obolenskaya

This year CASE had a very good presence during the annual LSE Research Festival – a celebration of LSE's social science research and its impact. The theme was Poverty and Inequality so it was very closely related to much of the research undertaken at CASE.

The public exhibition featured work from researchers from across LSE in three types of entry: photographs, posters and headlined abstracts, with multiple exhibits from CASE featuring in all three categories. Category winners were decided by expert judges and a popular prize was voted for by attendees. Although our exhibits did not win any of the prizes, an abstract by Tammy Campbell, Ludovica Gambaro and Kitty Stewart (titled ''Universal" Pre-schooling: who benefits? Three-year-olds from higher-income families access more free early education than less affluent peers') and a powerful photo by Eileen Alexander (representing her PhD research into the role of financial support from family among those on low incomes) were **highly commended**.

As part of the Festival, there was a Three Minute Thesis Competition which saw PhD students presenting a spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance

Kerris Cooper delivering her winning Three Minute Thesis entry: "Are poor parents poor parents?"

in just three minutes and with the aid of only one slide. And the winner of that competition was Kerris Cooper! She delivered an outstanding presentation on her PhD which explores the relationship between poverty and parenting.

The research festival took place alongside a wider LSE celebration of the work of Charles Booth who died in 1916 and whose original survey into life and labour in London is held in the LSE Library. As part of the Charles Booth Centenary Lectures, Anne Power gave an historical account of housing policies in England since the early 20th century. She argued that we still struggle to house everyone and that the country has seen a return to insecurity and heavy concentrations of poverty. John Hills gave a lecture, titled "The Chain: how inequality works", in which he traced some of the ways in which rising inequalities in income and wealth are driving the housing crisis for those at the margins.

Eileen Alexander's highly commended photograph entered into the LSE Research Festival: "I Have to Rely on So Many People for So Much"

Anne Power at the Charles Booth Centenary Lectures

CASE Away Day 2016

Polly Vizard

We had a successful and engaging away day in September 2016 attended by CASE staff, PhDs and Research Associates.

The event was the first time that many of us had met up following the BREXIT vote in June 2016. The first session began with a presentation by Kitty Stewart mapping out the immediate and short-term implications of BREXIT for poverty, inequality and social policy. This was followed by a wide-ranging and lively discussion covering immigration, the future of socially inclusive policies, education, regional inequalities, the implications of possible future inflationary pressures on living standards and human rights and equalities.

Different areas of CASE research were highlighted during the day. From LSE Housing and Communities, Laura Lane presented on the challenges of constructing adequate housing and living environments in Belfast, whilst Alice Belotti evaluated experiences of retrofitting high rise estates with residents in-situ.

Polina Obolenskaya and Tammy Campbell both presented findings from ongoing research projects funded by Nuffield Foundation. Polina summarised findings to date on a project on multidimensional child poverty and disadvantage being undertaken with Polly Vizard and Tania Burchardt. The project aims to tackle "data exclusion" by extending the evidence base on missing and "invisible" children and Polina's presentation set out findings on increases in after-housing-costs income poverty amongst young carers in the period since the financial crisis and economic downturn. Tammy's presentation focussed on emerging findings from a joint project with Ludovica Gambaro and Kitty Stewart. The presentation used data from the National Pupil Data base to highlight clustering by characteristics such as income poverty and ethnicity amongst pre-school children and addressed the potential implications of clustering for educational attainment and life chances.

Another session focussed on CASE PhDs. In this session, Rikki Dean presented under the title "Public participation in complex policy systems". The presentation addressed the nature of preferences and attitudes and the need for research that goes beyond quantification and adopts a mixed methods approach. Kerris Cooper's PhD focuses on the mechanisms whereby economic hardship can impact parenting behaviours. Her presentation focussed on the role of maternal mental health in explaining the relationship between hardship (measured as debt, material deprivation and feeling poor) and different types of parenting behaviours.

Group discussions were also held during the day on knowledge exchange and staff survey feedback, whilst a group brainstorm focussing on the future research agenda on social exclusion resulted in a series of engaging and exciting research ideas for the upcoming period.

Perhaps the most anticipated part of the day, though, came as the formal proceedings closed – a moment which marked the formal handover of the Directorship of CASE from John Hills to Tania Burchardt, with John becoming Chair of CASE (not to mention co-Director of the new LSE International Inequalities Institute!), and with Abigail Mcknight, Kitty Stewart and Polly Vizard becoming CASE Associate Directors.

