



Centre for analysis of
social exclusion

annual report 2011

CASereport 73



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CASE – An introduction



The Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) is a multi-disciplinary research centre based at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), within the Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines (STICERD). Our focus is on exploration of different dimensions of social disadvantage, particularly from longitudinal and neighbourhood perspectives, and examination of the impact of public policy.

CASE was established in October 1997 with funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). That research programme was successfully completed at the end of 2007. The Centre is now supported by STICERD, LSE and funding from a range of organisations, including the Nuffield Foundation, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, ESRC, the European Union, the British Academy, the Trust for London, Department for Communities and Local Government, Department

of Energy and Climate Change. CASE includes the research and consultancy group, LSE Housing. The Centre is also associated with the School's Department of Social Policy and houses a number of postgraduate students working on topics related to its core areas of interest.

CASE organises regular seminars on empirical and theoretical issues connected with social exclusion, and co-organises the monthly Welfare Policy and Analysis Seminar, supported by the Department for Work and Pensions.

CASE hosts visitors from Britain and overseas, and members of the LSE teaching staff on special sabbatical leave. The Centre publishes a series of discussion papers, CASEpapers, and a series of CASEbriefs, which summarise the research. Particular conferences and activities are summarised in our occasional CASEreports series. All of our publications can be downloaded from our website.

This report presents some of the main findings from our research and activities during 2011. More detail on specific publications can be found at the end of this report.

For more information about the Centre and its work, including the seminar series and our publications, please visit our website:

<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/>

Review of the year, 2011



As the rest of this report shows, 2011 was another very active year for the Centre, including the completion of some major research projects and the start of others. We also produced a large volume of publications and held 24 seminars or other events.

We were delighted that funding was approved for several new initiatives over the next few years. The largest of these is our “Social Policy in a Cold Climate” programme, generously supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Nuffield Foundation and the Trust for London, with some parallel work for the Office of the First Minister of Northern Ireland. This runs from October 2011 until the summer of 2015, and will investigate the distributional and other impacts of the dramatic changes we are seeing as a result of the recession, the impacts of the final years of the last government, and the reforms and public spending cuts being introduced by the Coalition government. It is described in more detail on page 21 below.

Other new projects started during the year included a project examining the quality and affordability of childcare and another looking at differences in consumption patterns between countries with higher and lower levels of social spending and taxation, both for the Nuffield Foundation. Tania Burchardt was awarded a fellowship from the British Academy to look at multi-dimensional indicators of inequality, and I was invited by the Secretary of State for

Energy and Climate Change to review the impacts and measurement of fuel poverty (see page 5).

In July Anne Power, Rosey Davidson and Helen Willmot launched their book, *Family Futures: Childhood and poverty in urban neighbourhoods*, one of the outputs from our long-running qualitative study of families living in low income areas, supported by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Nuffield Foundation. The book was discussed at its launch by Margaret Hodge MP, Katherine Rake from the Family and Parenting Institute, and Jane Waldfogel from Columbia University. It was also the subject of a lecture later in the year by Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Several of our seminars examined different aspects of policy change under the Coalition, including the Spending Review, housing, the Universal Credit, and the impact of policies on London. Speakers also looked at international aspects of educational inequality, family policies, poverty measurement and the impact of the Great Recession (see page 11). The international aspect of our work included continuing contribution to the European GINI (Growing Inequalities Impact) network (see page 15), and will be strengthened through our involvement as a partner in another EU programme – the IMPROVE network on poverty in Europe, to start in May 2012.

Other highlights included the launch of *Changing Fortunes: Income mobility and poverty dynamics in Britain* by Stephen Jenkins, who joined LSE and CASE in January, and a conference on “Cutting carbon costs: Our big energy battle” in December. The relationship between inequality, housing quality, energy costs and carbon emissions was a theme of several parts of our work, not just within the LSE Housing and Communities group (see page 18) and our work on fuel poverty, but also at the core of Ian Gough’s work (see page 13).

Projects completed during the year included the experiment Rebecca Tunstall, Ruth Lupton and Anne Green (Warwick

University) had been running for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation examining whether there was evidence of “postcode discrimination” when people apply for jobs, which also shone a fascinating – if depressing – light on that state of low wage labour markets in the recession (see page 14). We also published a series of papers from our programme on wealth inequality for the Nuffield Foundation, and brought the results together in a book, to be published early in 2013.

We were delighted to welcome several international visitors during the year, including Dr Olga Canto Sanchez from Madrid, Professor Tony Fahey from University College Dublin (see page 10), Professor Neeraj Kaushal (Columbia) and Professor Jean Grossman (Princeton).

We were also delighted that Ben Baumberg and Suyoung Kim were awarded their PhDs. For family reasons, Kênia Parsons is currently based in Australia while she resumes work on her thesis, but Olga Gora decided to discontinue her doctoral studies. We were very pleased to welcome Kenzo Asahi and Alice Miles as doctoral students within the Centre. Also joining us as research staff were Alex Fenton and Polina Obolenskaya, who are both working on the social policy in a cold climate programme, and Ludovica Gambaro (who was previously a doctoral student in CASE – see pages 17 and 20), working on childcare. Bert Provan joined us to work on the weak market cities programme, which was also supported during the year by Celine Kuklowsky. Anne Maree Payne worked with Polly Vizard on the human rights measurement framework project. Isobel Esberger joined the centre to work with Anne Power, when Libby Parrott left to work at CAFOD. Simon Watmough left the Centre at the end of the intensive work on the postcode discrimination project, and Dan Edmiston left to start a PhD at Leeds.

As can be seen, CASE’s research programme continues to thrive, despite pressures on research funding, and we look forward to reporting on further progress over the coming year.

John Hills
March 2012

The year at a glance

January 2011

We started the year by hosting a seminar with Tim Horton (Fabian Society), and Howard Reed (Landman Economics) entitled "The Distributional Impacts of the 2010 Spending Review".

February

February saw the launch of CASereport 65, "Place Typologies and their Policy Applications" commissioned by the Spatial Analysis Unit in the Department for Communities and Local Government. This complimented a seminar on "Housing and Planning Policy: Making Housing Affordable" by Christine Whitehead (LSE London).

March

CASE participated in an event on a similar theme hosted by LSE London and the Greater London Authority – "Poverty and Inequality in London: what difference will the Coalition's Social Policies Make?". Ruth Lupton and Alex Fenton (who at the time was based at the University of Cambridge) were speakers. Welfare policy and Analysis seminars included presentations from Institute for Fiscal Studies looking at the Poverty Projections 2010-2013 and the Longer-term Impact of Universal Credit.

June

Events in June focused around the topical concept of the "Big Society". CASereport 67 "Building the Big Society". Rebecca Tunstall, Ruth Lupton, Anne Power and Liz Richardson gave an overview of some of the emerging Coalition policy and outlining some of the opportunities and challenges communities face in taking up these opportunities.

This was accompanied by the LSE Housing Special Event – Breakfast Seminar: "Community Assets and the Big Society – who carries the cost?". Guest speakers included David Halpern, Director of the Behavioural Insights Team in the Cabinet Office and Principal Advisor to the Office of Civil Society, Julian Le Grand and key speakers from third sector organisations.

July



CASE/LSE Housing Book Launch: Family Futures: Childhood and Poverty in Urban Neighbourhoods. Author Anne

Power along with Jane Waldfogel and Margaret Hodge MP spoke at the event centred around the findings of this major eight year study.

October

Launch of Fuel poverty: The problem and its measurement, Interim report of the fuel poverty review. Led by John Hills working with DECC. The final report was completed in Spring 2012.



Tony Fahey, UCD, arrived as a visiting fellow during Lent term. He is part of the UCD team contributing to the GINI project.

Tony presented a seminar on his work on two concepts of relative deprivation. See page 10.

November

CASE hosted one of a series of GINI international workshops where a range of papers were presented on the theme of wider social impacts of inequality.

LSE Housing and Communities organised a special event themed around the earlier report Cutting Carbon Costs. Lord Nicholas Stern contributed along with a host of other influential speakers.

December

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Ian Duncan Smith spoke at LSE Housing and Communities' special event focused around Family Futures, Anne Power and Jane Waldfogel also presented findings.



Following the launch of his book Changing Fortunes earlier in the year, Stephen Jenkins hosted a seminar "The Great

Recession and the Distribution of Household Income" based around his findings. See page 11.

December also saw the release of the report from Polly Vizard together with Holly Holder and Tiffany Tsang, "Human Rights Measurement Framework", commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Fuel poverty: A new approach to measurement?

John Hills

Dramatic increases in the cost of heating have added to the pressure on all household budgets, but particularly for those with low incomes living in homes that are hard to heat. Exceptionally cold months at the start and end of 2010 raised increased concerns for the health of those who could not afford to keep warm. Meanwhile, domestic heating and energy use are one of the biggest contributors to national carbon emissions, but one which offers the best prospects for reducing them through better insulation and more efficient heating.

These problems come together under the label of “fuel poverty”, an issue of concern since the 1970s, but which was the focus of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act (WHECA) 2000. This committed governments to the elimination of fuel poverty – so far as “reasonably practicable” – within sixteen years.

In March last year, the then Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Chris Huhne, invited me to undertake an independent review from first principles of the problem of fuel poverty and the way we measure it.

Supported by a team seconded from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), I published an interim report in October 2011. This concluded that fuel poverty is indeed a distinct and serious problem from three overlapping perspectives:

For those concerned with poverty. Our calculations suggest that the “fuel poverty gap” for households in England in or on the margins of poverty from facing costs

to keep warm above those for typical households with much higher incomes added up to £1.1 billion in 2009.

Living in cold homes has a series of effects on illness and mental health. The most serious is its contribution to Britain’s unusually high rates of “excess winter deaths”. If only a tenth of these are due directly to fuel poverty, that would be more than are killed on the roads.

For those concerned with climate change. It is essential that we improve the energy efficiency of the whole housing stock. But those on low incomes in the worst housing cannot afford the investment needed.

To support public policy and action in this area we need good measurement. However, our analysis suggests that the way in which fuel poverty is currently measured officially has significant flaws, giving a misleading impression both of trends and of the effectiveness of policies to tackle it, as well as including some households that do not have low incomes.

The limitations of the existing official indicator (which was adopted in the 2001 national fuel poverty strategy) arise because this measure is based on comparing the ratio between households’ needs to spend on energy and their income against a fixed threshold. A household is counted as “fuel poor” if it would need to spend more than 10 per cent of its income to reach particular temperature standards. This amounts to comparing a household’s fuel poverty ratio, which can be expressed as follows, against the 10 per cent threshold:

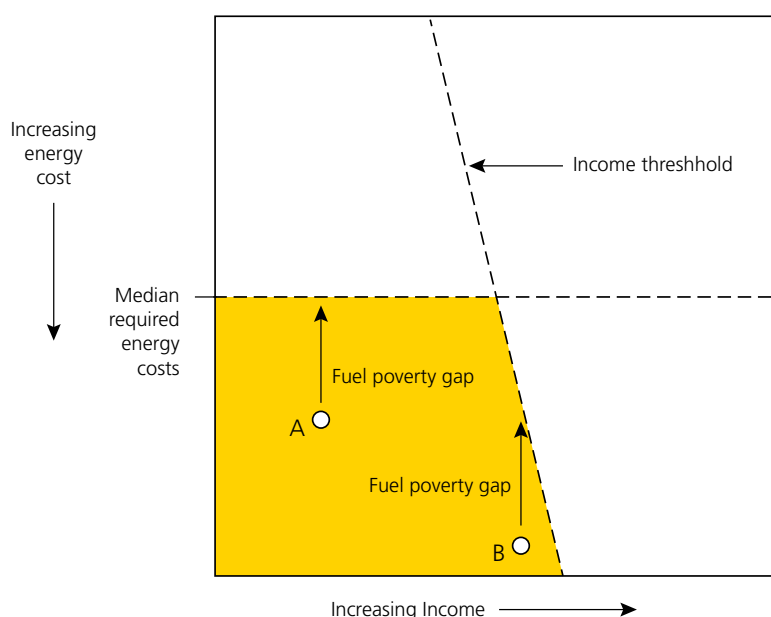
$$\text{Fuel poverty ratio} = \frac{\text{Required fuel costs (ie, required usage } \times \text{)}}{\text{Income}}$$

Under the current indicator, income is measured before housing costs and is not adjusted for household size or composition.

This formulation – essentially looking at the size of the tail of a distribution of ratios – is overly sensitive to changes in price levels as well as to technicalities within its calculation, such as misreporting of incomes. The trends it reports do not seem to reflect those in the underlying problems very helpfully – for instance, it suggests that the problem fell by an astonishing four-fifths between 1996 and 2003, but has since more than trebled. Over this time, poverty fell a little, and the energy efficiency of the homes lived in by those with low incomes improved somewhat relative to others, but this is not seen in the official indicator, which is dominated by changes in fuel prices. Part of the difficulty is that while a single indicator, it attempts to reflect both the extent and depth of the problem.

We therefore proposed an alternative approach to measurement, focused on the way in which the problem is described in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 (WHECA). This Act says – sensibly, in the light of the reasons driving concern – that we should be concerned about individuals in households “living on a lower income in a home that cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost.” In our interim report we set out an alternative framework for measuring fuel poverty, focused directly on the number of households and people with low incomes

Figure 1: Recommended indicators of the extent and depth of fuel poverty



and high costs and on the depth of the problems they face – what we call the “fuel poverty gap”. This is illustrated by the yellow area in Figure 1.

We suggested that the income threshold should be based on the conventional (after housing costs) official poverty line of 60 per cent of median income, with an addition for each household’s energy requirements (which is why the threshold in the figure slopes outwards for people living in high-cost homes). We also suggested that the costs threshold should match the median spending requirement of all households: it seems unreasonable for households on very low incomes to have to spend more to keep warm than typical households on much higher incomes and usually in larger houses.

