

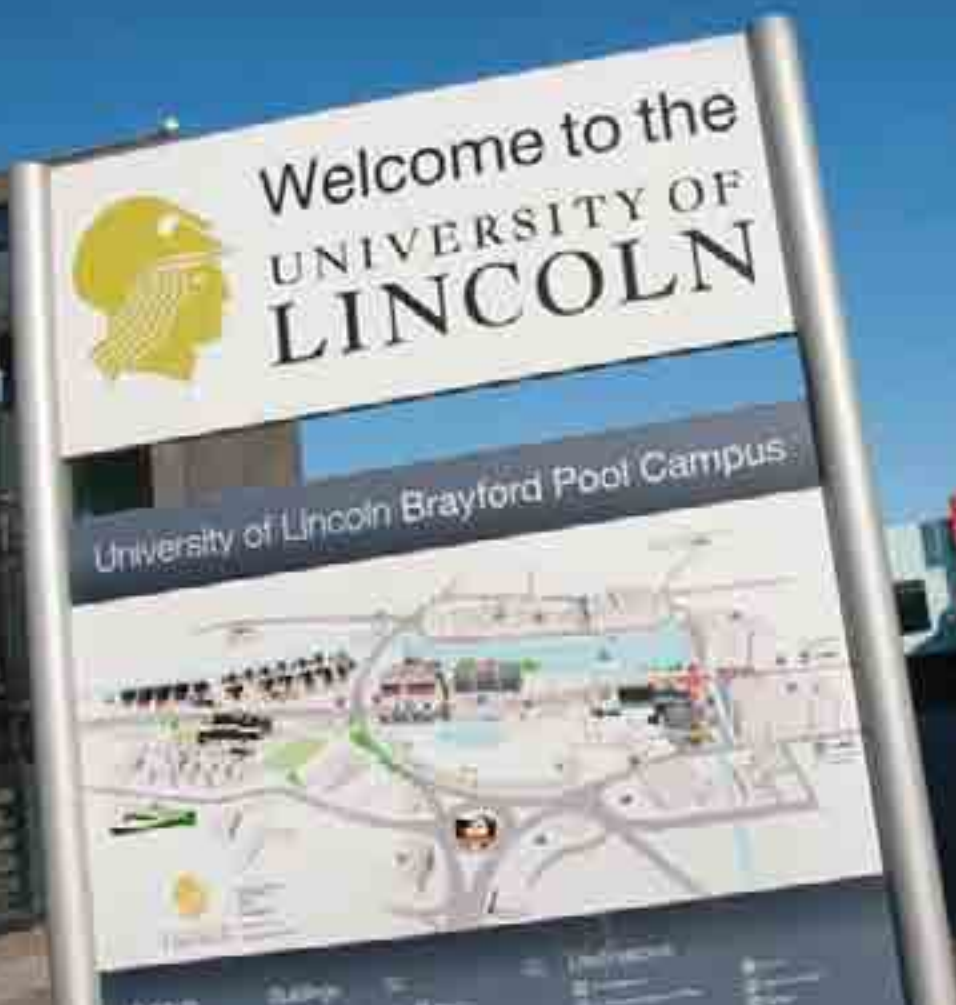
PolicyWorld

WINTER/SPRING 2011



NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

LOOKING FORWARD: LINCOLN 2011



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The Social Policy Association (SPA) is a professional Association open for membership to academics and practitioners working in

social policy, and to others with an interest in UK and international social policy. The association hosts an annual conference and funds smaller seminar events, as well as producing journals and other publications. In addition, the Association's Executive Committee represents the interests of the membership in communication with other professional and academic bodies. The annual SPA awards are presented at the conference, including a lifetime achievement award and best newcomer award. There is also a thriving SPA postgraduate network with a dedicated annual postgraduate conference and regular seminars. More information is available at www.social-policy.org.uk.

ADVERTISING IN POLICY WORLD

Do you need to reach social policy academics, practitioners and post-graduate students? *Policy World* is published three times a year for the 700 members of the SPA, and is an obvious choice to publicise forthcoming conferences, new publications and more. You will see that our rates, which assume the supply of artwork, are more than competitive. Alternatively, our designers will prepare artwork to your instructions for a small fee.