The moment was a poignant one, and there were tears in a few eyes as John set out his "reflections on the day" and indeed on his time as Director of CASE. However, Cheryl's two CASE cakes – one for the former CASE Director and one for the new – together with plenty of champagne helped to ease us into the new era!

A moment in CASE history – the former and current CASE Directors cutting the CASE cakes!

Research staff and PhD students: Current research

Eileen Alexander is in the third year of her PhD. Her research explores the significance of informal financial support among family members and friends on low incomes. Eileen completed her fieldwork in 2016 having conducted 50 in-depth interviews with working age social housing tenants. In addition to her research, Eileen began teaching on two undergraduate courses – Sociology and Social Policy, and Social Policy Research Methods – and is very much enjoying the experience. Eileen continues her involvement with LSE Housing and Communities, specifically with the recently published Leipzig City Report.

Alice Belotti continued working as Research Assistant with Anne Power and the LSE Housing and Communities team. She has been working mainly on the development of the Housing Plus Academy, a knowledge exchange programme run in partnership with Trafford Hall, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, National Housing Federation, Chartered Institute of Housing and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. She has been helping with programme development and has compiled headlines and reports to showcase findings and demonstrate impact from the Think Tanks, two of which have been published as CASEreports. Another important focus of her work in 2016 has been stage two of the Wilmcote House research project, a longitudinal study of 15 families living in a council block in Portsmouth subject to energy efficiency retrofit. 2016 saw the publication of her report "Estate regeneration and Community impacts: challenges and lessons for social landlords, developers and local councils", discussing the impacts of large scale demolition of council estates on tenants, leaseholders and their communities.

Caroline Bryson joined CASE as a part-time PhD candidate in November 2015. She is using the UK Household Longitudinal Study and the Millennium Cohort Study to explore the predictors of non-resident parents providing financial support after families separate. Outside of her PhD, Caroline is a social science researcher working on a range of government and grant-funded studies, with recent publications including the evaluations of the DCLG's Troubled Families Programme and the DWP's Help and Support for Separated Families innovation projects.

Tania Burchardt started work on an ESRC-funded project with Eleni Karagiannaki on the implications of assumptions about intra-household sharing of resources for poverty, deprivation and inequality across European countries, using EU-SILC data. She continued to work with Polly Vizard and Polina Obolenskaya on the multidimensional disadvantage of statistically "missing" or "invisible" groups of children (funded by the Nuffield Foundation), focusing in particular on Gypsy and Traveller children using Census data. She is also a member of the team working on the JRF programme on poverty and inequality, as part of which she supervised Irene Bucelli's review paper on the normative grounds for concern about poverty and about inequality. Finally she has been thinking, talking and writing about "capability advantage" and the vertical distribution of capabilities, with Rod Hick.

Tammy Campbell joined CASE in 2016, after completing her PhD at the UCL IoE, while freelancing for organisations including the DfE and local authorities. With Kitty Stewart and Ludovica Gambaro, she is currently using the National Pupil Database to investigate clustering by characteristic among pre-school children, associations between clustering and children's measured "attainment," and drivers of patterns. She is also working on several offshoots from this project, including an exploration of disparities in access to free early education, and an examination of variations in trajectories of transition from preschool to reception. Tammy additionally continues to pursue interests in inequalities in breastfeeding behaviours (with a paper using the Millennium Cohort Study currently under review), and in biases in judgements, perceptions, and assessments of primary school children.

Kerris Cooper continued to work on her thesis, which explores the relationship between economic hardship and parenting in the UK, using the Millennium Cohort Study. In particular, Kerris has been analysing the role of mothers' mental health as a potential mechanism that explains the relationship between hardship and parenting. In order to complete this, she attended a course on Structural Equation Modelling in Stata, in Washington DC in March 2016. In November 2016, Kerris won the LSE's Three Minute Thesis competition, which was part of the LSE Research Festival. This competition challenges PhD students to communicate the significance of their research to a non-specialist audience in under three minutes, with the aid of one presentation slide. Kerris also began work funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to update the systematic review "Does Money Affect Children's Outcomes", with Kitty Stewart.

