

Is there a class issue at LSE?: Episode 5

In the fifth blog of a series this week at Researching Sociology @ LSE, this blog will discuss the views of final year law undergraduate and youth leader, **founder of the 4Front Project**, Temi Mwale. This is part of the **LSE Social Mobility Society's** panel discussion, which involved student and staff speakers. *To view all blogs so far, and to find out more about the panellists, click here.*

For guidance, this panel discussion centred around 3 central questions, which were as follows:

- *What does class mean to you?*
- *What does social mobility mean to you?*
- *Is there a class issue at LSE?*

4FRONT



Temi Mwale:

'When I first came to LSE, I noticed that no one was from London. The minority of people were from London, and it wasn't the type of London I grew up in. I grew up in the Grahame Park estate in North London. I don't think I knew I was working class until I compared myself to others, and came across people that were so different to me. I grew up on an estate, and I wouldn't change it for the world. I've got life experience. I think a really important thing about what class is, is that there are different views of morals and immorality; things that my friends would have had to do to get money, that their parents knew about, that society would see as immoral, meant eating for them. I had a really different experience of class. I got my own place young, and I remember going to the job centre. That's something LSE students won't typically have had to do, and that's a huge issue with this society, the job centres.

I noticed barriers very quickly when I first came to LSE, between the people here, and where I come from. This culture is so alienating, in terms of the workload and in terms of the culture here. Everyone was different to me. I knew I was going to come to a good university, because like Tallulah, I was picked for everything. Every single scheme, I was chosen for; I must have visited Oxford and Cambridge 6 or 7 times. I was called into my teacher's office because I didn't want to apply there, and their treatment towards me changed totally.

I suppose I have what you would call survivor's guilt. I don't feel at home at university, and I don't feel at home when I'm home. Social mobility is divisive; everything I am learning here, I am taking back to my community. I don't want to leave them, I don't want to go up in that lift without them, I want to take the lift back down and cram as many people as I can in before I go. Every single law I've learned at LSE, I've taken home and made it into a course. Joint enterprise for example, I've got friends inside for that; the things that I learn here academically are a part of my life, and I don't want to separate them, I want to use them to help my local community.'



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