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PolicyWorld

Policy World is published three times a year. Letters, opinions, suggestions and contributions for future editions are welcomed. Please contact the Editor for more information.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2011 issue of *Policy World*. As ever, we cover the latest developments for both the Association and the field – inside you will find details of the updated Members' Directory, fresh media opportunities and additional SPA grant funding. Elsewhere, we congratulate Ruth Lister on her recent peerage. Our main features see an analysis of the 'Third Way' by Bill Jordan, whilst Bob Deacon considers the implications of the coalition government's approach to overseas

aid. Finally, you will see mention of a new SPA publication – *In Defence of Welfare* – in the Chair's Introduction. Publication of this response to the Comprehensive Spending Review was due to take place as *Policy World* went to press, and we will report on its reception in the Summer 2011 issue.

Best wishes

Chris Blunkell, Editor

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION CAROLINE GLENDINNING



These are exceptionally difficult times for higher education - for social policy study, teaching and research; and, especially, for the many people whose wellbeing and quality of life are threatened by the social and economic policies that are currently being implemented. In such circumstances the SPA has a dual role: to support social policy students, teachers and researchers where courses and funding are under threat; and to use our specialist expertise to highlight the wider social consequences of current policies for individuals, groups and social cohesion in general.

The focus of our activity over the past few months has been on this latter role. Since the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) was published last autumn, we have commissioned a series of short pieces from SPA members on the potential impacts of the CSR across a range of policy domains and wider policy themes. Our aim was not just to highlight the damaging impacts of the CSR but to put forward arguments and evidence for alternative, less deleterious approaches. We are immensely grateful to SPA members who were willing to contribute to this initiative at very short notice. The resulting publication, *In Defence of Welfare*, can be downloaded from the SPA website (www.social-policy.org.uk). We set out to achieve the widest possible coverage and therefore sent copies to all MPs, Peers, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland elected members; to senior civil servants; and to a wide range of pressure groups,

voluntary organisations and 'think tanks' from across the political spectrum. This was complemented by targeted press and media activity, intended both to highlight the publication and at the same time to raise the profile of SPA more generally with journalists and other key audiences. Thus, as well as issuing a generic press release, targeted contacts were made with key social policy journalists, and contributors to the publication were also encouraged to work with their own institutional press offices on more personalised news stories. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to those Executive Committee members who worked so hard on commissioning and editing *In Defence of Welfare* - Nicola Yeates, Majella Kilkey, Rana Jawad and Tina Haux; to Nick Timmins, SPA President, who wrote the Introduction; to Ruth Patrick who compiled a comprehensive mailing list of parliamentarians, pressure groups and other organisations; and to Chris Blunkell, who led the media strategy.

Over the next few months we will be turning our attention to the other strand of the SPA's role - promoting social policy teaching, study and research. The Academy for Social Sciences, which represents the interests of a wide range of social science learned societies, has launched a campaign to promote and defend UK social science and its top international ranking. The SPA hopes to be able to contribute our own evidence to demonstrate the added value to society of social science research and the problems that arise when it is not carried out. More specifically, in the light of increasingly tight funding opportunities, Executive Committee members have been considering what the SPA can do to support postgraduate and early career researchers in social policy. A range of options, drawing on experiences of other learned societies, is currently being considered.

As ever, we are open to ideas and suggestions for activities from members. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Caroline Glendinning
Chair SPA

MEMBERS' DIRECTORY

The SPA has recently invested in an updated members' directory with the aim of helping social policy colleagues to connect more effectively with each other, as well as - where members wish - with policy makers and members of the media.

As well as being able to find SPA members by pre-defined research areas, by surname or by institution, the new directory allows free text searches across the research interests and areas of expertise of all SPA members in the directory. The aim is to provide a central calling point for members to connect with colleagues and where those from outside the academic community can locate relevant expertise. It is important to emphasise that you can select not to be contacted by non-academics if you wish.