Rikki Dean completed his PhD on the use of participatory policy-making techniques in social policy. The first paper from this work was published in *Policy & Politics*. Entitled "Beyond Radicalism and Resignation", it outlines a new typology for thinking about approaches to public participation. He also worked on a project concerning conceptions of accountability in local governance with CASE Visiting Fellow Liz Richardson and Catherine Durose (Birmingham).

Moira Dustin, Visiting Fellow at CASE, collaborated with Tania Burchardt in co-editing a special equality-themed issue of the *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice* (24 (1)) as well as contributing a paper on "Culture or masculinity? Understanding gender-based violence in the UK" to the issue, which came out in February. Until September 2016, Moira coordinated the Equality and Diversity Forum Research Network, a multi-disciplinary equality and human rights network bringing together academics, policy makers, NGOs and funders to inform and improve UK policy and legislation. The Network is co-chaired by Tania Burchardt and in June held a seminar with the Centre for Research on Law, Equality and Diversity at Queen Mary University of London to discuss "Raising the bar on equality and fair treatment at work". In 2016 the Network's membership grew to more than 200 full members – UK university-based academics working on equality, human rights and social justice – in a larger network of 800 individuals from NGOs and public bodies.

During 2016 **Howard Glennerster** prepared a new edition of his textbook on the finance of social welfare services focussed on the United Kingdom but with extensive comparative material. Changes in policy and literature since the last edition, and a decision to reorganise the material, resulted in a largely new book! Colleagues in CASE provided great support. The new edition should appear by May 2017.

Ian Gough was invited to participate in a three-day workshop on material demand reduction at the University of Cambridge. His contributed paper will appear in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society in 2017. He also continued as advisor to the Norwegian research programme on sustainability and welfare, located at the NOVA research institute in Oslo. At the LSE he launched a new seminar series on Climate Change, Inequality and Social Policy, supported by CASE, the International Inequalities Institute and the Grantham Institute. The first two meetings in 2016 attracted large numbers.

Aaron Grech continued to conduct research on pension reforms in Europe. His work focused on comparing reforms before and after the financial crisis, trying to assess whether the crisis shifted the pace and focus of changes. His research shows that in those countries where reforms had taken place prior to the crisis, more recent reforms impacted less on adequacy. But it also indicates that in some countries, the crisis was followed by very significant reforms. As a result, the generosity of pension systems has tended to converge across Europe. The tighter link between contributions and benefits brought about by most pension reforms has also meant that the rise in youth unemployment brought about by the crisis could have serious impacts on pensioner poverty in future years. Aaron has also carried out research on pension reforms in Malta, serving on a Pensions Strategy Group set up by the Maltese Government.

Throughout 2016, the LSE International Inequalities Institute continued to develop. **John Hills**' role as Co-Director of III (alongside Professor Mike Savage of LSE Sociology) expanded considerably. Having led the centre since 1997, John made the difficult decision to step down as Director of CASE. He continues to work with colleagues here both in his new role as Chair of CASE and through his work as part of the project on Improving the Evidence Base for Understanding the Links between Inequalities and Poverty. This programme is led by CASE in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the International Inequalities Institute. John and colleagues convened the International Inequality Institute annual conference in Spring 2016. John also contributed to several chapters in *Social Policy in a Cold Climate: Policies and their consequences since the crisis*. Based on CASE's long running research programme Social Policy in a Cold Climate, the book was published in April 2016 and John presented at the launch event. He continued to work on other outputs from the programme. He has also been working as co-editor, with colleagues from Antwerp University, on a book resulting from the long-running EU-funded "ImPRovE" programme. More recently John presented at the LSE Research Festival 2016 as part of a celebration of pioneering social scientist Charles Booth, who died in 1916. His lecture examined the ways in which rising inequalities in income and wealth and the policies associated with them are driving the housing crisis in the UK and particularly in London. In "The Chain:

Research staff and PhD students: Current research (continued)

How Inequality Works", John explained how the experiences of both those at the lower end and the upper end of the London property market are interconnected. He also revised and updated his book *Good Times, Bad Times: The Welfare Myth of Them and Us* and a second edition will be published by The Policy Press in February 2017.

Stephen Jenkins has been working on a series of papers about trends in UK income inequality in conjunction with colleagues based in Melbourne. They are combining income data about the very "top incomes" from tax data and about the rest of the distribution from household survey data.