Figure 2 shows how many households would have been identified by this indicator, as well as the aggregate “fuel poverty gap”, alongside the current measure for selected years since 1996. In 2004 2.8 million households would have been fuel poor using this indicator. In 2009 the number would have fallen slightly to 2.7 million households. This compares to a rise from 1.2 million to nearly 4 million under the current definition. In 1996 the number would have been 2.9 million, compared to 5.1 million under the current definition.

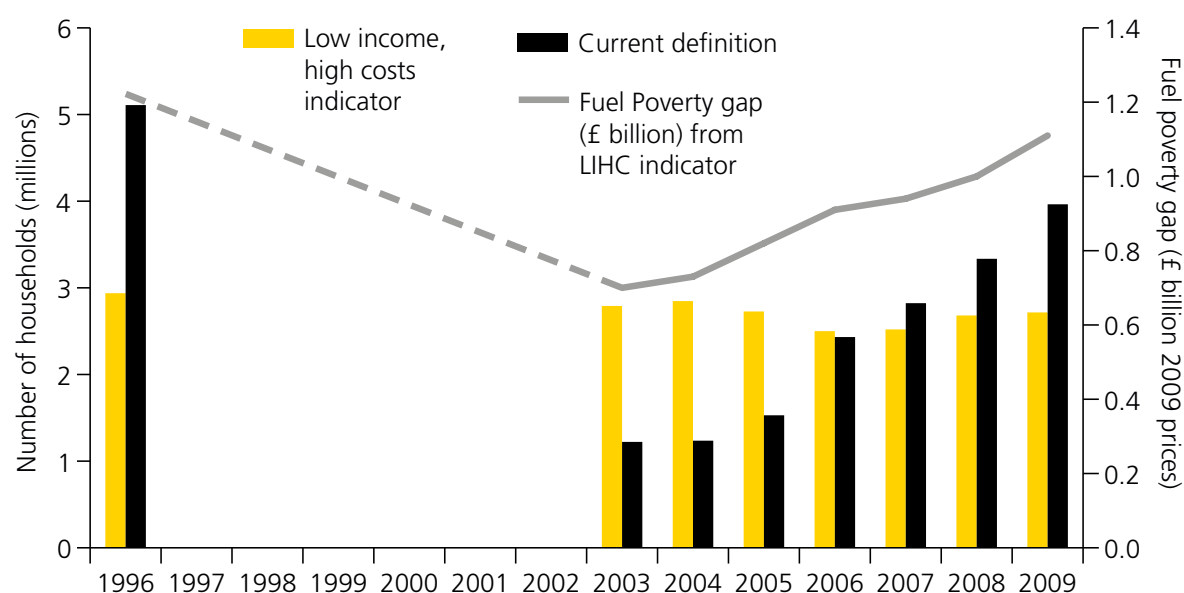
The figure also shows the size of the (aggregate) fuel poverty gap measured in the way described. This was £1.1 billion in 2009. It is this indicator that captures the effects of changing fuel prices: the

aggregate gap in 2009 is nearly twice what it was in 2004, and is higher in real terms than it was back in 1996.

The review’s final report will be published by DECC and CASE in 2012, presenting final proposals, following the consultation on the interim report, and looking at the implications of adopting the new measure for understanding likely future trends in fuel poverty, and the effectiveness of different policies to tackle it.

(*) Fuel poverty: The problem and its measurement by John Hills, CASE Report 69.

Figure 2: Number of households in fuel poverty under the current indicator and the Low Income High Costs indicator, 1996 and 2003-2009, England



Employment Pathways and wage progression for mothers in low-skilled work: Evidence from three British datasets

Kitty Stewart and Francesca Bastagli

Encouraging maternal employment was a key plank in the former Labour Government's strategy for reducing child poverty. Mothers were encouraged back into work when their children were relatively young (pre-school age), first through tax credits and childcare subsidies and subsequently with greater compulsion. The explicit assumption behind this work-first approach was that low-skilled jobs would operate as stepping-stones to improved prospects, delivering a long-run pay-off both to mothers and to the Treasury.

How far was this assumption justified? How far is it the case that mothers entering low-skilled jobs remain in stable employment and progress up the earnings distribution out of low pay? In this project we examined the evidence in three longitudinal datasets: the British Lone Parent Cohort (BLPC, 1991-2001), the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS, 1991-2007) and the Families and Children Study (FACS, 2001-2005).

How stable is mothers' employment?

In all three datasets, a significant minority of women were found to be following unconventional employment pathways, rather than a smooth one-way movement from home into work. For instance, in the BLPC, among lone parents who had entered work by the time their youngest child turned six and a half, roughly 60 per cent stayed in work for as long as we could follow them in the dataset while 40 per cent were observed moving in and out of work at least once. In the BHPS, one third of mothers were found moving in and out of work during the decade after the birth of their youngest child, as shown in Table 1 (page 9). (We focus on youngest children to avoid the inevitable interruptions that accompany subsequent births.) Women with lower qualifications and renters (especially social tenants) appear more likely to follow unstable pathways in both the BLPC and the FACS. (Interestingly, in the BHPS analysis, movement in and out of work across a decade was just as prevalent for higher-skilled women.)

Does going back to work in the pre-school years pay off in higher wages later on?

If employment is sustained, it does appear to carry a long term pay-off in higher wage growth. In the BLPC, wage progression varied greatly within both stable and unstable employment groups,

but was on average greater for those consistently employed. The BHPS analysis identified wage "penalties" when a youngest child was ten attached to both unstable pathways and a later return to work (after age five), compared to women returning to work before the child's third birthday. The shorter-term FACS analysis also pointed to penalties associated with part-time employment and movement in and out of work.

This suggests that an early return to work does pay off, if mothers remain in employment over time. However, the pay-off for lower-skilled mothers was found to be significantly smaller than for the higher-skilled. In the BHPS, skilled wages when a child was ten were 32 per cent lower for women who had returned to stable employment after the child turned five than for those who returned before the child's third birthday, and 33 per cent lower for those observed moving in and out of work over the period; for the lower skilled the penalties were 21 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Across the four-year period covered by FACS, part-time and unstable pathways were found to be associated with a final wage penalty of 13-14 per cent for the skilled mothers (controlling for initial wage) compared to 5-10 per cent for the lower-skilled. It should be noted that these figures should be treated as "upper bounds", as they are likely to reflect to some degree unobserved differences between the women following different pathways.

Furthermore, the estimated rewards for lower-skilled workers in stable work are not always sufficient to keep up with average wage growth. Thus in the BLPC, median wages among the consistently employed grew just below the rate of growth of male median hourly pay, meaning that more women were observed moving into than out of a standard definition of "low pay" over the period.

Policy implications

So was Labour right to encourage low-paid work as a stepping-stone to better prospects for mothers with low skills? The answer is somewhat mixed. Positive pay-offs in future wages are apparent in the study, lending support to policies such as tax credits and childcare subsidies which encourage and facilitate early employment for those who want it. But these pay-offs are fairly modest, especially as our estimates are upper bounds, which are likely in part to be capturing selection effects. Further, it is clear that many women move into work and then leave again, and this is particularly true of the more disadvantaged. This points to the need for much greater focus on sustainability and progression, rather than on ever-greater conditionality surrounding an initial move into a job. Sustainability and progression issues did in fact rise up the government agenda in the later years of the Labour administration.

In 2012 the situation is of course rather different. Pressure to work in the pre-school years has been reduced under the Coalition, reflecting ambivalence in the Conservative Party about a mother's role during this period. But childcare subsidies for low-income working parents have been reduced, with the exception of the extension of free part-time nursery places for disadvantaged two-year-olds. For many mothers of pre-schoolers the result has been not a broadening of choice but rather in a shift in emphasis back towards the home. When a child reaches five, short-term benefit conditionality is being further increased, and little or no attention is being paid to issues of progression and sustainability.

Wage progression is arguably of less interest to the Coalition government than it was to its predecessor. Today's rhetoric focuses on work as the only option – benefits are not considered an alternative – and whether or not a low-paid job

is a stepping-stone is not immediately relevant. However, first, the extent of employment churning among low-skilled mothers should still be of clear interest and concern: if the government is worried about levels of benefit dependency it needs to focus on how to improve

employment sustainability, not just on moving women across an initial threshold. Second, wage progression remains in the long-term interests of the Treasury as well as the individuals involved, and requires renewed policy attention.

Table 1: Classic and unstable trajectories: Annual snapshots of employment over the decade after the birth of a youngest child

	Number (unweighted)	Percentage (unweighted)	Percentage (weighted)
Classic trajectories	466	50.2	48.8
At home throughout	113	12.2	11.5
Stable Part Time	24	2.6	2.6
Stable Full Time	39	4.2	3.5
Stable PT then FT	38	4.1	4.2
Moves into work PT, stays there	121	13.0	13.8
Moves into work FT, stays there	60	6.5	5.7
Moves into PT then FT, stays there	71	7.6	7.5
Unstable trajectories	463	49.9	51.3
Stable but mix PT and FT	59	6.3	5.9
Work enter but mix PT and FT	95	10.3	9.8
Work in and out	295	31.8	33.7
Work exit	14	1.5	1.9

Source: Author's calculations from the BHPS.

Notes: (1) "Classic trajectories" are those reflecting conventional wisdom about employment pathways – home throughout, or moving in a one-way direction from home into increasingly full-time work. "Unstable trajectories" are those which include moves in the opposite direction. (2) Data represent annual snapshots not continuous trajectories, so "stays there" in fact means "consistently observed in that status thereafter". (3) Longitudinal respondent weights were applied for the figures in the final column. Numbers may sum to more than 100 because of rounding.

This project was generously founded by the Nuffield Foundation. For further information, see the following project papers: (1) Kitty Stewart (2009) "Employment and wage trajectories for mothers entering low-skilled work: Evidence from the British Lone Parent Cohort", *Social Policy and Administration*, Vol 43, No 5: 483-507; (2) Kitty Stewart

(2011) "Employment trajectories and later employment outcomes for mothers in the British Household Panel Survey: An analysis by skill level", CASEpaper 144; (3) Francesca Bastagli and Kitty Stewart (2011) "Pathways and penalties: Mothers' employment trajectories and wage growth in the Families and Children Study", CASEpaper157.

Visiting fellow spotlight: Poverty and the two concepts of relative deprivation

Tony Fahey

Professor of Social Policy, University College Dublin

This article provides a summary of a presentation made by Tony Fahey in the CASE Social Exclusion Seminar series on 2 November 2011 while he was visiting CASE. This presentation identified two concepts of relative deprivation in the social science literature, labelled “complex” and “simple”, and examined their significance for poverty research in the EU.

The complex concept originated in social psychology in the 1940s as a tool for analysing the effects of subjective social comparison on behaviour and was brought into sociology by Robert K Merton in the 1950s. In the 1960s, W.G. Runciman examined the utility of this concept for the study of poverty and social injustice in Britain. He rejected it as overly subjective and unreliable as a guide to the objective distribution of goods in society. Following Runciman, Townsend adopted the term “relative deprivation” as a near-synonym for “relative poverty” and in the process developed an implicit understanding of the concept which simplified it in four ways. First, he abandoned the explanatory purpose of the original approach in favour of a concern for monitoring poverty as a social outcome. He was interested in poverty as a *consequence* which needed to be reliably described and measured, with a view to having it corrected by policy, not as a *cause* of behaviour the downstream effects of which needed to be explored and understood. Second, he shifted analytical interest away from subjective social comparison towards objective relativities in living standards. Third, he set aside the complex process of *framing* which is fundamental to relative deprivation as a subjective process and assumed instead that the single frame provided by national welfare states and defined by specialist observers is the only framing that matters. Fourth, he adopted individuals and households as units of analysis and disregarded the range of social groups to which, in the complex approach, feelings of collective deprivation could be connected.

This conceptual analysis helps throw light on recent developments in poverty measurement in the EU. The argument here is that national approaches in this area are based on the simple concept of relative deprivation: they focus

on objective outcomes measured at individual or household level and framed solely in national terms. However, the multi-layered nature of the EU has pushed poverty measurement as practised by Eurostat to adopt elements of the complex approach.

This is most evident in regard to framing. Although relative income poverty as measured in EU-level indicators continues to be framed in national terms, Eurostat has recently added material deprivation indicators which are based on a single EU-wide frame of reference (that is, the same material deprivation threshold is applied uniformly across all EU member states, alongside traditional income poverty thresholds which vary from state to state). This EU-wide framing suggests a very different distribution of serious disadvantage across the EU, with less than five per cent of the population being counted as disadvantaged in the richer states and over fifty percent in the poorer states. This contrasts with the 10-20 per cent defined as income poor across all member states in traditional income poverty data (with some of the richer states, such as the UK, having among the highest rates of income poverty). Eurostat has thus adopted a *dual framing* of poverty indicators – a national frame which underpins income poverty indicators and an EU-wide frame which underpins material deprivation indicators. This is a significant step towards recognising framing as an issue in its own right.

This approach also points to a potential new focus on subjective processes in poverty analysis as research seeks to understand how framing works in daily life, a hitherto overlooked issue. How do European citizens themselves frame their evaluations of their situation? Do they do so in national terms, in EU-wide terms, in some combination of both, or – as seems most likely – in a complex mix of frames

which is fluid to at least some degree and can encompass the national, the EU-wide and other frames besides?

Through its regional indicators, Eurostat also complicates the question of units of analysis by recognising that regions and states can be poor as well as households and individuals. This gives rise to questions as to how poverty at these different levels of analysis relate to each other. Finally, EU discourse on social cohesion raises the possibility that analysis of the behavioural consequences of relative poverty could become an explicit focus of research in this area. Will poverty cause civil unrest or social fragmentation in Europe? Will the poor, in their frustration, turn on their national governments or the European project? These questions have the potential to restore the downstream behavioural consequences of poverty to a central place in the study of relative deprivation, topics that are underplayed in the current focus on poverty as the end-point rather than mid-point of the causal chain. Recognition that these developments hark back to an earlier, more complex approach to the analysis of relative deprivation makes it easier to grasp what their significance is.