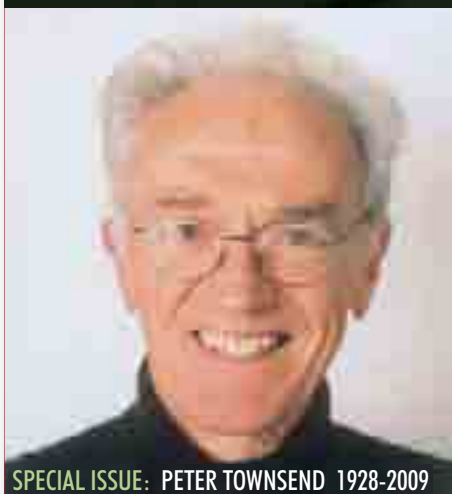
We are sure that this new members' directory will be of significant value to the social policy community but we need your help to make it a success by adding your own details to the directory. All you have to do is go to http://spa.lpl-uk.com/member_login.php whilst renewing your membership online and add your details. Alternatively, once you have renewed your membership you can go to <http://spa.lpl-uk.com/directory1.php> to find the main Members' Directory search page where you can also follow the link to upload your details. So log in, add your info, and get connecting!

Adam Whitworth
and
Simon Pemberton

PolicyWorld

AUTUMN 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION



SPECIAL ISSUE: PETER TOWNSEND 1928-2009

THE PETER TOWNSEND POLICY PRESS PRIZE

The British Academy, with the support of the Policy Press, is pleased to announce that it will award a prize biannually to commemorate the life and work of Peter Townsend, a former Fellow, who died in 2009 after a long and remarkable career.

The prize, of £2,000 will be awarded to the author of what the Academy judges to be a piece of outstanding work with policy relevance and academic merit. It should be published within five years of the closing date for nominations, on this occasion 15th February 2011, and be by anyone whose habitual residence is the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

The topic must fall within one or more of the fields to which Townsend made a major contribution - poverty and inequality, ageing and the lives of older people, disability, or inequalities in health. It must be published in the English language. An article, a book in more than one volume or a series of closely related articles will count as a single work.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the British Academy web site where further details of the award may be obtained. Questions may also be addressed to Angela Pusey (A.Pusey@britac.ac.uk).

ESRC DELIVERY PLAN 2011-2015

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has published its Delivery Plan for 2011- 2015, following the announcement of the Council's settlement from the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review. The Council's budget for 2011/12 is £174,637 million reducing to £166,186 million in 2014/15 (excluding running costs).

Responding to the budget announcement, ESRC Chief Executive Professor Paul Boyle said: "The relatively favourable settlement is very welcome in the context of a tough fiscal environment. The settlement demonstrates the value that research brings to the UK, and is also a vote of confidence in the social sciences. However it does represent a real-terms reduction of around 12 per cent in the ESRC's budget over the next four years which will affect our activities."

The Delivery Plan sets out the Council's commitments to:

- align and shape strategic research investment in three priority areas
- focus resources on longer, larger grants that deliver ambitious social science
- invest in future research leaders early in their careers
- contribute to the RCUK interdisciplinary research programmes
- streamline existing funding opportunities
- concentrate PhD training in the best centres

- protect core investments in the national data infrastructure
- continue to prioritise the generation of economic and societal impact
- expand collaborative activities with the private sector
- continue to encourage and promote international collaboration.

Changes to the Council's funding schemes were also announced in the Plan, including:

- the termination of existing Small Grants, Postdoctoral Fellowships and Mid-Career Development Fellowships Schemes on 1 February 2011
- an increase in the lower threshold for standard grants to £200,000
- the introduction of a new Future Research Leaders Scheme for early-career researchers in spring 2011.

The full Delivery Plan can be found at <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/index.aspx>.

NEW HEAD OF ANALYTICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR GSR



David Johnson: new role in GSR

David Johnson has been named as Head of Analytical Development for the Government Social Research Service (GSR). Currently head of research in the Cross-Cutting Pensions Analysis Division at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), his new role will see him join the Government Economic

and Social Research team (GESR) - the professional support unit for both GSR and the GES (Government Economic Service), based in the Treasury.

David will work closely with the Joint Heads of GSR, the leadership board and the GESR team leader to champion and develop the use of social research in government. He will lead the GSR analytical team within GESR and take on the HM Treasury Head of Profession role for social research, with a particular remit for ensuring that the Treasury is well informed about social impacts and wider social research evidence. David will also embed the use of social research in Departments, ensuring non-analysts across government understand the contribution of social research to a well-rounded evidence base and informed decision making.