Eleni Karagiannaki worked on the research programme on "Improving the evidence base for understanding the links between inequalities and poverty". This programme is led by Tania Burchardt, John Hills, Abigail McKnight and Polly Vizard and is part of a larger research programme awarded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to LSE to investigate the links between poverty and inequality. In her work for the programme, Eleni draws on income inequality and poverty statistics from various databases to examine the empirical relationship between poverty and inequality changes in rich and middle-income countries. Over the last year, Eleni also started working on a new ESRC funded project with Tania Burchardt which seeks to examine the implications of the intra-household sharing of resources on the living standard measurement in Europe.

Laura Lane continued her research work within the LSE Housing and Communities Team. In 2016 she has mostly been working on a collaborative project with Ulster University on post-conflict communities as constructs of people and architecture. LSE Housing are advising on the social policy/ community engagement aspects of the work and Laura has concentrated on questionnaire design in addition to studying the case study areas. Laura has also been leading work with St Martin-in-the-Fields charity on their Vicar's Relief Fund, an emergency fund available to support workers to prevent homelessness. Laura completed a small-scale evidence review on inequalities within Belfast for Belfast City Council. She was also involved in a number of other LSE Housing projects including the social impacts of energy efficient retrofitting of Wilmcote House in Portsmouth, research into the effectiveness of homeownership schemes internationally and in the UK, and the Housing Plus Academy.

Neil Lee is a CASE research associate and Assistant Professor in Economic Geography in the Department of Geography and Environment. He is working on a project for the JRF on demand side approaches to Inclusive Growth in cities. The project helps to link economic development strategies with outcomes for disadvantaged groups. He is also working with the Resolution Foundation to investigate the extent to which low-to-middle income earners benefit from growth in high-tech or knowledge-based industries.

Abigail McKnight, working with a number of colleagues in CASE, completed a series of Evidence Reviews for the European Commission looking at the effectiveness of employment activation, preventative measures and preventative approaches to low pay and in-work poverty, and policies designed to reduce economic inequality. These reviews were published by the Commission in July 2016 and the key findings were presented to a group of policy experts in Brussels. Abigail, along with Magali Duque and Mark Rucci, completed a review for Oxfam on the relationship between economic inequality and poverty which will be published by Oxfam early in 2017. This is also the subject of a larger three year research programme funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation with a number of different strands of work involving colleagues in CASE and the LSE's International Inequalities Institute. Within this project Abigail is examining the role of the labour market in shaping the relationship between income poverty and income inequality.

Alice Miles has been embracing the joy of transcribing and analysing 35 hours of interviews, under the extremely patient guidance of Tania Burchardt and Julian le Grand. She currently works at the Office of the Children's Commissioner and hopes to complete her PhD by summer 2018.

Polina Obolenskaya continued working on the Nuffield Foundation funded project with Polly Vizard and Tania Burchardt, entitled "Multidimensional child poverty and disadvantage: Tackling 'data exclusion' and extending the evidence base on missing and 'invisible' children". Polina has been analysing data from a number of sources such as Family Resources Survey and 2011 Census, in relation to poverty and disadvantage among vulnerable groups of children, including young carers, children at risk of abuse and neglect, children from Gypsy and Traveller ethnic backgrounds and recent migrant children.

Julia Philipp joined CASE in October 2016 as a PhD student. Her thesis explores the role of social identity and norms for women's labour market choices. Alongside her PhD work she began teaching microeconomics to undergraduate students and applied regression analysis to postgraduate students.

David Piachaud has been examining the case for a universal unconditional basic income and reconsidering the impact of social policies on inequality.

Lucinda Platt was responsible for setting up a joint UKAJI /CASE seminar in March on benefit sanctions. This was well-attended with good speakers (Aaron Reeves, Anne Power, David Webster) and good discussion including Mike Adler and Maurice Sunkin as well as the speakers and chaired by Niki Lacey. Related to this, in February she had the launch of the report, *The Value and Effects of Judicial Review* with Varda Bondy and Maurice Sunkin, published by PLP and based on research funded by the Nuffield Foundation. Another launch was that for a book edited with Hartley Dean, *Social Advantage and Disadvantage*, which included (the book and the launch) a number of (current or former) CASE authors (Burchardt, Cunliffe, Hick, Hills, Platt, Stewart).