For the paper on which this presentation was based, see T. Fahey “Poverty and the Two Concepts of Relative Deprivation” Working

Paper 14 (2010), School of Applied Social Science, UCD (www.ucd.ie/appsocsc/publicationsandresearch/workingpaperseries/)

The Great Recession and the distribution of household income

Stephen Jenkins

The “Great Recession” (GR) that began at the end of 2007 was the largest macroeconomic downturn for OECD countries since WWII. This research has been considering the GR’s distributional impact, focusing on the short-run (2007-9) but also considering the longer-term. Three features of the work are: measurement of living standards in terms of household net income (the sum of labour earnings, cash transfers, income from investments and savings, etc, after the deduction of income taxes, and adjusted for differences in household size); analysis of the household incomes of all individuals in the population (whether young, old, working or not working), rather than a narrower focus on eg, wages for employees; and a cross-national comparative perspective. The research was commissioned by the Fondazione Rodolfo De Benedetti (Milan) and a 300-page report presented at a conference in Palermo in October 2011. The material is currently being revised and updated and is to be published by Oxford University Press. The research team was led by Stephen Jenkins (CASE) together with Andrea Brandolini (Bank of Italy), John Micklewright (Institute of Education), and Brian Nolan (UCD), with chapters also contributed by 13 others.

First, the report outlines the main lessons from the past about the relationships between macroeconomic change and the household income distribution. Recessions typically reduce real income levels throughout the income distribution and raise poverty rates when these are measured using a poverty line that is fixed in real income terms; but relative poverty rates need not rise if the poverty line (which is expressed as a fraction of average income) falls sufficiently, and income inequality may move up or down, depending precisely on who is affected by the recession and where they are located in the distribution in the first place.

Second, the report looks at the experience of 21 rich OECD member countries drawing on a mixture of national accounts, labour force and household survey data. Our research shows that there was considerable heterogeneity in the GR across countries, with real GDP falling, from 2007 to 2009, by between zero (Australia) and 13 per cent (Ireland). Nevertheless, during the same period gross household disposable income, as measured in national accounts, rose in 12 out of the 16 countries for which data are available: the household sector in aggregate was protected from the impact of the downturn by additional support of governments through the tax and benefit system (largely concentrated on households in the bottom half of the distribution). Employment fell in many countries but the relationship between output

change and employment change was relatively weak; employment rates fell more for men than women, and declines were particularly large among young people; average earnings among workers rose slightly, probably because lower-paid workers were more likely to be laid off. Although little information is available, trends in households’ income from capital should have had an equalising impetus. In 2007, government balances were negative in 9 countries of the 21; by 2009, balances were negative in 19 countries. Most countries are now confronting “structural” deficits caused by the GR, and these are already having an impact on household incomes through lower public expenditures and higher taxation and will do so for some time.

Third, the report provides case studies for six countries based on detailed analysis of household survey data combined in some cases with microsimulation. The analysis shows that there were marked divergences across the six countries in the GR’s nature, impact on the labour market, and its fiscal consequences (see Table). Remarkably, however, changes between 2007 and 2009 in the distribution of household income among the population as a whole were generally modest in all six countries, whether measured in terms of real income levels, income inequality, or relative poverty rates. Germany, Sweden, and the UK are the clearest examples of this pattern. In Ireland, where the macroeconomic downturn was the largest

among the six countries, income inequality declined slightly between 2007 and 2009 and the relative poverty rate fell as a consequence of strong social transfers. In Italy and the USA, increases in inequality and in relative poverty were a little more apparent. There is some evidence from all six case study countries that elderly people have been relatively well protected over the GR.

In sum, for most of the countries studied, there was little change in household income distributions in the two years following the GR but thereafter there is likely to be much greater change as a result of fiscal consolidation measures that are being put into place. The longer-term distributional consequences will depend on the mix of policies that governments adopt to rebalance public budgets as well as future rates of economic growth. However, the main policy lesson we draw is that stabilisation of the household income distribution in the face of macroeconomic turbulence is an achievable policy goal, at least in the short-term; especially where there is a strong welfare state, as that provides a lot of “automatic stabilisation”.

The Great Recession and the Distribution of Household Income, by Stephen P. Jenkins, Andrea Brandolini, John Micklewright, and Brian Nolan, with contributions by 13 others. Report to the Fondazione Rodolfo De Benedetti, Milan. www.frdp.org/upload/file/report_1_palermo.pdf

Summary of changes between 2007 and 2009 in the six case study countries

Change (% or ppt)	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Sweden	UK	USA
Macroeconomic indicators						
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (%)	-4.1	-9.8	-6.1	-5.8	-5.4	-3.9
Gross Household Disposable Income (GHDI) (%)	+0.4	+0.0	-4.0	+5.1	+1.9	+0.5
Employment (%)	+1.4	-6.7	-1.2	-3.5	-1.7	-4.2
Government balance as % of GDP (ppt)	-3.3	-15.3	-6.8	-4.5	-8.0	-8.4
Equivalised household net income (real)						
Median (% change)	+1.8	-1.2	-2.5	2.0	+1.2	-2.9
Inequality index (Gini coefficient) (ppt)	-0.1	-2.0	+1.0	+0.5	+0.0	+0.2
Percentage below 60% of the median (ppt)	-0.5	-2.8	+1.0	+1.5	-1.3	-0.5
Percentage below 60% of the 2007 median (ppt)	-0.9	+0.3	+1.5	+0.5	-1.9	+0.7

Notes: "ppt": percentage point change.

Climate mitigation and social equity across UK households

Ian Gough

The UK is now committed to one of the most demanding carbon reduction targets in the world. The Climate Change Act 2008 pledges to reduce the UK's output of carbon and other greenhouse gases by 80 per cent by 2050 and by at least 34 per cent by 2020 – just eight years away. A substantial set of climate mitigation programmes (CMPs) are now in place to seek to achieve these goals. Part of my research into climate change and social policy is concerned with the distributive impact of these and other CMPs.

The current targets and programmes each suffer from an important omission. First the targets omit the wide range of green house gases (GHG) “embodied” in consumption goods, including those imported from abroad. We find that the UK economy emits via its consumption one-third more carbon, and one-half more greenhouse gases, than it emits via its production. This is one of the widest gaps in the world. Second, most of the energy efficiency programmes focus on direct household emissions from fuel and electricity, rather than all the indirect emissions embodied in food, travel, consumer goods and services – which account for almost four-fifths of the total. Yet current CMPs are highly regressive because they impose policy “obligations” on energy companies which they are expected to recoup from higher prices, which in turn bear much more heavily on lower income households.

Can a broader approach to household emissions better reconcile environmental and social concerns? Our first task has been to calculate the distribution of total household emissions, a process which entails marrying

together the input-output resource database of the Stockholm Environment Institute with the UK Food and Expenditure Survey. A regression analysis finds that equivalised income is the most important driver of per capita emissions across households. Bigger households emit less per capita than smaller households due to economies of scale in consumption. So do “workless” households – pensioners, unemployed and unoccupied – compared with those with one or more member in employment.

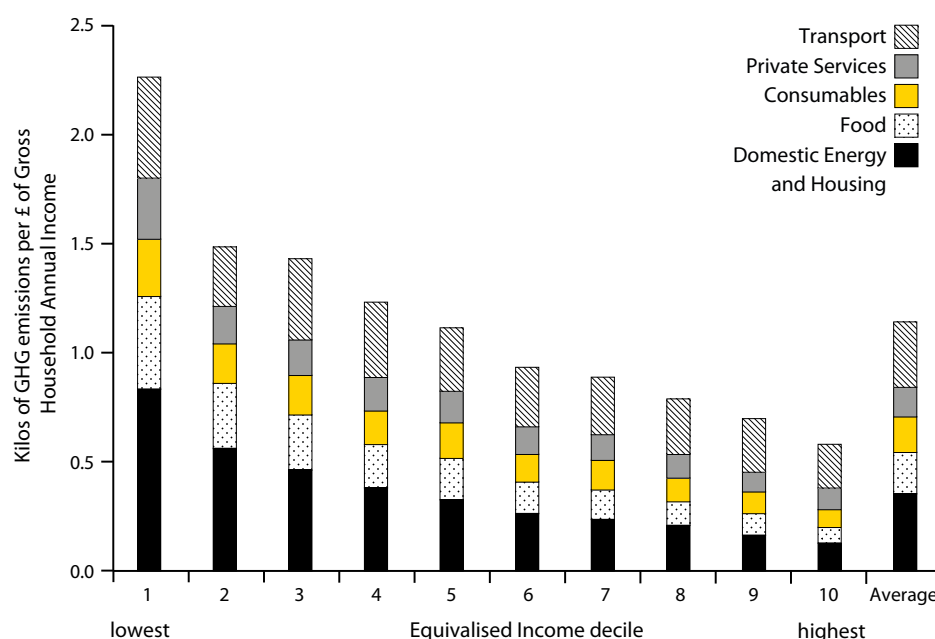
To understand the equity implications, we also calculate the *ratio* of emissions to income– see graph. While total emissions rise as incomes rise, emissions per pound of income *fall* as incomes rise. This suggests that any attempts to raise carbon prices will be regressive. The graph also shows that targeting emissions from travel, services and consumption goods would be less regressive than those on essentials like food and heating. Nevertheless, any general carbon tax or pricing system would impact more on the low paid, single person and workless households.

What are the implications for social policies? We look at better income compensation schemes than those currently in place (eg Winter Fuel payments) but above all much more effective programmes to upgrade home insulation. This is the remit of the forthcoming Green Deal, though research by Professor Power shows how far it must go to catch up with similar programmes in Germany. But to make serious inroads in total household GHG emissions would require more radical steps, such as taxing consumption, rationing carbon and reducing working hours. To achieve a fair, low carbon future will require a closer integration of social, economic and environmental policies.

Ian Gough acknowledges the support provided by the ESRC (grant reference number ES/H00520X/1).

Full results published in: Gough, Ian and Abdallah, Saamah and Johnson, Viki and Ryan-Collins, Josh and Smith, Cindy (2011) *The distribution of total embodied greenhouse gas emissions by households in the UK, and some implications for social policy*. CASEpaper 152.

Per capita GHG emissions per £ of income by income deciles – by sectors



The task for young job seekers: A job in itself?

Rebecca Tunstall

Rebecca Tunstall, Ruth Lupton, Simon Watmough and Katie Bates worked with Anne Green of Warwick University on a project for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which examined experiences of looking for work and in particular whether there is “postcode discrimination” against job seekers from stigmatised neighbourhoods.

The study focused on jobs requiring limited education and skills and paying near to the national minimum wage, such as sales, security and cleaning, in three areas of Britain. It was based on analysis of vacancy data, interviews with employers and job seekers and a unique experiment involving 2,001 applications by “fictional candidates” to real jobs. For each of 667 jobs, we submitted three applications from “fictional candidates” with equivalent characteristics (education, qualifications and work experience) but coming from neighbourhoods with different reputations. The stigmatised neighbourhoods were very well known locally and even nationally, so they represent extreme cases.

In 475 or 71 per cent of the 667 jobs we applied for, none of our three candidates received a positive response (such as a request for more information or an invitation to an interview). In the remaining 192 or 29 per cent of all jobs, employers gave a positive response to one, two or three of our candidates. These are the cases used to explore employer preferences and discrimination, following Bovenkerk et al. (1992) and Wood et al. (2009). A total of 62.5 per cent of applications from “bland reputation” neighbourhoods received positive responses, compared with 59.9 per cent from stigmatised neighbourhoods (Table 1). This difference, which provides a measure of aggregate net “postcode discrimination”, is relatively small and is not statistically significant.

The experiment therefore found no statistical evidence of “postcode discrimination”. However, – in line with findings from the previous literature people interviewed for the project suggested that this practice is common. Further, three important points need to be borne in mind when interpreting the results. First, these jobs only represent a segment of the overall job market. In particular, they were jobs that were advertised online and could be applied for via email. Second, the positive responses recorded here did not constitute job offers. They were only the first stage of the process. It is possible that people from stigmatised neighbourhoods are discriminated against at later stages, perhaps being made to “jump through more hoops” to demonstrate their worth. Third, because the experiment was conducted in a very tough labour market, we gave all the candidates relatively strong credentials in order to secure at least some positive responses. They had higher qualifications than average for the schools they (fictionally) attended and they had consistent work histories. We conclude that well qualified candidates should be able to apply for jobs without fear of being sifted out at the first stage because of their address.

Other aspects of the project revealed challenges facing low skilled job seekers at the moment. Competition has ramped up since the recession, as the number of vacancies has declined and the number of job seekers increased. While vacancy data do show that large numbers of vacancies are technically “out there”, not

all of these are suitable for all job seekers. In total, 56 per cent of vacancies in the labour markets studies were more than 30 minutes public transport time from a typical disadvantaged neighbourhood. In addition, 76 per cent of those advertised during the experiment offered part-time or unsocial hours (for which employers preferred local candidates), and 78 per cent paid under the “living wage”. The experiment showed that jobs started to fill within hours, and applications received a week after an advert was placed had half the positive response rate of those arriving within three days. Yet most job seekers we interviewed seemed unaware of the need to find and apply for vacancies very quickly, nor of local patterns of employment or competition. These issues could be addressed by Work Programme providers.

Interim findings have been presented at LSE, the University of York, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Independent Riots Communities and Victims Panel. The work was published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in mid-2012.

Bovenkerk, F (1992). *Testing Discrimination in Natural Experiments. A Manual for International Comparative Research on Discrimination on the Grounds of “Race” and Ethnic Origin*. International Labour Office, Geneva.