Speaking about his appointment David said: "I am very much looking forward to joining GESR and helping the profession demonstrate the impact social research has on policy making."

PUBLIC SERVANT MAGAZINE PROPOSALS WELCOME



Following its publication of two articles by SPA members – Richard Simmons and Kirstein Rummery – in 2010, *Public Servant* magazine welcomes fresh proposals for 2011. *Public Servant* is circulated to just under 12,000 named recipients, with a readership of senior managers and decision makers in central and local government, the NHS, and the wider public sector.

The magazine works to a features list, with much of its commissioning done around particular themes. Particularly welcome are suggestions for opinion pieces and case studies of around 800 words which, says Features Editor Alison Thomas, should be "written in accessible

and lively language for an informed audience though not an academic one. Cage-rattling is welcomed - we want articles that will make people sit up and take notice, and get debate going."

PUBLIC SERVANT FORWARD FEATURES

April (published March 25)

- Special report: operational efficiency including putting the CSR into practice, shared services and financial modelling.

May (published April 22)

- Special report: pensions and investment.

June (published May 27)

- Special report: Localism, communities and housing.

July (published June 24)

- Special report: Redesigning public services.

More generally, *Public Servant* is likely to cover themes including various aspects of the 'Big Society' (such as opportunities and challenges in seeking to build social cohesion), addressing long-term worklessness and deprivation, benefit reform, how current rhetoric about localism will play out in practice, reform of policing and criminal justice (and the potential of 'payment by results' in reducing reoffending).

If you have an idea you would like considered, please contact Chris Blunkell (chris.blunkell@btinternet.com) in the first instance.

SPA GRANTS

SPA Large Grants Scheme

The SPA invites applications for its Large Grants Scheme, designed to help fund one-off conference events dealing with research, policy & practice and/or learning & teaching in a way that is of benefit to the social policy community and SPA members. During 2011, we will prioritise applications which demonstrably have clear policy maker/practitioner links. The maximum award for an individual event is £3,000.

Funding is available in two rounds of applications over the year. Round one runs from 1st January to 30th June and round two from 1st July to 31st December. Applications are welcomed at any point within each award period, and funds are allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Full terms and conditions, as well as information on how to apply, are available on the SPA website. For more information contact SPA Large Grants Officer, Majella Kilkey (M.M.Kilkey@hull.ac.uk).

SPA Small Grants Schemes

The SPA invites applications for its Standard and Postgraduate Small Grants Schemes - designed to help fund seminars and workshops dealing with research and/or learning & teaching in a way that is of benefit to the social policy community and SPA members. The focus should be on activities that will benefit a group or network rather than individuals.

Funds will be made available in two rounds of applications over the year. Round one runs from 1st January to 30th June and round two from 1st July to 31st December. Applications are welcomed at any point within each award period, and funds are allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Each award offers a maximum of £500.

Full terms and conditions, as well as information on how to apply, are available on the SPA website. For more information contact SPA Small Grants Officer Kate Bradley (K.Bradley@kent.ac.uk).

Overseas Conference Grants Scheme

One of the SPA's aims for 2011 is to foster links and promote dialogue between social policy academics across a range of countries - both within and outside Europe. As part of this, from January 1st we have introduced a new scheme which offers financial support to members applying to attend overseas conferences.

The Overseas Conference Grants Scheme is open not only to UK-based SPA members attending a conference outside the UK, but also to SPA members resident outside the UK attending either the SPA conference or a conference in another country outside the UK. Each award offers a maximum of £300 to cover conference registration fees, but does not cover travel or accommodation/subsistence costs. Applicants should have been accepted to present a paper at the conference for which they are applying.

Funding is available in two rounds of applications over the year. Round one runs from 1st January to 30th June and round two from 1st July to 31st December. Applications for funding to attend the UK SPA Conference should be received by 31st May. Other applications are welcome at any point within each award period, and funds are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Full terms and conditions, as well as details of how to apply, are available on the SPA website. For more information please contact the SPA International Officers, Nicola Yeates (n.yeates@open.ac.uk) or Alex Collis (alex.collis@anglia.ac.uk).

Journals from The Policy Press



Policy & Politics



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With an enviable reputation for publishing peer-reviewed papers of the highest quality this is the leading journal in the field of public policy cuts across a wide range of policy areas with an increasingly international reach.