Anne Power launched her latest book, *Cities for a Small Continent: International Handbook of City Recovery* in May 2016, with Bruce Katz, Donal Durkan, Director of Development at Belfast City Council, Mathieu Goetzke from the Cite du Lille, and Ricky Burdett, LSE Cities. *Cities for a Small Continent*, a sequel to *Phoenix Cities*, shows the prospects for ex-industrial cities across Europe, through the use of seven "case study" cities such as Sheffield, Belfast and Bilbao. This year, she has led the Housing Plus Academy programme, in partnership with Trafford Hall, the National Housing Federation, the Chartered Institute of Housing and most recently, with the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. She has been instrumental in the development of nine knowledge-exchange Think Tanks in the Housing Plus Academy's first year, on subjects such as private renting, energy saving, surviving cuts, and building a community enterprise. These Think Tanks have attracted over 400 participants, tenants and staff, to Trafford Hall. LSE Housing and Communities also launched the Rayners Lane report, an evaluation of estate renewal on Rayners Lane which has had a very wide impact, including being cited in the recent Heseltine Report; continued their work on the EHRC funded "Connected Communities" project with Ulster University; and their evaluation of the retrofit of a high-rise housing block in Portsmouth. Anne Power has advised on estate regeneration, she is a member of the Troubled Families Advisory Board, has contributed to discussions and events on the community impacts of leaving the EU, as well as advising housing associations and local authorities and developers on the potential for sustainable renewal.

Bert Provan continued to undertake both knowledge management work and a range of research projects. The evaluation of the social impact of the Home group regeneration of Rayners Lane neighbourhood was completed, indicating that the model of prioritising the re-housing of existing residents had delivered many benefits in terms of the satisfaction of the residents with the renewal works. Extensive investment in social and community activity was also shown to deliver a high social return in terms of quality of life and wider neighbourhood benefits. Bert was also involved in the Habinteg/ Papworth work on the impact on households of having unmet disability housing needs. These included impacts on health and wellbeing, the ability to engage in community life and, crucially, their ability to participate in the employment market. Other research work included contributing to the Social Policy in a Cold Climate (SPCC) paper on regional variations, contributions to Anne Power's new book on *Cities for a Small Continent*, contributing findings on the social impact of low cost home ownership schemes to the housing chapter of the 2016 Social Mobility Commission annual report, and presenting a paper in Paris on housing estate renewal programmes to an Anglo-French conference on the comparative impacts of the economic crisis to social policy in both countries. On the knowledge management side there was much activity around the launch of the new SPCC book, including a launch event with videos of the key messages. Bert also contributed to the impact sections of a forthcoming report for Oxfam on inequalities.

Wendy Sigle has continued to work on a number of projects which consider how demographers study and conceptualize fertility. She has continued work on a manuscript, co-authored with Ben Wilson, which focuses on how migrant fertility convergence can be defined and conceptualized in empirical studies, and completed the first draft of a paper (co-authored with Joanna Marczak and Ernestina Coast) which examines the fertility intentions of Polish-born individuals in Krakow and London. The manuscript offers new insights into how cross-national comparisons are used to explain and justify reported intentions. In addition, she has continued to work on a manuscript (co-authored with Alice Goisis) that, with a focus on

Research staff and PhD students: Current research (continued)

child obesity, explores the meaning, specification, and interpretation of the relationship between family structure and child health, and has started another project (with Alice Goisis and Melissa Martinson) examining how, in the UK, socio-economic gradients in child obesity differ by ethnicity.

Kitty Stewart started work with Tammy Campbell and Ludovica Gambaro on a new Nuffield-funded project looking at clustering by social and ethnic background in where children attend nursery. She completed work with Nick Roberts on a paper looking at responses to the Coalition Government's consultation on measuring child poverty. This found overwhelming support for the official income and material-deprivation measures, and she was delighted when the Conservative Government bowed to pressure from the House of Lords and agreed to keep publishing these indicators. With Abigail McKnight, Kitty published an evidence review on low pay and in-work poverty for the European Commission. She also gave a public lecture to commemorate Eleanor Rathbone, considering the continuing case for universal Child Benefit and reflecting on what Rathbone might have made of social security for children in the UK today.

Ellie Suh is in the second year of the PhD, supervised by John Hills and Irini Moustaki (Department of Statistics). She successfully passed her PhD upgrade and started working on her first PhD paper – *Understanding attitudes towards retirement saving among British adults in their 30s and 40s* – using structural equation modelling. She also worked on the Disability and Housing Adaptation Needs project with Tania Burchardt and Bert Provan (funded by Habinteg/PapWorth), and an impact study on older people's experience of dignity and respect in healthcare with Tania Burchardt and Polly Vizard (funded by the LSE Knowledge Exchange fund). She also enjoyed teaching seminar classes for a Master's level methods course, *Introduction to Quantitative Data Analysis (MY451)* in the Department of Methodology.