Wood M, Hales J, Purdon S, Sejerssen T and Hayllar O (2009) “A test for racial discrimination in recruitment practice in British cities”, *Department for Work and Pensions Research Report 607*. Leeds: Corporate Document Services

Table 1: Employers’ preference for applicants from different neighbourhood types

Total sets of applications with one or more positive responses	(A) Positive response: bland reputation neighbourhood		(B) Positive response: poor reputation neighbourhood		Net preference percentage (A-B)
	Number	%	Number	%	
192	120	62.5	230	59.9	2.6%

Source: Experiment

Growing Inequality and its impacts: UK country report

Abigail McKnight and Tiffany Tsang

As part of the GINI research programme Abigail McKnight and Tiffany Tsang have been preparing a report on the UK providing detailed information on trends in inequality and a range of economic, social, political and cultural indicators covering the last 30 years. Five other core country teams are also nearing completion of their country reports and these will be used as a basis for a further 23 countries. At the heart of this programme of research is a statement about inequality: growing inequality. Before looking at the potential effects of growing inequality it is important to gain a clear picture of the evolution of inequality in the UK over the last 30 years.

Since 1980 inequality in British household income measured by the Gini coefficient¹ can be characterised by two very distinct periods: a dramatic rise in inequality over the 1980s followed by smaller, non-monotonic, increases over the 1990s and 2000s. For example, recent estimates show that inequality in equivalised disposable household income increased from around 0.25 in 1979 to 0.34 in the early 1990s. Inequality fell slightly in the mid-1990s and then increased again to 0.35 in 2000. The mid 2000s was also a period where inequality fell slightly but by 2009/10 inequality had increased to 0.36 (Jin et al, 2011). The precise estimate of inequality depends on the measure of inequality, the unit of analysis, how income is defined and the data source, however the overall pattern of rapidly rising inequality during the 1980s followed by two decades of relative stability, with some evidence of a slight upward trend, is pretty much universal.

Government policy in the form of tax and welfare policy has a significant role to play in terms of the distribution and redistribution of household income (see Figure). Inequality in original income, sometimes referred to as market income, from employment and investments is greatly reduced by the payment of cash benefits (gross income), by over 10 points in the Gini coefficient, due to the fact that cash benefits are disproportionately received by low income families. Direct taxes also reduce inequality but by a considerably lesser extent (3-4 points) as the lowest income households tend not to pay tax (disposable income) and while income tax is progressive amongst tax payers some forms of tax are regressive among higher income individuals (National Insurance contributions). Indirect taxes (such as VAT) have a disequalising effect as lower income households tend to spend a higher proportion of their income on goods and services liable to these taxes.

It can be seen from the Figure that overall tax policy (direct and indirect taxes in aggregate) since 1986 has either had no effect on gross income inequality or has had a disequalising effect.

An analysis of the impact of government tax and benefit policies estimates that the 1997-2010 Labour government's policies directly led to lower income inequality than would have been the case if they had simply uprated the policies they inherited from the Conservative government in 1997. Uprating in line with the RPI would have resulted in inequality 3.4 points higher and uprating in line with GDP would have resulted in 1.6 points higher (Adam and Browne, 2010). In contrast, the same study, estimates that the 1979-1997 Conservative government's tax and benefit policies directly led to increases in income inequality.

As can be seen very clearly from the Figure, the overall level and rate of change in inequality is predominately driven by changes in original income from employment and investments, most importantly employment income which typically accounts for over 80 per cent of original income. Employment income received by a household is determined by the number of workers in a household, their hours of work and their wage rates. All of these factors directly affect the distribution of household income and all can be influenced by government policy.

A recent OECD study has shown that the two main factors that explain changes in household earnings inequality in the UK (mid-1980s to mid-2000s) are inequality in male earnings, which has increased inequality, and increases in female labour force participation, which has limited inequality growth (OECD, 2011). We also include in this Figure the evolution of male gross annual earnings for employees (male emp earnings) and separately for

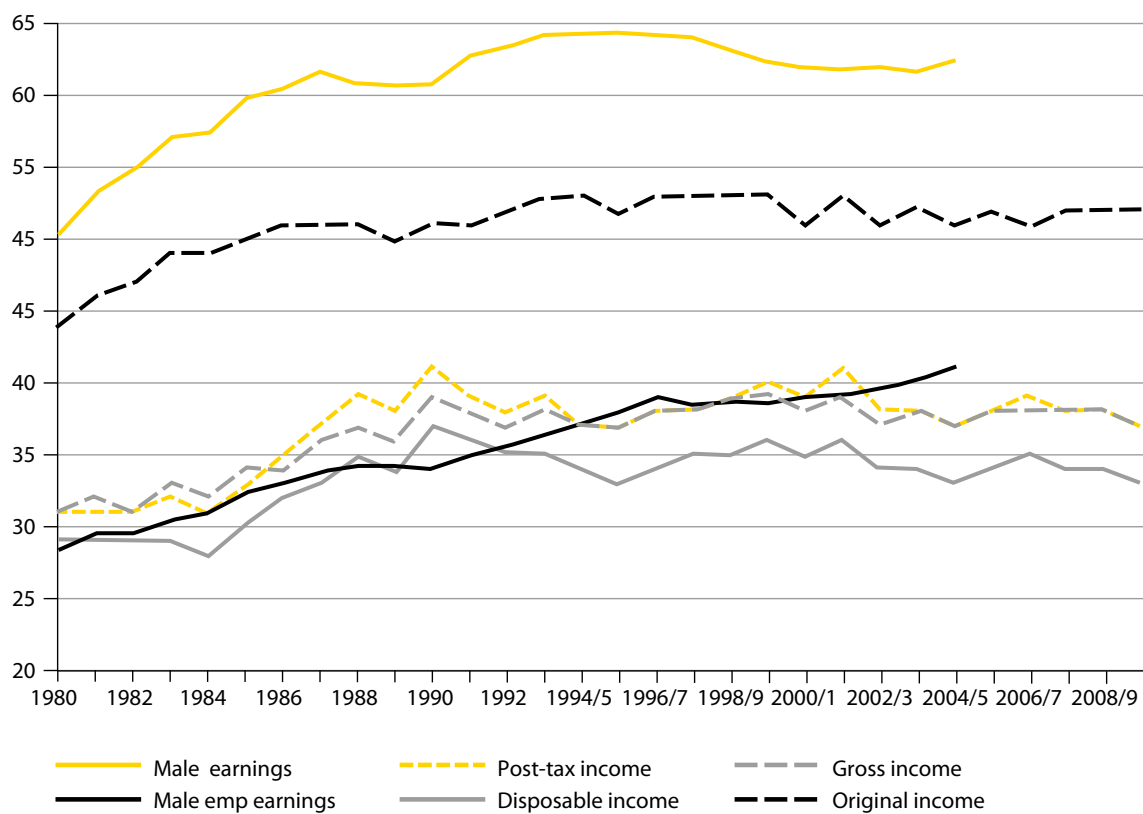
all males irrespective of whether they received positive earnings within a given year (male earnings; both samples are restricted to males aged 22-65). Earnings inequality among male employees shows a similar time trend to income inequality although it continues to rise after income inequality has levelled off. It is lower than original household income inequality, more similar in level to gross household income inequality. When complete year non-employment is included (where earnings equal zero) inequality is much higher than original household income inequality but the trend is very similar, although more strongly affected by high rates of unemployment among men in the mid-1980s and early 1990s. While there is still no consensus on the relative importance of skill biased technological change, globalisation and institutional change in shaping the evolution of wage inequality over the last 30 years, these forces have continued to exert an upward pressure on earnings inequality; increases in educational attainment in the working age population has to some extent limited their impact.

In considering the wider impact of inequality in the UK we will need to bear in mind that the very big increase in household income inequality occurred in the 1980s, more than two decades ago. Income inequality since then has remained relatively stable but still at a high level relative to most other advanced nations. On the other hand trends in earnings inequality can differ and the relative importance of household income versus individuals' earnings needs to be considered. The full report relates these levels and trends in inequality to a wide range of social, political and cultural variables.

The research project "Growing Inequalities Impacts" receives EU research support under the European Commission's 7th Framework programme.

¹ The Gini coefficient is a summary index of inequality ranging from 0, complete equality where each member of a population has an equal share, to 1, where one member of a population has everything.

Evolution in equivalised household income and male annual earnings inequality (Gini coefficient)



Source: Household income series – ONS estimates based on the Living Costs and Food Survey and its predecessors. Annual earnings series – authors' estimates based on the Lifetime Labour Market Database.

Jin, W, Joyce, R, Phillips, D and L Sibieta (2011) "Poverty and inequality in the UK: 2011" IFS Commentary C118. Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Adam, S and J Browne (2010) "Redistribution, work incentives and thirty years of UK tax and benefit reform", Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), Working Paper 10/24.

OECD (2011) *Divided we stand: why inequality keeps rising*, Paris: OECD

PhD Spotlight: Low pay in childcare

Ludovica Gambaro

Between 1997 and 2008, the Labour Government gave unprecedented attention to early childhood. This commitment translated into several policy initiatives and into an unparalleled level of resources devoted to childcare and pre-school education services. There was a remarkable shift towards more public responsibility in the field of childcare and early education, signalled, most notably, by the expansion of formal provision.

In the UK, early childhood provision comprises a variety of services, which are staffed by different workers. Teachers, alongside nursery nurses, work almost exclusively in nursery and reception classes in the maintained sector. However, the majority of children aged three and below do not receive childcare and early education in schools. Instead, they are in various types of services provided by voluntary and private bodies, such as playgroups, preschools and day nurseries or childminder based provision. With the exception of teachers, who remain a minority, those working in early childhood services tend to be poorly paid.

Low pay in childcare and early education makes it relatively cheap to expand services. However, very low wages hamper the possibility of attracting and retaining well-qualified staff, with negative consequences for the quality of services. Furthermore, as childcare jobs are

disproportionally taken up by women, low pay contributes to the gender pay gap.

I document extensively the level of pay in childcare and its trend from 1994 to 2008. The results show that hourly wages in childcare tend to be around 65 per cent of median wages in the UK. This means that that half of childcare workers receive “low pay”. Perhaps more surprisingly, wages in childcare have not caught up with median wages despite substantial public funding since 1997.

The analysis also investigates the role of formal qualifications in childcare. It finds that childcare workers tend to hold qualifications at levels two and three (lower and upper secondary education). This picture has not substantially changed over the years, despite several initiatives to improve the qualifications and training of childcare workers. The analysis reveals two fundamental obstacles to “upskilling” the childcare workforce.

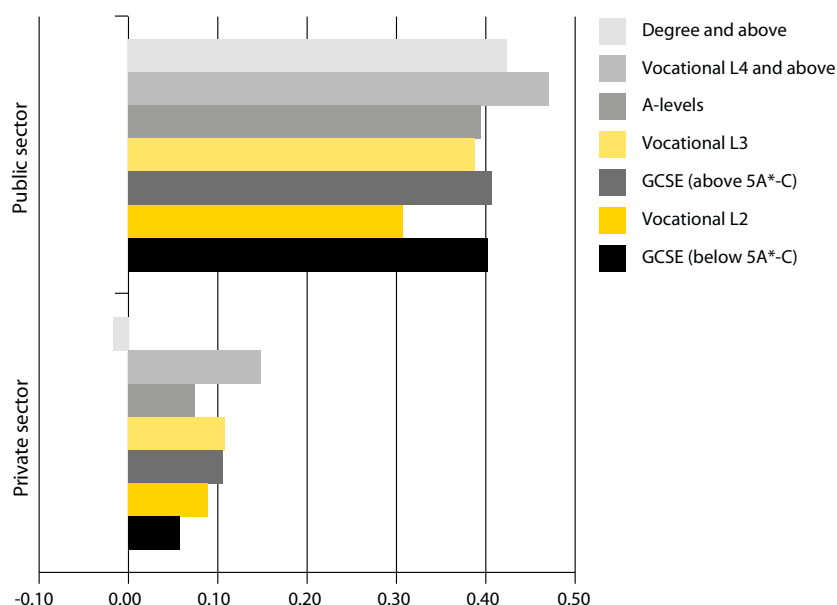
First, there is no coherent education and training system relevant to this occupation. Rather, a myriad of qualifications exist, with only very few at tertiary education level. Yet the professionalisation of the workforce is impossible if the training system is not built around the principle of progression and if higher level qualifications are not available.

Second, the system of incentives faced by employers and workers is a further obstacle to high quality childcare. Statutory requirements relating to staff qualifications and subsidies do not create incentives to hire better qualified workers. Likewise, workers do not receive any substantial pay premium if they gain qualifications beyond the minimum required (Figure 1).

When examining pay differences within the childcare workforce in more detail, it appears that childcare workers in the public sectors are paid substantially more than those in the private sector. Although childcare workers in the public sector tend to hold relatively higher qualifications, this difference accounted for only one third of the wage disparity between the two sectors. The pay gap was partly explained by different wage setting regimes in the two sectors, with collective bargaining common in the public sector only.

Early childhood services remain high on the policy agenda and continue to attract considerable attention. The Coalition Government maintains that children’s early years of life are especially important, and has stated the need for well-trained and highly qualified workers as much as the Labour Government did. However there is little sign that the rhetoric on the crucial role of childcare workers will be matched by adequate funding and reforms. If policy makers focused more on the nature of employment in childcare, they could solve the contradiction between the importance of this type of work and its low pay.

Figure 1: The correlation between formal qualifications and hourly pay



Note: The bars presented indicate the percentage wage premium of workers holding one specific type of qualification relative to those holding no qualification. For the public sector, all results are statistically significant at 1% level. By contrast, in the private sector, only GCSE (5A*-C), Vocational Level 3 and Vocational Level 4 are statistically significant at 10% level. Additional controls include age, job tenure, potential experience, managerial and supervisory responsibility, region, years and proxy respondent.