4 issues: January, April, July and October
Print ISSN: 0305-5736 • Online ISSN: 1470-8442

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The first peer-reviewed journal dedicated to comprehensive and critical assessment of the relationship between research evidence and the concerns of policy makers and practitioners, as well as researchers.

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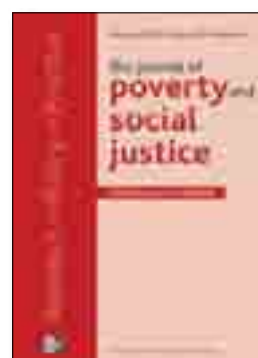
Voluntary Sector Review



Published in association with the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN), this journal publishes high-quality, peer-reviewed papers on third sector research, policy and practice.

3 issues: March, July and November
Print ISSN: 2040-8056 • Online: 2040-8064

The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice



This journal presents high-quality research, policy and practice in the fields related to poverty and social exclusion.

3 issues: February, June and October
Print ISSN: 1759-8273 • Online ISSN: 1759-8281

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ANNUAL AWARDS UPDATE

In response to feedback from SPA members, the SPA Executive Committee has agreed a number of revisions to the Annual Awards.

Judging arrangements

Included are changes to the judging arrangements, with judges now asked to serve for more than one year. With a group of four judges, one is replaced each year so that, once operational, all judges serve for four years within a rolling membership. Judges are also now precluded from nominating, as is the SPA Awards Officer.

The nomination process

This process has been revised, so that those making a nomination must now do so with the full knowledge of the person being nominated. Nominees are free to publicise their nomination once the awards for that year have been made. The SPA will publish the names of nominees and winners in the Annual Report to the AGM and on the website once the awards process for any one year is complete. All those nominated receive a certificate of nomination, which will be sent by post once the awards process for any one year is complete. Winners will continue to be presented with their awards at the SPA Annual Conference Gala Dinner.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

This award is now limited to SPA members who have retired, are due to retire within a year of the award or hold an emeritus position. Contributions to teaching and learning of the subject is now an explicit criteria.

Number of awards

Finally, guidance to judges on the number of awards permitted in each category has been amended. The preference is, as in previous years, for only one award in each category, but with judges free to exercise their discretion to make more than one award if it is very difficult to draw clear and fair distinctions between the merits of nominees.

Majella Kilkey, SPA Awards Officer

SPA ANNUAL AWARDS 2011 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The SPA is pleased to announce the call for nominations for this year's Annual Awards, sponsored by Cambridge University Press and The Policy Press. Winners will be presented with their awards by SPA president Nick Timmins (Financial Times) at the special Gala Dinner held during the annual SPA conference at the University of Lincoln 4th - 6th July 2011.

All nominators must be SPA members (although current members of the judging panel and the SPA Awards Officer are not eligible to nominate). Finally, please note recent revisions to the nomination process and criteria (see box on left) before making your nominations. The guidelines issued to judges are available to view at www.social-policy.org.uk.

In 2011, nominations are invited for the following awards:

Lifetime Achievement

Entries are limited to SPA members who have retired, are due to retire within a year of the award or hold an Emeritus position; and must be nominated by five other SPA members. The award will be made to the person the judges feel:

- has made persistent contributions to research and organisation (of major conferences, influential reports, SPA Executive posts, etc.) that has raised the external profile of the subject
- has made contributions to teaching and learning of the subject (through for example, authorship of leading books, innovation and leadership in curriculum development, management and leadership within HEIs etc)
- has achieved recognition by non-academics with interest in social policy - journalists, campaigners and lobbyists, activists, user communities
- has an acknowledged international reputation, as measured in terms of translations, citations, projects, academic posts
- has made contributions to professional bodies and associations
- has had an impact on political process/discourse (e.g. advisor to government, consultant to voluntary bodies/local government), and
- has achieved esteem measured in terms of journal editing/establishing, promotion of social policy within other social sciences, membership of research councils or similar bodies.

Nominations for this award must be accompanied by the candidate's full CV.