Kate Summers is in the third year of her PhD, which is funded by the ESRC. Her research asks how working age social security recipients think about and use their money. Kate continued her PhD research in 2016, conducting depth interviews with social security recipients in East London, and analysing and writing about the results. Kate also began a collaborative project with Katharina Hecht, comparing how rich and poor individuals experience and think about money. Kate has also been involved in setting up a *Money, Security and Social Policy* early career researcher network with the Social Policy Association, with the aim of fostering support and collaboration among researchers. In addition to her research, Kate continued to teach the undergraduate course on Poverty, Social Exclusion and Social Change.

Polly Vizard continued her research on poverty and inequality, the capability approach and human rights. Further impact work was undertaken (Tania Burchardt and Age UK) on older people's experiences of dignity and support with eating in healthcare using the Adult Inpatient Survey in the first part of 2016 and the findings were also extended to include an analysis of the effects of deprivation (funded through a Grant from the LSE International Inequalities Institute). Work continued on a project on children's multidimensional poverty and disadvantage funded by Nuffield Foundation, with Tania Burchardt and Polina Obolenskaya, with a particular focus in much of 2016 on income poverty amongst young carers. Polly also presented a paper from the project at the Annual Conference of the Human Development and Capability Association in Tokyo September 2016; contributed a book review on Tony Atkinson's book *Inequality* to the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*; and drafted a paper on the capability approach and human rights for a forthcoming handbook on the capability approach.

During 2016, **Jane Waldfogel** continued her work on improving the measurement of poverty and understanding the role of social policies in reducing poverty and improving child and family well-being. This work, mainly focused on the US, produced new data on trends in poverty and the role of the safety net both nationally and at the state level. She also continued her research on educational inequalities. In June, she and Sean Reardon convened a workshop at CASE on educational inequalities. The workshop brought together 18 scholars from the UK, US, Canada, Japan, Ireland, Italy, and international organizations such as OECD and UNICEF, to review what we know and what we need to learn about the determinants, magnitude, and remedies for inequalities in achievement and related aspects of child development and well-being in the early years, school years, and post-secondary years. Waldfogel is visiting CASE for the 2016-17 academic year. During this visit she will continue her current projects and begin several new ones, including a review of early years policy in the UK and a study of educational inequalities across countries.

Lin Yang is currently working on a three-year programme on Improving the Evidence Base for Understanding the Links between Inequalities and Poverty, collaborating with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the LSE International Inequalities Institute. Her work so far explores the theoretical and empirical relationships between economic inequalities and both income and multidimensional poverty, including the question of whether – and if so how – inequalities generate or entrench poverty.

Asghar Zaidi continued working on a diverse set of topics linked with the wellbeing of older people. He completed the second phase of the Active Ageing Index project, funded jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL). He completed his ESRC's Secondary Data Analysis Initiative project on wellbeing and quality of life of older people in India, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh, in partnership with Maria Evandrou and Jane Falkingham. He continued working on developing further Age UK's Index of Wellbeing in Later Life, launched during November 2016. He started with a new project on rights of older people, in collaboration with HelpAge International, with funding from British Council, leading to a new nation-wide survey on rights of older people in Pakistan. He led the work on realising active ageing in the European Commission's framework programme project "Mobilising the Potential of Active Ageing in Europe" (in a partnership with Alan Walker). He served as an advisor (population ageing) in UNFPA's International Panel of Advisors Population and Development (IAPPD), Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. He co-authored a position paper for UNDP for their future work on population ageing and the post-2015 SDGs. Among his other contributions, he delivered a keynote speech at the 54th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development, organised by the Columbia Aging Center, Columbia University, New York.

CASE publications 2016

Publications and events

Non-CASE authors indicated by *italics*.

Books and reports

Power, A. (2016). *Cities for a Small Continent. An International Handbook on Industrial Cities*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Lupton, R., Burchardt, T., Hills, J., Stewart, K. and Vizard, P. (eds.) (2016) *Social Policy in a Cold Climate: Policies and their consequences since the crisis*. Bristol: The Policy Press.