Source: LFS, 1994-2008.

LSE Housing and Communities

Anne Power, Katie Bates, Andrea Colantonio, Isobel Esberger, Eileen Herden, Celine Kuklowsky, Laura Lane, Bert Provan, Nicola Serle and Monika Zulauf

Housing remains high on the policy agenda as economic conditions have exacerbated existing problems, including the increasing demand for social housing and other low cost options; the urgency of reducing the energy use in housing, the lack of good quality, affordable, private rental properties; land use and population pressures. Social housing, which accommodates around 4.5 million households, is frequently in over-sized, hard to manage estates with high levels of poverty, intensifying problems of integration and opportunity. The summer riots of 2011 underlined the threat to stability posed by steep increases in joblessness. LSE Housing and Communities' current research projects straddle these complexities as outlined below.

The LSE / Brookings Institution Weak Market Cities Programme

We are currently writing up the second phase of the Weak Markets Cities programme, which is run jointly by LSE Housing and Communities, the Institute for Regional and Urban Development (ILS) in Germany, and the Brookings Institution in Washington DC, in the US. The main focus of our research is on:

- how weak market cities are faring in today's difficult economic circumstances, and uncovering innovative approaches to enterprise;
- the impact of neighbourhood programmes on social integration, skills development and job access;
- the impact of the climate change agenda and environmental resource constraints on the recovery trajectory of these cities.

We held our sixth City Reformers Group in March 2011 gathering policy makers, practitioners and academics from Europe and the US to discuss the shape of the new emerging urban economy; urban upgrading and place making; special projects targeted on distressed neighbourhoods; building more sustainable communities; and the prospects for "green technologies" and innovations to drive new economic growth. Our field research involved fascinating City Workshops in Lille and Bilbao.

Mondragon Co-operative Corporation

Anne Power and Laura Lane visited Mondragon in June 2011 with a grant from the Santander Travel Fund. The Mondragon Cooperative Corporation

is a group of member-based industrial cooperatives with 85,000 members and 200 producer cooperatives. It combines the core goal of business success competing in international markets with member control, limited profit and a maximum pay ratio differential of 7:1. For most cooperatives the ratio is 4:1.

The Mondragon Cooperative works to create and sustain jobs, to further the social and professional development of the employees, and with a commitment to social and environmental care. Its activities cover finance, industry, distribution and knowledge, and it is the seventh largest business group in Spain.



History
 - Emerged from Spanish post civil war poverty and oppression in Basque country
 - Founded by "worker priest", who first set up youth Technical School in 1943
 - Then five graduates (the "Socios") created Mondragon Cooperative in 1955



Anne & Laura with José María Ormaechea, one of the founding "socio"



José María Arizmendiarreta: Worker Priest and Founder

Mondragon's Cooperative Principles
 Open Admission
 Democratic Organisation
 The Sovereignty of Labour
 Instrumental and Subordinate Nature of Capital
 Participatory Management
 Payment Solidarity
 Inter-cooperation
 Social Transformation
 Universality
 Education

Development
 1969: Eroski Supermarket chain unites smaller cooperatives
 1970-80: launch of over 220 Basque industrial, financial and social cooperatives and outreach to support others
 1974: Iberian Research Centre set up – 23,190 workers in group by 1990
 1990: First foreign outlet (Mexico) - 73 total by 2008
 2009: Agreement with US United Steelworkers to set up cooperatives in USA
 2010: €Bn14.8 turnover, 100k worker/members, 4th largest Spanish industry, 7th largest finance institution



Eroski Cooperative Supermarkets: 1,000 stores, 1.5Mm² floorspace in Spain



Main HQ and Factory—in Mondragon, south of Bilbao



Fagor electrical and whitegoods factory

Wage Distribution
 Smaller units
 1:3
 Average
 1:5
 Maximum
 1:9



Creating Local Employment (& training)



Mondragon Town Centre

Principles supporting success
 Transparency: members meetings making policy decisions
 Training: including and research centre, and University of Mondragon
 Co-operative problem solving: e.g. faced with recession, agreement for shorter hours, pay reductions allowed it to fare better than elsewhere
 Green awareness an emerging issue
 Social engagement locally and internationally



Social Mission: Investment of Profits

Caixa Laboral Bank:
 - 4.2€Bn assets
 - 16.4€Bn loans to SME & families
 2009

More than 85,000 employees, 7,500 students and 90% of our industrial workers are members. We are MONDRAGON.

Mondragon's Corporate Values
 Co-operation, acting as owners and protagonists;
 Participation, which takes shape as a commitment to management;
 Social Responsibility, by means of the distribution of wealth based on solidarity;
 Innovation, focusing on constant renewal in all areas

Rockwool

In September 2011, we started research for Rockwool, a leading insulation provider, which is part of a major energy-saving investment at the Edward Woods estate in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. We are investigating the social effects of energy efficiency measures in large multi-dwelling occupancies, and the potential for social benefits through consultation, community involvement, intensive local management and "hand-holding" through the insulation process. The estate contains three tower blocks built in the 1960s. Like many buildings of this type, they pose multiple physical problems, such as poor insulation, high heating bills, cold bridges and condensation, and have deteriorated over the decades, edging towards demolition. Through recent Government initiatives to "green" the existing building stock, the three tower blocks have been granted a £12.2 million for an "eco-retrofit" from the Community Energy Saving Program. Residents have been involved from the outset, and assisted in the selection process of the products used.

Through thorough analysis of in-depth interview-based research we are investigating whether the process of "greening" has a positive effect on key social indicators (security, crime and anti-social behaviour, neighbourly contact, resident involvement), alongside reducing costs. One of the key objectives of the research is to demonstrate to social housing providers / government the value of insulation beyond that of saving money on energy bills.



Octavia Housing

Our work for Octavia Housing, a traditional, charitable housing association, housing low-income tenants in high cost areas of central London, is focused on understanding the views and experiences of their tenants and the effect of concurrent changes to the social housing sector, benefit reform and other public spending cuts. Our research aims to uncover the impact of large policy shifts on low-income individuals and the implications for Octavia's service. Moreover, Octavia wish to find out what tenants are most concerned about and what they could do to help; the impact of social landlords on the wellbeing of tenants; the relevance of the Big Society debate for residents; and the impact upon tenants and local communities of living within the most expensive housing areas in the country.

Elizabeth Finn Care

Elizabeth Finn Care is a national charity that gives direct financial support to individuals in need, while their support programme "Turn2us" helps millions more gain access to the money available to them in welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help. We have been commissioned to research the impact of the Olympics on deprivation levels in Newham, an area of London historically entrenched in poverty. The Olympics is the largest regeneration project in Europe, but is only one of many attempts to lift this area out of deprivation. The projects commissioned by the London Docklands Development Commission, including ExCel, the Royal Docks and London City Airport, have been successful in their own right but have had a limited effect on the local population. This research looks at the immediate impact of the Olympic announcement on the local area by ascertaining the situation of residents prior to the announcement of the Games

in 2005 and examining whether there has been an improvement since. Assessing whether the legacy of the Games will stand up to the original promises made, ultimately it will make policy recommendations about large-scale regeneration projects in respect of low income groups.



Orbit Housing Group

The Orbit Group is one of the largest social landlords in the UK, providing affordable housing and community support services. It also supports social and economic development projects in communities from the Midlands to the South and East coasts. The Big Society and Localism Agendas are changing the way large housing groups operate, giving new powers to local authorities; offering new ways of working and raising funds. Orbit wants to help its residents meet the challenges of reduced resources. However housing providers need to focus resources far more carefully to ensure maximum benefit to the communities they are based in. We are interviewing 100 tenants to identify their views on what low-income communities need and how big a role they can play. We will assess the value, costs and benefits of Orbit's current work in communities and the voluntary activities of residents, in order to develop a framework for delivering viable projects that help.

Life as a Doctoral student in CASE – Ludovica Gambaro – interview with Polly Vizard

Ludovica Gambaro completed a PhD “Why are childcare workers low paid? An analysis of pay in the UK childcare sector, 1994-2008.” Polly Vizard talked to her about her experiences of undertaking a PhD within CASE and the difference that undertaking a PhD in a research centre had made.



Ludovica hadn't originally intended doing a PhD. However, whilst she was completing a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) at LSE in spring 2007 she completed a course by Jane Lewis which she found was a total inspiration, and decided she wanted to study the gender dimension of social policy at a higher level by undertaking a PhD. Ludovica's links with CASE were also established at this time. During the MPA Ludovica was supervised by Francesca Borgonovi and David Piachaud, both of whom are associated with CASE, and she undertook occasional research work at CASE during the summer of 2007.

In September 2007, Ludovica received confirmation of a PhD place in the LSE Social Policy Department, together with departmental funding. Ludovica recalls

that by then she had been in CASE for three months, but that she hadn't at that point realized that it is possible to do a PhD in CASE. When John Hills called her into his office and invited her to undertake the PhD from within CASE, Ludovica also hadn't appreciated what a fantastic opportunity this was going to be.

In retrospect, however, undertaking a PhD in a research centre has been an entirely different experience. For example, Ludovica hadn't realized what a solitary experience undertaking a PhD can be and how important it is to feel a sense of connection with a research community. CASE provided the ideal environment, providing an essential link between Ludovica's own individual research project to an overall research programme – like a piece in a jigsaw. Being immersed in a research environment with seminars, meetings and chats, world class IT expertise, and working alongside other researchers made such an incredible difference on a day to day basis in all respects – from problem solving and knowledge sharing, to finding the emotional strength necessary to ensure completion. And being around working researchers and administrative staff also contributed to a sense of reality and normality. Ludovica's experience was that a PhD is a little like a bubble – and being in CASE kept her anchored firmly on the ground. Virginia Woolf talked about a “room of

your own” but for Ludovica, CASE provided a place of her own! Access to a PC and to a defined research space to come to every day all made such a critical difference.

Ludovica continued to work on Francesca Borgonovi's projects alongside her PhD, cleaning up cohort data and undertaking other tasks. She also made links with Kitty Stewart and Jane Waldfogel and all of this culminated in being offered a research position at CASE (subsequent to completion) working on the project *Equal access to high quality childcare*, funded by The Nuffield Foundation. This came about because Ludovica presented her work at a CASE seminar during one of Jane Waldfogel's visits. Jane subsequently asked if she would be interested in working on the project, and Ludovica was involved from the beginning, including the development of the proposal.

In her final year as a PhD student, Ludovica found the long haul to get the PhD completed a challenge – a lot of work had accumulated and it was difficult first to bring everything together, and then to get some emotional distance and to stop writing! Meanwhile, everything else in life was on hold until the PhD was completed. And life after the PhD? Good – but with a new project now underway, the much anticipated free time is providing elusive!

New project spotlight: Social Policy in a Cold Climate (2011-2015)

John Hills, Ruth Lupton, Tania Burchardt, Kitty Stewart and Polly Vizard

This is a significant programme of work jointly funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Nuffield Foundation and the Trust for London that will be undertaken over the period October 2011 to May 2015. The programme comprises a number of linked quantitative analyses that will evaluate the impact of recession, spending changes and policy reform in the UK, 2007-2014, with a particular focus on their impacts on distribution, poverty, inequality and spatial differences.

Since 2007, the economy, social policy and the welfare state in the UK have undergone a series of shocks and changes including the financial crash, a period of increased public spending between 2007 and 2010, followed by extensive cuts, and major reforms or changes in many areas of social policy. In combination, these can be expected to have substantial impacts on the distribution of incomes and wealth and the extent and distribution of state provision. There is reduced research funding within central government to monitor these changes and their social impacts.

The programme will produce an overall assessment of these changes. We will look at the period from 2007 to 2014, including assessments of change at different times within this period and of continuity and change with earlier periods. The work is quantitative in nature, and will cover four themes:

- 1** Analysis of social policy and public spending changes and their direct results. The focus will be on four main areas of policy: personal taxation and social security (including pensions and employment policy), early years policy, education and health / social care.
- 2** Broader assessment of the overall distribution of economic outcomes, identifying groups who have gained and lost over different periods. This will build on and compared with the baseline *Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK* produced by the National Equality Panel which covered the period up to the recession in 2008.
- 3** New work using longitudinal studies on trends in social mobility and the impact of policy on access to opportunity, particularly in education and the early years.
- 4** Spatial analysis of policy, spending and outcomes. In order to understand how the geography of poverty, inequality and opportunity is being shaped in the current economic and political climate, different spatial scales will be applied from countries to neighbourhoods. A spatial lens will also be applied to the analysis of policy, spending and outcomes in the policy areas specified in Theme 1, and also to the analysis of economic outcomes in Theme 2. The impact of "localism" in additional policy areas (for example housing and planning and school education) will be examined.

Interim reports will be produced and events will be held throughout the programme. A final report will be produced in time to inform public policy debate before the next scheduled general election in May 2015.



Ruth Lupton



Kitty Stewart



Polly Vizard

Looking forward to the year ahead.....

Here is just a taster of things to look forward to in 2012.

January 2012

We kicked the new year off with joint event on 11 and 12 January with nef (New Economics Foundation) entitled "About Time: Examining the case for a shorter working week". On 11 January there was a public lecture with Juliet Schor, Professor of Sociology at Boston College, Lord Robert Skidelsky, Emeritus Professor of Political Economy at the University of Warwick and Tim Jackson, Professor of Sustainable Development at Surrey University. This was followed on 12 January with a colloquium held in CASE with invited papers.



Ruth Lupton started working on a project in partnership with nef entitled "Tackling poverty and inequality at its root: Developing evidence-based policy to address labour market dynamics in Northern Ireland." For the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Ministers.