Best Newcomer

This award will be granted to a lecturer/researcher who is within five years of their first post-graduation post, and who is judged to have made a significant early contribution to the field of social policy. Entries must be nominated by two SPA members, and nominees must themselves be members. The judges may use (but are not limited to) the following criteria in making their decision:

- evidence of a significant publications record (e.g. books and book chapters published, articles in key social policy journals, cited works, presentations at key national and international conferences)
- evidence of a significant contribution made to the teaching of social policy (e.g. contribution to authored or edited textbooks, development of new degree courses, innovations in teaching methods)
- evidence of an outstanding early-career record in research (e.g. securing of research

grants, developing and leading research networks, a significant contribution to the development of research methodologies); and/or

- evidence of esteem outside the academic community (e.g. in developing links with user communities; providing advice to voluntary, private and government agencies on policy issues).

Nominations for this award must be accompanied by the candidate's full CV.

Outstanding Contribution from a Non-academic

This award will be granted to an individual or organisation who, in the opinion of the judges, has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of social policy - through campaigning, lobbying, service provision, fundraising, journalism, funding of research, dissemination of research (particularly to practitioners and other non-academic audiences) or other non-academic means.

Entries must be nominated by two SPA members, although nominees need not be members.

Best New Publication

This award is made to the author(s) of any book, book chapter or article in an academic or other periodical published between July 2009 and July 2010 that has made a significant contribution to the discipline of social policy as judged by the award panel. This can be in terms of advancement of theoretical or empirical understanding, or as a contribution to teaching and learning. Thus, the definitive general textbook is not excluded. Nominations can be made by any two SPA members, although nominees need not be members. Publishers cannot nominate publications for this award.

A full copy of the publication must be included with the nomination form, and will be returned when judging is complete.

Best Postgraduate Paper

This award is made to the author(s) of any conference paper presented at a national or international social policy conference between July 2009 and July 2010, including the SPA's annual conference and national postgraduate conferences. The author(s) must have been studying for a recognised postgraduate qualification at the time of the presentation, and the subject matter of the paper must be directly related to (and promote a greater understanding of) the discipline of social policy. The paper must be fully written up (abstracts and overheads are not acceptable) and be of publishable quality. The winner(s) will have their paper published in *Social Policy Review*, subject to the usual editorial process. Nominations can be made by any two SPA members, although nominees need not be members.

A full copy of the paper must be included with the nomination form, and will be returned when judging is complete.

SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011 'BIGGER SOCIETIES, SMALLER GOVERNMENTS?' 4 - 6 JULY 2011 UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

Following the successful conference in 2010 the University of Lincoln is again hosting the SPA's Annual Conference in 2011. Plenary sessions so far confirmed include Dr Sarah Cook of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Professor Jan Pahl of the University of Kent, and a session on 'The Big Society: A new direction for third sector policy in England?' with Professor Pete Alcock of the University of Birmingham, Karl Wilding of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Ruchir Shah of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

In addition to the normal paper presentations and symposia, there will be a number of additional sessions

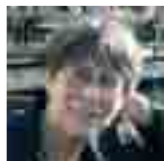
appropriate to the conference. Building upon the experience of 2011 a postgraduate element will again be integrated into the programme to provide a variety of opportunities for the involvement of postgraduates.

All of the main conference sessions will be held on the University's Brayford Pool Campus, within walking distance of the City centre and the station. The conference dinner and the SPA awards will be held on the evening of 4 July, with a drinks reception on the evening of 5 July planned for The Collection - a museum which traces the history of the area from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages through to the Saxon, Viking and medieval eras.

Further information about the conference, together with online booking, is now available at: www.lincoln.ac.uk/conferences/spa2011.

SPA ANNUAL AWARDS 2011

MEET THE JUDGES



Fran Bennett

Besides her work as an independent consultant, Fran Bennett works half time as a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford. Her focus is social policy, and she is engaged in teaching and research. She has a particular interest in social security policy; gender issues; and poverty, income distribution and participation.



Ian Gough

Ian Gough is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of Bath and Professorial Research Fellow at CASE (Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion) at the London School of Economics. His research has covered political economy of welfare states, human needs and wellbeing, welfare regimes and social policy in developing countries. He is now undertaking research into climate change and social policy.