McKnight, A. and *Vaganay, A.* (2016) *Evidence Review – The strength of the link between income support and activation*. European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Catalog N. :KE-01-16-509-EN-N **bit.ly/29jKSvN**

McKnight, A., Duque, M. and Rucci, M. (2016) *Evidence Review – Creating more equal societies: what works?* European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Catalog N. :KE-01-16-508-EN-N **bit.ly/29bnW0g**

McKnight, A. Stewart, K.J., Mohun Himmelweit, S. and Palillo, M. (2016) *Evidence review – Low pay and in-work poverty: preventative measures and preventative approaches*. European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Catalog N. :KE-01-16-501-EN-N **bit.ly/29bncZh**

Forthcoming

Gough, I. (2017) *Heat, Greed and Human Need: Climate Change, Capitalism and Sustainable Wellbeing.* Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Ltd.

Hills, J. (2017) *Good Times, Bad Times: The Welfare Myth of Them and Us, Second Edition*. Bristol: The Policy Press.

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Book Chapters

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CASE/193	Polina Obolenskaya and Tania Burchardt	Public and Private Welfare Activity in England
CASE/194	Rolf Aaberge, A.B. Atkinson and Henrik Sigstad	Income Poverty, Affluence and Polarisation Viewed from the Median
CASE/195	Alex Fenton	Gentrification in London: A progress report, 2001-2013
CASE/196	Alex Fenton	Spatial microsimulation estimates of household income distributions in London boroughs, 2001 and 2011
CASE/197	Kitty Stewart and Nick Roberts	How do experts think child poverty should be measured in the UK? An analysis of the Coalition Government's consultation on child poverty measurement 2012-13
CASE/198	A.B. Atkinson	Pareto and the upper tail of the income distribution in the UK: 1799 to the present
CASE/199	Ben Baumberg Geiger	Benefit 'myths'? The accuracy and inaccuracy of public beliefs about the benefits system
CASE/200	David Piachaud	Citizen's Income: Rights and Wrongs

CASE reports

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Social Policy in a Cold Climate working papers

Social Policy in a Cold Climate, Working Paper 23	Obolenskaya, P., Lupton, R., and Provan, J. A.	Pulling in the Same Direction?: Economic and Social Outcomes in London and the North of England since the Recession.
Social Policy in a Cold Climate, Working Paper 24	Stephanie Thomson and Ruth Lupton	The Effects of English School System Reforms (2002-2014) on Pupil Sorting and Social Segregation: A Greater Manchester Case Study

CASE seminars and events 2016

Seminars

Social Exclusion Seminars	
10 February	Family Patterns and Social Inequality among Children in the United States, 1940-2012: A re-assessment Tony Fahey (University College Dublin and CASE visitor)
2 March	Hard Times and Social Change: The effects of the economic crisis on personal values Annie Austin (Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research, University of Manchester)
1 June	The Educational Progress of Looked-after Children in England: Linking care and educational data Nikki Luke (Rees Centre for Research in Fostering and Education, University of Oxford)
9 November	Citizen's Income: Rights and wrongs David Piachaud (Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, LSE)
30 November	Open Policy Making in Education: From public to private in the formulation of policy Sonia Exley (LSE Social Policy)
Welfare Policy and Analysis Seminars	
20 January	Tails of Robin Hood: Comparing welfare myths and realities in the United Kingdom and Australia Peter Whiteford (Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University), joint with John Hills (CASE and LSE International Inequalities Institute)
24 February	Pension reforms: Are some in danger of being left behind? Daniela Silcock and Timothy Pike (Pensions Policy Institute)
11 May	Household Debt and Spending in the United Kingdom Philip Bunn (Bank of England)
18 May	US Welfare Reform and the Intergenerational Transmission of Dependence Jim Ziliak (Centre for Poverty Research, University of Kentucky)
15 June	Getting Back into Work after Job Loss: The role of partner effects Simonetta Longhi (ISER, University of Essex)
22 June	The Generation Game: Lifetime gifts, family relationships and inequality Karen Rowlingson (University of Birmingham)
16 November	Low Income Dynamics among Ethnic Minorities in the UK Ricky Kanabar (ISER, University of Essex)
23 November	The Effect of Motherhood and Lone Motherhood on Income and Poverty Risks in the US and UK Susan Harkness (University of Bath)
7 December	Improving the Measurement of Poverty in the US Jane Waldfogel (Columbia University)
Climate Change, Inequality and Social Policy Seminars	
3 November	Climate Change, Inequality and Social Policy Ian Gough (CASE)
1 December	Carbon and Inequality: From Measurement to Policy Lucas Chancel (IDDRI, Sciences Po, Paris), joint with Dario Kenner (Global Sustainability Institute, Anglia Ruskin University) Respondent: Dario Kenner (Global Sustainability Institute, Anglia Ruskin University)