Polina Obolenskaya joined the team working on the Social Policy in a Cold Climate project. She will be working with Ruth Lupton, John Hills,

Kitty Stewart, Polly Vizard, Tania Burchardt and others on a programme of linked quantitative analyses to assess the effects of recession, spending changes, policy reform in the UK, 2007-2014, with a particular focus on their impacts on distribution, poverty, inequality and spatial differences.

February

In February we welcomed Eileen Herden who joined the Housing and Communities team as a project support assistant.

Fran Bennett and Holly Sutherland gave a seminar on 15 February on "The importance of independent income".



March

In March, Stephen Jenkins submits the final manuscript of "The Great Recession and the Distribution of Household Income" to Oxford University Press. (Authors: Stephen P. Jenkins, Andrea Brandolini, John Micklewright, and Brian Nolan, with contributions from others.) OUP are scheduled to publish it later this year.

Ronan Smyth joined the team working on the Social Policy in a Cold Climate project. He will be undertaking a review that will inform the selection of case studies in the London workstream of this project, examining how different local authorities are taking different approaches to cuts/reforms, and the impact of policy change on particular groups.

John Hills and Dan Esmiston gave a stimulating seminar on 14 March on "The changing architecture of the UK welfare state: From Thatcher to Cameron via New Labour".



The CASE team working on the GINI FP7 project attended and contributed to the research programme's mid-term conference in Budapest on 23/24 March www.gini-research.org/articles/budapest_conference

May

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is due to publish the project report on postcode discrimination in employment around May.

Launch of the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme funded project on "Poverty reduction in Europe: Social policy and innovation" (ImPRovE) (2012-1016). CASE (Francesca Bastagli and John Hills) is the UK Partner.

June

Papers from the Social Policy in a Cold Climate Project will start to emerge from the summer of 2012 onwards. Keep an eye on our website! http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/_new/research/Social_Policy_in_a_Cold_Climate.asp

We welcome another new face in June. Amanda Fitzgerald will be working with Ruth Lupton on the spatial workstream of the Social Policy in a Cold Climate project. This involves spatial analysis both of policy and spending and of outcomes in order to understand how the geography of poverty, inequality and opportunity is being shaped in the current economic and political climate.

September

In September Kitty Stewart, Ludovica Gambaro and Jane Waldfogel will be holding an authors' conference at LSE for their edited volume, *Equal Access to Quality Care: Lessons from other countries in providing high quality and affordable early childcare and education*. Country authors will be coming from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Norway and New Zealand.

Current research and research staff

Kenzo Asahi undertook research on the socioeconomic impact of better transport accessibility in Chile as part of his PhD thesis in Social Policy. His thesis explores the impact of a transport improvement in Chile on variables such as household assets, employment, education and crime. He continues to contribute to the blog “El Post” (in Spanish) which focusses on inequality and social policy issues.

Francesca Bastagli worked with John Hills and other colleagues at CASE on a study of the distribution of wealth in Great Britain, 1995-2005. Her research centred around the role of the life cycle, home ownership and house prices in changes in wealth inequality. With John Hills and Eleni Karagiannaki she started research, also funded by the Nuffield Foundation, examining differences in household consumption patterns between countries with similar incomes but different levels of social spending and taxation. As a visiting scholar to the IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department in April-May 2011, she developed a cross-country panel database on income inequality and co-authored a paper on trends in income inequality and the distributional impact of fiscal policy which is forthcoming as an IMF staff discussion paper.

Katie Bates joined CASE in January 2011 as a Research Assistant on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation study on “postcode discrimination” in employment, with Ruth Lupton, Rebecca Tunstall, Simon Watmough and Anne Green from Warwick University. The research employed an innovative correspondence methodology, in addition to qualitative research among young jobseekers and employers. During the year, Katie began working with LSE Housing and Communities on three projects. She has been working with Laura Lane on a project commissioned by Rockwool, looking at the potential social benefits of energy efficient upgrading work on a large social housing estate in West London. Laura and Katie are also working on a project with Octavia Housing exploring the experiences of Octavia tenants in high-

income areas of London, with particular reference to public funding cuts and changes to the welfare system. With Anne Power and Nicola Serle, Katie is involved with a new research project for Elizabeth Finn Care, exploring the impact of the Olympics on deprivation and regeneration in Newham.

Ben Baumberg completed his PhD at CASE during 2011, looking at fitness-for-work, health, and the changing nature of paid work. The research consisted of three strands: qualitative research among people with health problems in several areas of London (to look at how people judge their fitness-for-work); and two pieces of quantitative research, one using the Whitehall II study and the other using an unusual approach to BHPS data. Ben has also continued his interests in alcohol/addictions policy, and in 2012-13 will be looking at (i) the value of the pleasure from drinking (with a Medical Research Council project); and (ii) the role of the “addictive industries” in both increasing addiction and reducing harm (within an EU FP7 project). In September 2011 he started his role as a Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Kent. See www.benbaumberg.com for further details. He also continues to co-edit the collaborative research blog *Inequalities*.



Tania Burchardt continued to work with Polly Vizard and others on a programme of research on equality, capability and

human rights. This includes a pilot project funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to populate/update with recent survey data the four measurement frameworks (Equality Measurement Framework, Children’s Measurement Framework, Good Relations, and Human Rights). She began her British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship on measuring inequalities in social care services,

which is based on analysis of the new longitudinal Life Opportunities Survey run by Department for Work and Pensions. She also contributed to the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme, particularly on public/private welfare and on health and social care.

Robert Cassen is continuing his research on education, writing a book with Anna Vignoles (Institute of Education) and Sandra McNally (University of Surrey and LSE). The book will be completed in 2014 and published by Routledge.

Andrea Colantonio worked on the Weak Market Cities programme with Anne Power, and led the Next Urban Economy project at LSE Cities. The latter examined the transformation process of three European cities (Turin, Barcelona and Munich) and one Asian city (Seoul), drawing the main policy lessons and best practices that emerged from the analysis in terms of promoting new urban economies. Andrea will publish the findings of the study with Routledge as a research monograph entitled “Transforming Urban Economies: Policy lessons from European and Asian Cities”. The monograph will be co-authored with Ricky Burdett and Philipp Rode. In addition, a number of book chapters were published as part of Andrea’s continuing work on social sustainability.

Frank Cowell, with Abigail McKnight, organised a workshop at STICERD this year as part of the FP7 network GINI (Growing Inequalities’ Impacts). Frank presented a new theoretical paper (joint with Emmanuel Flachaire) “Inequality Measurement with Ordinal Data” at workshops and seminars in Marseille, Alicante, Bath and York. He continued collaboration with the Luxembourg Wealth Study team using the database to provide comparisons with changes in wealth distribution in the UK in comparison with other OECD countries. Frank also continued research activity on attitudes towards inequality of opportunity and income mobility as part of an international collaboration funded by the Belgian Science Foundation.

Current research and research staff (*continued*)



Jack Cunliffe

joined CASE as an MPhil/ PhD part time student in October 2010 whilst simultaneously working for

the Ministry of Justice as a Statistician. His work focuses on the interaction between area and criminal behaviour. This is essentially a quantitative study using existing governmental and survey data and is highly dependent on the pragmatics of what can be achieved within a sound theoretical structure, paying particular attention to the methodological issues of area effect. He is currently preparing for Major Review and to continue his studies next year.

Daniel Edmiston has compiled a dataset that captures pupil, school and local area-level characteristics of all primary and secondary schools in England. He is using this dataset to explore the relationship and drivers of quality and performance in schools across England. Daniel has also used this dataset to explore the contextual characteristics of Families of Schools in the North East of England, Greater Manchester, Black Country and London. Employing a methodology, developed by Tania Burchardt, Daniel also completed a study exploring the current levels of private and public welfare activity in social security, health, education, personal social services and housing from 1979 to 2008.

Alex Fenton continued analysis of the implications of the Coalition's policies on housing for low-income households. This included a detailed estimate of which parts of London would remain affordable to low-income private tenants on Housing Benefit, and where, and for whom, "Affordable Rents" linked to open-market prices would in fact be affordable. In October 2011, Alex joined CASE as a Research Fellow on the "Social Policy in a Cold Climate" project. Work to date has examined whether rising income inequality in London in the 2000s increased spatial segregation of the poor in the city. Alex

is also currently developing a framework for assessing whether the coalition's social policies have different effects in different types of neighbourhoods, and in different parts of the UK between 2010 and 2014.

Ludovica Gambaro began work in September 2011 on a new research project examining equality of access to high quality childcare and early education. Key questions to be addressed include: Are children from more disadvantaged backgrounds receiving high quality care and education? What is the relationship between costs of provision and its quality? How do other countries ensure access to high quality early education and care for *all* children? Ludovica is collaborating on this project with Kitty Stewart and Jane Waldfogel and colleagues from the Daycare Trust. The work is funded by the Nuffield Foundation until December 2012. Ludovica also continued to work this year on her PhD which looks at the pay of childcare workers in the UK from 1994 to 2008 and explores the causes of low pay in the sector. Future plans include further development of the material from the thesis and the development of new research proposals in the areas of childcare provision and women's employment.

Howard Glennerster continued to contribute to the last stages of the Nuffield Foundation funded study of wealth distribution. His archival study of the failure an attempt to introduce a wealth tax in 1974 was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Social Policy* and he helped in the drafting of the final three chapters of the book to be published by Oxford University Press summarising the results of the larger study. He has also been advising on the public expenditure figures to be used in CASE's major review of the impact of the Coalition Government's retrenchment in social spending. He has begun another project on staffing mix and labour productivity in US and UK health care with a colleague in the US.



Ian Gough

presented and published several major results of his research into the interface of climate change and social policy

during 2011. One overarching theme considered in this work has been how to ensure that the impacts, responsibilities and burdens of climate change mitigation are fairly distributed, to avoid "double injustice" within countries as well as between countries, and to enhance their public acceptability. In one collaborative study of total household emissions (with the New Economics Foundation) it was found that the UK consumes one third more carbon than it produces and one half more greenhouse gases – one of the widest gaps in the world. Other research findings suggest that current public spending favours compensation over prevention: more is spent on Winter Fuel Allowance than on all household energy savings programmes added together. Ian advocates serious "eco-social" policies, yet international experience suggests these will require new public subsidies – difficult in the current fiscal climate. To reduce emissions embodied in all consumer goods a wider range of policy measures are considered, including carbon rationing, reduced working time and taxation of consumption. These ideas have been set out in two reports – for the British Academy and for the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Ian has been invited to present his research to the large *Green Economy and the Social Dimension* conference at UNRISD in Geneva, the International Conference of Europeanists in Barcelona, and the European Social Policy Research Network conferences in Budapest and Valencia, as well as seminars in other universities and research institutes, including the Grantham Institute at the LSE. He has also continued to publish and present on the political economy of welfare states. This includes a joint thinkpiece on the global futures of welfare states, a study of the financing of

welfare regimes in the global South, and work on the financial crisis in Britain and its evolution into a fiscal and welfare crisis.

Aaron Grech became a visiting research fellow at CASE having been awarded his PhD in 2010. He is continuing his research in comparative pension policy, focusing primarily on reforms enacted in Europe since the mid-1990s. As part of his research, he has developed a set of indicators, based on estimates of pension wealth entitlements, that evaluate the effects of reforms on the ability of pension systems to continue to alleviate poverty and maintain living standards after retirement. By focusing on total projected transfers rather than generosity at the point of retirement, this research is better able to capture the impact of many recent reforms which have linked more closely benefits to contributions and which have linked the pension age to life expectancy.

Rod Hick continued his work exploring the potential of Amartya Sen's capability approach as a framework for conceptualising and measuring poverty and deprivation, in addition to furthering his empirical work examining the relationship between low income and multiple deprivation in the UK, drawing on data from the British Household Panel Survey between 1991-2007. The first paper from his PhD is due to appear in the *Journal of Social Policy* in 2012.

John Hills led a review to investigate the measurement and effects of fuel poverty, commissioned by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The interim report was published in October 2011 and *Getting the Measure of Fuel Poverty*, Final Report of the fuel poverty review, followed in March 2012. He has also contributed to the latest edition of *The Students Companion to Social Policy*, a chapter on the distribution of welfare. Along with other colleagues in CASE (including Frank Cowell, Howard Glennerster, Abigail McKnight, Eleni Karagiannaki and Francesca Bastagli) he has been completing a book to be published in early 2013 from a programme funded by The Nuffield Foundation on the drivers of the changing distribution

of wealth in the UK. He has also been working on various aspects of social policy and its impacts across the lifecycle for ESRC. This has included work with Holly Holder on attitudes to taxation, spending and redistribution in different European countries, with Dan Edmiston on changing boundaries between public and private sectors in welfare activity, and with Ben Richards on the interaction between means-tested student bursaries and the rest of the tax and benefit system. John also commenced working with colleagues on the first phase of the Social Policy in A Cold Climate programme, his focus being the effects of taxation, social security and pensions. He, Francesca Bastagli, Eleni Karagiannaki and Tiffany Tsang also started work on a new project for the Nuffield Foundation on differences in consumption patterns between countries with higher and lower levels of social spending and taxation.

Stephen Jenkins joined CASE in January 2011 when taking up his appointment as Professor of Economic and Social Policy in the Department of Social Policy. Most of his research over the year has been devoted to analysis of the impact of the Great Recession on the distribution of household incomes, taking a cross-national comparative perspective (with the focus on OECD countries). This is joint work with Andrea Brandolini (Banca d'Italia), John Micklewright (Institute of Education), and Brian Nolan (UCD). A report was presented at an international conference in Palermo in October 2010, supported by the Fondazione De Benedetti of Milan. A substantially revised version of the report will be published by Oxford University Press late in 2012. Otherwise, Stephen continues to research various aspects of income mobility and poverty dynamics, taking forward aspects considered in his *Changing Fortunes* book (OUP 2011): measurement of individual income growth, and persistent poverty in Europe (with Philippe Van Kerm, CEPS), and earnings and employment dynamics (supported by a British Academy small grant; with Lorenzo Cappellari, Milan). Also on the agenda for 2012 is completion of a "cautionary note" on the application of multi-level modelling

methods to datasets such as EU-SILC or the European Social Surveys (joint with Mark Bryan, Essex), and preparation of a chapter on within- and between-generation income mobility for the *Handbook of Income Distribution, Volume 2* (joint with Markus Jäntti, Stockholm).