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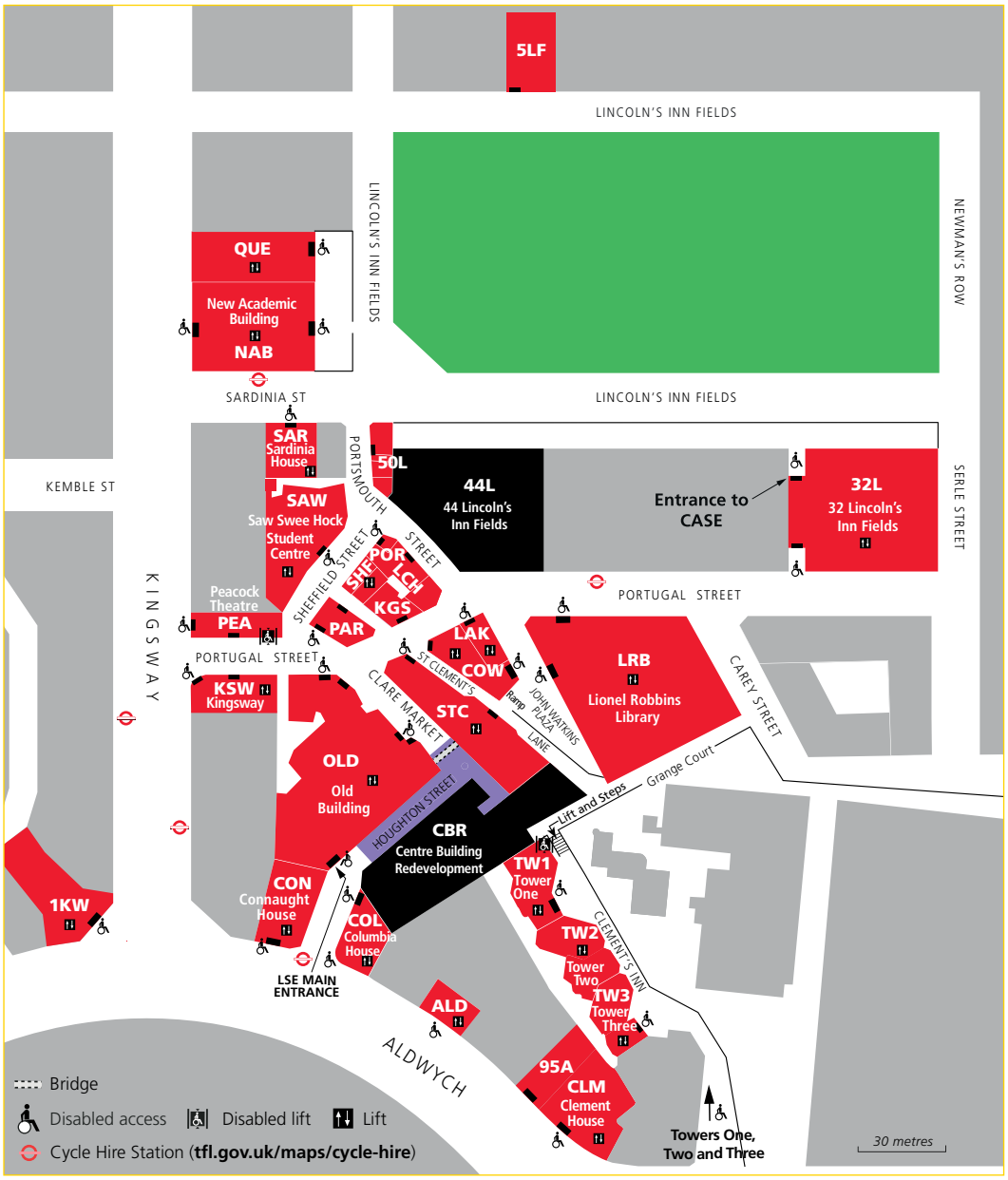

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