Bryan Jones is now in the final year of a PhD thesis examining the impact of new development on existing communities in Kent Thameside; a key growth point in the Thames Gateway regeneration area. The Kent Thameside regeneration strategy is predicated on the private sector led redevelopment of large brownfield, ex-industrial sites outside the existing residential footprint. As well as providing new homes, new jobs and new infrastructure for Kent Thameside, this strategy is expected to facilitate the renewal of the area's existing residential communities. The ambition is to ensure that the new and existing communities are well integrated both physically and socially. Using interview evidence from existing residents and key politicians, officials and developers, this thesis aims to put this ambition to the test. It seeks first of all to examine whether the regeneration strategy has succeeded in meeting its own objectives relating to existing communities. It then goes on to consider whether this strategy, which relies heavily on the presence of a buoyant property market and a well-resourced public sector, is still relevant in an era of austerity.

Eleni Karagianniaki continued work with Frank Cowell and Abigail McKnight on GINI – a three year international research programme funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme which is examining the wider impact of rising inequalities. Her work for this project involves a detailed investigation of the role of demographic, economic and institutional differences in accounting for cross-country differences in the distribution of wealth and their changes over time. This research is expected to produce three research papers which will contribute to GINI report. Results from this work have already been presented at Gini Year One Conference

Current research and research staff (*continued*)

held at Milan on February 2011 and GINI Workshop held at London School of Economics on November 2011.

Laura Lane has been working within LSE Housing and Communities with Anne Power, Nicola Serle, Katie Bates and Bert Provan. Her work this year focused on the continuation of the Weak Market Cities project and included city-based policy and research workshops in Leipzig, Belfast and Lille. Laura and Anne Power participated in a cross-disciplinary UK Transport Research Centre seminar series looking into the social impacts and social equity issues around transport. The LSE seminar was held in June and was on sustainable communities, housing and transport. Laura and Katie Bates have done research on a project commissioned by Rockwool looking at the potential social benefits of energy efficient upgrading work on a large social housing estate in West London. Laura and Katie are also working on a project with Octavia Housing exploring the experiences of Octavia tenants in high-income areas of London, with particular reference to public funding cuts and changes to the welfare system. Laura finalised a report on the Playing 2 Learn programme with Liz Richardson (University of Manchester and CASE Visiting Fellow) which was the culmination of three years' work evaluating the Lottery funded Playing 2 Learn Family Learning Breaks at Trafford Hall. This report will be published in 2012.

Bingqin Li worked on several projects this year. These focussed on housing and urbanisation in China, including several papers on the roles of the state, the employers and the market in providing accommodation for rural-urban migrant workers in fast growing Chinese cities. Funding for this project was received from Lincoln's Institute of Land Policy, STICERD and the Ministry of Education in China. She continued to work on a project on intergenerational housing support between retired older people and their children. This research is in collaboration with Hyun Bang Shin from Geography Department and is funded by STICERD. Bingqin is also involved in an European Union research project on urbanisation and housing in China,

in collaboration with colleagues in Asian Research Centre and other departments at LSE; and has acted as a guest editor for a special issue for the journal of Social Policy and Administration on radical changes in the welfare system in China. In addition to research based at LSE, Bingqin has been invited to give talks in a number of institutions in Britain and a number of other countries including Singapore, Germany and China. She has edited a book titled *European and American Welfare Systems: Challenges, Reforms and Constraints* published by China Social Press, with contributions from authors based at LSE and other European countries.

Ruth Lupton has been leading on CASE's new research programme looking at the distributional effects of the recession and the Coalition's policy and spending reforms: Social Policy in a Cold Climate (SPCC). With Alex Fenton, she started work on trends in poverty and inequality and their spatial distribution in London, and on examining spatial inequalities across the UK generally, as a baseline for tracking the Coalition's impact. She is also leading on the education policy aspects of the SPCC programme. During the year, Ruth also continued her work on the relationships between school context and quality, producing papers for the Journal of Education Policy and British Educational Research Journal, and undertaking new quantitative analysis of context, quality and funding with Dan Edmiston. With Rebecca Tunstall, Simon Watmough, Katie Bates and also Anne Green from Warwick University, she completed a project for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on "postcode discrimination" in employment, which should be published in Spring 2012.

Lindsey Macmillan has been a visitor at CASE in 2011 and will be joining CASE in the summer of 2012 as a post-doctoral researcher working on intergenerational mobility and educational inequality as part of the Cold Climate project. Lindsey is currently in the process of completing her thesis on the intergenerational transmission of worklessness in the UK from the department of economics at the

University of Bristol. In 2011 her other research included being part of a joint project between Harvard University and the University of Manchester investigating the impact of Hard Times on various different outcomes in the US and the UK. She has also contributed two separate reports on youth unemployment, one on the "Cost of Youth Unemployment" which provided the analysis for David Milliband MP's Commission on Youth Unemployment and a second looking at the prevention of youth unemployment commissioned by the charity Tomorrow's People. She has also undertaken a "Rapid Review of Poverty in the UK" commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation alongside Paul Gregg and Susan Harkness.



Abigail McKnight has continued her work on a major international 3-year research programme (GINI) which is examining

the wider impact of rising inequality. This research project examines the social, cultural and political impacts associated with increasing inequalities in income, wealth and education. The project is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme and involves researchers across 26 countries. Abigail is the UK research partner and joint coordinator of the social impacts work package. This year she has been working alongside Frank Cowell and Eleni Karagiannaki on two papers comparing the distribution of wealth across five developed countries (UK, US, Italy, Finland and Sweden) and the extent to which demographic differences account for cross-country variation. She has also been working with Tiffany Tsang preparing a UK country report that describes the statistical picture of changes in inequalities in the UK over the last 20 years, and the relationship between any observed change and a range of economic, social, political and cultural outcomes. In November 2011

CASE hosted an international one day workshop focused on the social impacts work package.

Alice Miles joined CASE as an ESRC-sponsored PhD student in October 2011, to research the social and financial resilience of low to middle income families and their attitudes to welfare. She will be conducting case study research in contrasting neighbourhoods in the South East of England. Her wider interests are in welfare state reform and the distribution of wealth. She is supervised by Tania Burchardt and Ruth Lupton.

Sarah Mohaupt has been continuing her PhD research on the intergenerational links between children's health and education outcomes in Indonesia. Her research investigates how malnutrition and a range of parental socio-economic resources (eg, education, consumption, assets and height) influences children's health and educational outcomes at different stages of their life-course (early childhood, school-age and young adulthood). Data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS), a rich panel data set consisting of four waves of data which spans over a period of 14 years, is used. A cohort of children who were less than five years old in the first wave of the IFLS is studied. The research investigates the extent to which the prevalence, the severity and dynamics of stunting of children are contingent on parental socio-economic resources and how this relates to children's cognitive and schooling outcomes. Sarah has presented her work at the International Society For Child Indicators (ISCI) conference, the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) conferences and the Southeast Asian Studies Symposium at the University of Oxford. She continues to organise the PhD student meetings within CASE.

Marigen Narea joined CASE as an MPhil/PhD student in October 2010. Her research examines the relationship between two early childhood social policies and children's outcomes in Chile. In particular, she will analyse the

outcomes of children that have stayed with their mothers due to a de facto increased maternity leave. Additionally, she will analyse the effects on children's development outcomes of a day care expansion. The study will undertake a quantitative analysis of a large Chilean dataset "Encuesta Longitudinal de la Primera Infancia" (Longitudinal Survey of Early Childhood), for which only a cross-section is yet available. Marigen went to a field work trip to Chile between December 2011 and January 2012 funded by The Santander Travel Fund.

Kok Hoe Ng is researching old-age income security in Singapore and Hong Kong as part of his PhD studies. The dissertation is concerned with the interaction of demographic ageing, kin availability and intergenerational exchange, and pension policy reforms. Building on earlier analysis of the incomes and living arrangements of the elderly populations based on national survey data, his recent work has involved developing an approach that combines cell-based analysis and illustrative cases to project the possible pension outcomes for future cohorts of elderly person.

Kênia Parsons continued her doctoral research on conditional cash transfers and rural poverty in Brazil. Her thesis focuses on the impact of geographical location on targeting and participation in poor rural municipalities. A particular focus is the Bolsa Família programme, the largest conditional cash transfer in the world and one of the main social policies of the Brazilian government. In 2011, Kênia refined the focus of her thesis and started the analysis of her fieldwork. Her fieldwork was conducted in four rural municipalities of Brazil from January to July 2010. She interviewed beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries and public officials responsible for implementing the programme locally and federally. In 2011, she was a visiting student at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Kênia is on maternity leave May 2011 to April 2012.

Anne Power continues to head up the Weak Market Cities programme, analysing the impact of the financial crisis, recession and wider resource constraints on former industrial cities. The programme will culminate in the publication of an International Handbook of lessons from struggling and recovering cities in 2012. Additionally, Anne is leading four new research projects for LSE Housing and Communities: formulating a sustainable framework for Orbit Housing to contribute to tenant communities in a resource-constrained climate; examining the impact of the Olympics on deprivation in Newham for Elizabeth Finn Care; gathering views and experiences of tenants in high-cost areas on social housing changes for Octavia Housing; and evaluating the social impact of energy saving and renewable "green" technology measures in a low-income community in Hammersmith for Rockwool. With Laura Lane, Anne completed research for Oxford University on social equity and the social impacts of transport. Anne also continued her work on energy saving, publishing a report, *Cutting Carbon Costs*, on the German energy saving programme in buildings, with Monika Zulauf for the Brookings Institution. The publication of *Family Futures*, the final book from the CASE longitudinal study of low-income families, was marked by 2 events: a launch event with Margaret Hodge, MP, Jane Waldfogel and Katherine Rake; and a lively lecture with Iain Duncan Smith, MP and Jane Waldfogel. Anne also published a complementary report, *Obstacles and Opportunities*, with Nicola Serle and Helen Willmot. She has written two book chapters, one for the National Trust and DEMOS on Inner city turbulence and the spirit of Octavia Hill, and another for the Keystone Development Trust on the Big Society, as well as a paper on the same subject for The British Academy. Anne was awarded the *Reed and Malik Medal* by the Institution of Civil Engineers for her article, Housing and sustainability: demolition or refurbishment?

Current research and research staff (*continued*)



Bert Provan

is working on a range of projects in the LSE Housing and Communities team, having joined in June 2011 after

leaving his post as a senior civil servant and chief social researcher in a government department, where he managed research on deprivation, cohesion, digital inclusion, citizen attitudes, and Big Society policies. Bert has a PhD from LSE (1993) and since his arrival has completed and edited two of the recently published reports in the Weak Market Cities programme, which examine the economic and social redevelopment of three French Cities with particular attention to addressing problems in the most deprived neighbourhoods. He is now working on a major joint project for the EU looking at the role of “green” rehabilitation on addressing social inclusion and fuel poverty in deprived estates in ten European countries, where he is deploying his knowledge of French housing policy to deliver the French case study. He is also playing a key role in the contract commissioned by Orbit Housing Association on how to ensure their investment in community and social support projects brings maximum value for their tenants, where he is responsible for work in one of the three geographic areas, as well as for developing the frameworks for cost benefit and option appraisal.

Ben Richards continued work on his mixed-methods PhD thesis. His research examines the relationship between national identity and social cohesion in Britain, with a particular emphasis on the importance of ethnic identities for this relationship. In 2011 he completed the quantitative component of the thesis, which showed, using data from the Citizenship Survey, that the concept of social cohesion can be broken down into ten elements, and that the relationships between national identity and social cohesion vary markedly depending on the element in question, and

by ethnic group. This suggests the usage of the concept of “social cohesion” in public discourse, where it is sometimes treated as a unified concept and where links are often drawn between a stronger British identity and increased social cohesion, may be problematic. Work is also in progress on the qualitative component of the study, which involves a set of interviews with people of African or African-Caribbean origin living in an ethnically diverse area of London.



Nicola Serle

works with Anne Power and Laura Lane supporting LSE Housing and Communities’ research and administration. She is

responsible for the group’s events and in 2011 organised workshops funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund’s knowledge transfer programme on families and young people, health and area inequality, cutting carbon costs, community infrastructure and community viability, the big society and family futures. With Anne Power and Helen Willmot, she wrote a report on the educational disadvantages faced by young people living in low income communities *Obstacles and Opportunities* which was published in March 2011. Nicola co-ordinated the publication of *Family Futures* and organised two successful launch events which attracted large audiences. With Anne Power and Katie Bates, Nicola is co-ordinating a new research project for Elizabeth Finn Care, exploring the impact of the Olympics on deprivation and regeneration in Newham, the main Olympic host borough.

Wendy Sigle-Rushton has been working on several projects that focus on the family and home environment as determinants of well-being. With co-authors from the University of Oslo, she has been involved in one project that uses Norwegian register data sibling fixed effects models to examine the link

between parental union dissolution and school performance and another project that uses multi-process models of DHS data to examine the relationship between family size and educational development in Africa. Other on-going projects use data from both the US and the UK to explore the extent to which being a migrant or ethnic minority moderates the association between family structure and child health.

Kitty Stewart began work on a new project on childcare quality and children’s background, together with Ludovica Gambaro, Jane Waldfogel, the Daycare Trust and a team of international collaborators. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the project is examining the quality and cost of childcare accessed by low income families in the UK, and comparing the UK model to that in five other countries. Kitty is also part of the CASE Social Policy in a Cold Climate project, for which she has concentrated to date on policy affecting under-fives. In addition, she completed work with Francesca Bastagli on a Nuffield Foundation funded project on the employment and wage trajectories of mothers returning to low skilled work after birth, and examined recent developments affecting child poverty for Social Policy Review.



Tiffany

Tsang worked with Abigail McKnight on the Growing Inequalities’ Impacts (GINI) project, which is funded by the European

Commission. The focus of her work has been on the UK country report, which looks at long-term trends of the impact of inequalities on social, political, cultural and economic aspects of life. The analysis deals with how the following have changed in the last 20 years (wherever possible): inequality in income, employment, wealth and education; material deprivation; family formation and breakdown; crime and punishment; political and

civic participation; trust in parliament, government and other institutions, among many others. The UK team is working with five other country teams to map out a report template, which will be used as the basis for completing country reports for all EU nations (excluding Cyprus and Malta), the USA, Japan, Canada and Australia. She was also involved in fundraising and development projects for CASE in the first part of the year.

Polly Vizard continued her research on conceptualizing and measuring multidimensional inequality and deprivation using the capability approach. A research project for EHRC on the development of a Human Rights Measurement Framework (with LSE Human Rights, LSE Human Rights Futures – who were unpaid advisors on the project – and the British Institute of Human Rights) was completed. Presentations on the Human Rights Measurement Framework were made at events organized by the Human Rights Quantitative Methods Network in New York, the Centre for Human Rights and Social Justice (hosted by the Joint Committee on Human Rights), the School of Advanced Study (University of London), and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) / Human Rights Consortium (HRC). A presentation on subjective wellbeing and the capability approach was given at the Annual Conference of the Human Development and Capability Association in the Hague in September 2011. A paper for the 2020 Public Services Commission on the application of capability approach and human rights as regulatory frameworks for public services was redrafted as a book chapter. Co-authored articles on the capability approach and human rights (with Diane Elson and Sakiko Fukuda-Parr) and the Equality Measurement Framework (with Tania Burchardt) were published in the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* and two jointly edited books (one with Diane Elson and Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, and another with Mary Kaldor) were also published. Work also began on developing a survey module on older people's rights for HelpAge, to be fielded

in Mozambique, Peru and Kyrgyzstan; and on the health/social care and London workstreams on the new CASE Social Policy in a Cold Climate project, with Polina Obolenskaya, Tania Burchardt, Ruth Lupton and others.



Jane Waldfogel continued her research on poverty, inequality, and social mobility across countries, with funding

from the Sutton Trust to study the US and UK, and funding from the Russell Sage Foundation to study the US, UK, Australia, and Canada. She also continued work, with colleagues at Columbia University, on improving the measurement of poverty in the US (with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies) and started work on a new study of the effects of the recession on children and families (with funding from the National Institute of Health). Jane also started work on a new project on the "childcare puzzle" with colleagues at CASE; with funding from the Nuffield Foundation, they are studying inequality in childcare access, cost, and quality in the UK and commissioning papers on policy solutions from experts in other countries, to be presented at a conference at LSE in September 2012.

Asghar Zaidi is Director of Research at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna. His recent research work covers issues linked with financial and social sustainability of European public welfare systems, economics of ageing (particularly pension reforms and their impact on adequacy of retirement incomes, old age poverty and employment situation of older workers), living standards, employment and poverty of disabled persons, and the dynamic microsimulation modelling. Within the framework of the 2012 European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between

Generations, he is coordinating a large scale project funded by the European Commission and UNECE, whose aim is to develop and launch an active ageing index to measure unrealised potential as well as national progress in ensuring activity and quality of life of ageing populations in the European Union and other UNECE countries. He is a research affiliate at the German Economic Research Institute (DIW Berlin) and the Centre for Research on Ageing, Southampton University (UK). He has recently published books on ageing, pensions and health in Europe (with Arthur van Soest and Lans Bovenberg); on mainstreaming ageing (with Bernd Marin), on microsimulation modelling (with Ann Harding and Paul Williamson) and on well-being of older people in ageing societies.

CASE Publications

(*) denotes publications largely attributable to work outside the Centre. Non-CASE authors indicated by *italics*.

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CASE Papers

CASE/143	Rebecca Tunstall, Ruth Lupton, Dylan Kneale, Andrew Jenkins	Growing up in social housing in the new millennium: Housing, neighbourhoods, and early outcomes for children born in 2000
CASE/144	Kitty Stewart	Employment trajectories and later employment outcomes for mothers in the British Household Panel Survey: An analysis by skill level
CASE/145	Ian Gough and Sam Marden	Fiscal costs of climate mitigation programmes in the UK: A challenge for social policy?
CASE/146	Eleni Karagiannaki	Recent trends in the size and the distribution of inherited wealth in the UK
CASE/147	Howard Glennerster	A wealth tax abandoned: The role of the UK Treasury 1974-6
CASE/148	Eleni Karagiannaki	The impact of inheritance on the distribution of wealth: Evidence from the UK
CASE/149	Abigail McKnight	Estimates of the asset-effect: The search for a causal effect of assets on adult health and employment outcomes
CASE/150	Frank A Cowell	Inequality among the wealthy
CASE/151	Eleni Karagiannaki	The magnitude and correlates of inter-vivos transfers in the United Kingdom.
CASE/152	Ian Gough with Saamah Abdallah, Vicki Johnson, Josh Ryan-Collins, Cindy Smith	The distribution of total embodied greenhouse gas emissions by households in the UK, and some implications for social policy
CASE/153	Rebecca Tunstall	Social housing and social exclusion 2000-2011
CASE/154	Catherine Durose, Jonathan France, Liz Richardson, Ruth Lupton	Towards the "Big Society": What role for neighbourhood working? Evidence from a comparative European study
CASE/155	Daniel Edmiston	The shifting balance of private and public welfare activity in the United Kingdom
CASE/156	Hyun Bang Shin	Right to the city and critical reflections on property rights activism in China's urban renewal contexts
CASE/157	Francesca Bastagli, Kitty Stewart	Pathways and penalties: Mothers' employment trajectories and wage growth in the Families and Children Study
CASE/158	Martin Thrupp, Ruth Lupton	The impact of school context: What headteachers say

Other CASE publications

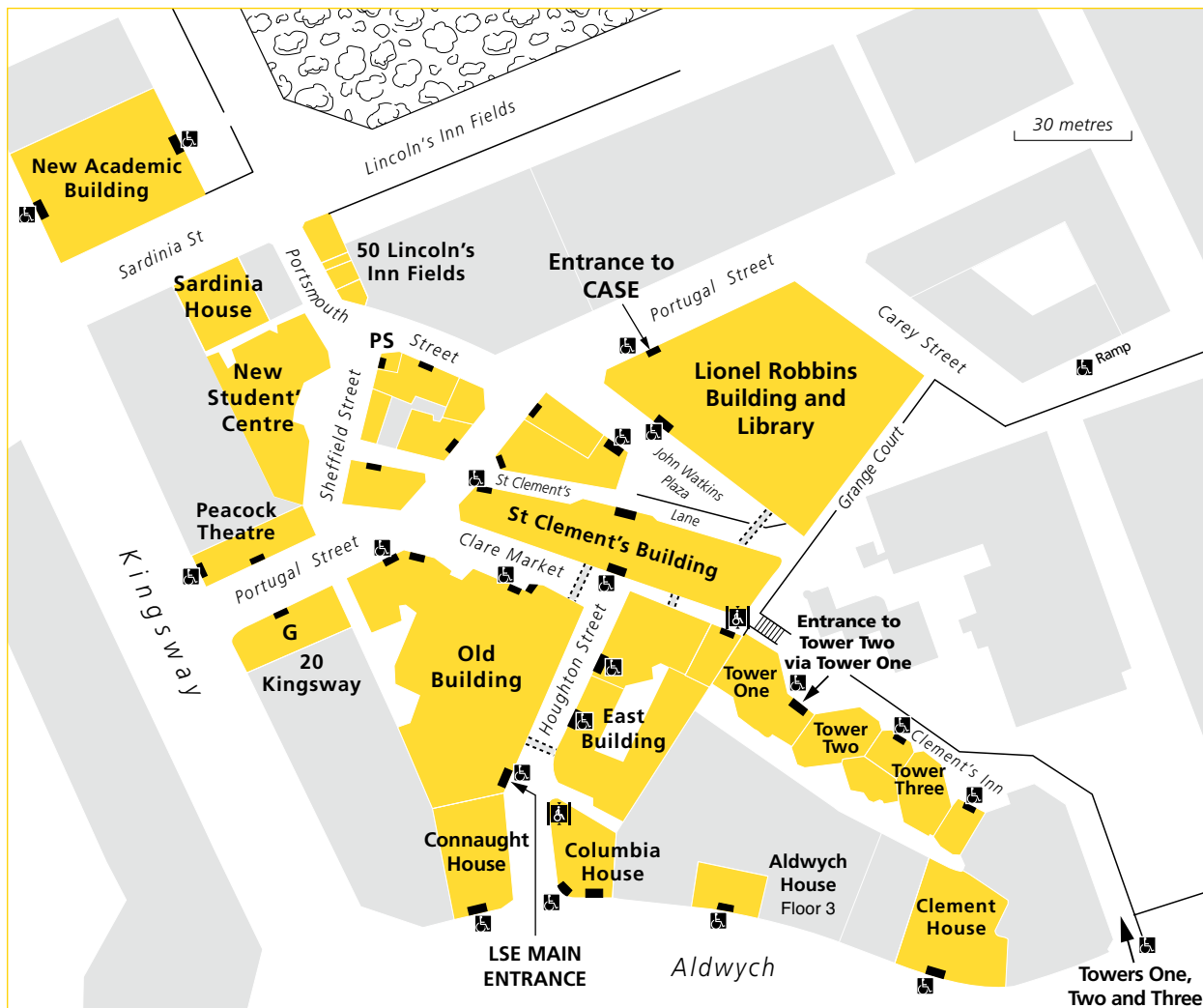
CASE brief 29	Rebecca Tunstall, Ruth Lupton, Dylan Kneale, Andrew Jenkins	Teenage housing tenure and neighbourhoods and the links with adult outcomes. Evidence from the 1970 Cohort Study
CASE brief 30	Kitty Stewart, Francesca Bastagli	Employment pathways and wage progression for mothers in low-skilled work: Evidence from three British datasets
CASE report 65	Ruth Lupton, Alex Fenton, Rebecca Tunstall, Rich Harris	Place typologies and their policy applications
CASE report 66	Anne Power, Nicola Serle, Helen Willmot	Obstacles and opportunities: Today's children, tomorrow's families
CASE report 67	Ruth Lupton, Anne Power, Liz Richardson, Rebecca Tunstall	Building the Big Society
CASE report 68	Abigail McKnight (Editor)	CASE Annual Report 2010 September 2011
CASE report 69	John Hills	Fuel poverty: The problem and its measurement

CASE seminars and events 2011

Seminars

Social Exclusion Seminars	
26 January	The distributional impacts of the 2010 Spending Review Tim Horton (Fabian Society), joint with Howard Reed (Landman Economics)
09 February	Housing and planning policy: Making housing affordable – Christine Whitehead (London School of Economics)
02 March	Poverty projections 2010-2013 and the longer-term impact of Universal Credit Mike Brewer (Institute for Fiscal Studies), joint with Robert Joyce
11 May	Educational inequality: How does the UK compare with other countries? Results from PISA – Maciej Jakubowski (OECD)
18 May	Trends in the employment of disabled people in Britain Richard Berthoud (Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex)
19 October	Family policies across the OECD: How does the UK compare? – Carmen Huerta (OECD)
02 November	Poverty and the two concepts of relative deprivation: Implications for poverty measurement in the EU Tony Fahey (University College Dublin and CASE visitor)
16 November	Schools and area partnerships: New forms of governance to tackle educational disadvantage Alan Dyson (Manchester), joint with Kirstin Kerr
07 December	The Great Recession and the distribution of household income – Stephen Jenkins (Social Policy, LSE)
Welfare Policy and Analysis Seminars	
19 January	Assessing the sustainability of pension reforms in Europe – Aaron Grech (Department for Work and Pensions)
16 February	The intergenerational transmission of worklessness – Lindsey Macmillan (University of Bristol)
09 March	The low-pay, no-pay cycle: Understanding recurrent poverty Tracy Shildrick (Teesside University), joint with Robert MacDonald
25 May	Wage top-ups and work incentives: Claimant experiences of New Labour's working tax credit scheme Hartley Dean (LSE), joint with Gerry Mitchell
12 October	The Precariat: The new dangerous class – Guy Standing (University of Bath)
26 October	Measuring fuel poverty: Does the current approach measure up? – John Hills
23 November	A job in itself: Looking for work in today's labour market Rebecca Tunstall (University of York), joint with Ruth Lupton
Special events	
15 February	LSE Housing and Communities special event Community survival depends on community infrastructure
16 March	How will the Coalition's social policies affect London? A joint event with LSE London and the Greater London Authority
30 March	LSE Housing and Communities special event Obstacles and opportunities: Today's children, tomorrow's families
21 June	LSE Housing and Communities special event Social impacts and social equity issues in transport – Workshop Series – Workshop 3: Housing and Sustainable Communities
28 June	LSE Housing and Communities special event – Breakfast seminar: Community assets and the Big Society – who carries the cost?
05 July	<i>Family Futures</i> Book Launch Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP, Anne Power, Katherine Rake, Jane Waldfogel.
08 November	LSE Housing and Communities special event – Cutting Carbon Costs: our big energy battle Nicholas Stern, John Hills, Christian Stolte, Jon Bright, Phil Wynn Owen
01 December	LSE Housing and Communities special event Families and young people in troubled neighbourhoods Iain Duncan Smith, Jane Waldfogel

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