Julia S. O'Connor

Julia S. O'Connor is Professor of Social Policy at the Institute for Research in Social Sciences, University of Ulster. Her main area of research is social inequality and welfare states in comparative perspective, which includes work on social policy in the EU in the context of changing governance, the impact of liberalism on social policy, gender and citizenship.



Martin Powell

Martin Powell is Professor of Health and Social Policy at the Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham, and is editor of *Social Policy and Administration*. His main research interests include health policy, the history of the welfare state, principles of the welfare state, citizenship and consumerism. He has published over 10 books and 70 articles.



Nick Timmins

Nick Timmins is Public Policy Editor of the *Financial Times*, a visiting Professor in Public Management at King's College, London, a senior associate of the Nuffield Trust and president of the SPA. He is the author of the award-winning *The Five Giants: A Biography of the Welfare State*, and was a founder of *The Independent*.

CALL FOR PAPERS

SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011

'BIGGER SOCIETIES, SMALLER GOVERNMENTS?'

4-6 JULY 2011

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

Following last year's successful conference in Lincoln paper proposals on any aspect of social policy are again invited for the 2011 conference. We particularly encourage proposals reflecting high quality research or which explore questions of social policy in practice or the teaching of social policy. In addition to standard papers, we are also calling for proposals for symposia, with three or four abstracts linked to a particular theme. Symposia will potentially allow participants to engage more deeply with their special interests.

For papers, abstracts of up to a maximum of 400 words should be submitted as a Word or rich text format email attachment to SPA2011@lincoln.ac.uk. Proposals for symposia should consist of

a 200 word outline of the aims of the symposium together with contributors' abstracts. Proposals will be reviewed by a Programme Committee prior to acceptance. The closing date for the submission of abstracts and proposals is Friday 25 February 2011. Full papers must be submitted in .pdf form by 10 June 2011.

As in 2010 there are a number of options for postgraduate participation (see p.16) in both full conference and postgraduate only sessions.

Further information about the conference, together with online booking is now available at: www.lincoln.ac.uk/conferences/spa2011.

SPA ANNUAL AWARDS 2011 NOMINATION FORM

Please read the criteria for the awards carefully before completing the form, which should be returned with accompanying documentation to:

Majella Kilkey, SPA Awards Officer
Department of Social Sciences, Wilberforce Building
University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX
Email: M.M.Kilkey@hull.ac.uk.

Alternatively, forms can be submitted via www.social-policy.org.uk (where a downloadable Word version of this form can be found) although proposers must still ensure that appropriate supporting documentation reaches the Awards Officer safely. Nomination forms must be received by Friday 18th March 2011, with all nominees informed of the results prior to the SPA annual conference in July. Judges' decisions are final and they will not enter into any correspondence regarding their decisions.

NAME OF NOMINEE

AWARD CATEGORY

Nominated by (all of whom must be current SPA members) .

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Using additional paper if necessary, please write no more than 250 words justifying why your nomination meets the criteria for this award.

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Please state any supporting documentation you have included (please refer to relevant award criteria).

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Economies and Insecurities
of Crime and Justice

British Society of
Criminology Conference

Northumbria University,
3-6 July 2011



The British Society of Criminology invites submissions for its annual conference at Northumbria University from 3-6 July 2011. The conference showcases the latest criminology research and features experts whose ideas shape social policy concerning crime and justice. Keynote speakers include Jackie Harvey, Liz Kelly, Mike Levi, Ian Loader, Jill Peay, Stephen Shaw and Loic Wacquant. The programme offers innovative alternative sessions - Author Meets Critic, round table discussions, films and debates - and lively social events.

The conference theme, Economies and Insecurities of Crime and Justice, explores topical issues such as:

- Economic crisis, public spending and the criminal justice sector
- Recessional climates and the landscapes of criminal enterprise
- The political economies of crime, crime control and criminal justice
- Social exclusion, consumer culture and criminal enterprise
- The academic and practitioner interface
- Fear, insecurity and victimisation
- Global economies and local insecurities

The call for papers is now open. Delegates can submit papers or offer panel submissions, and workshop streams are flexible, reflecting the research interests of contributors.

For more information, please visit the conference website at www.northumbria.ac.uk/bscconference

DFID'S SOCIAL POLICIES: WHERE DO THEY STAND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UN'S POLICY FOR A GLOBAL SOCIAL FLOOR?



by Bob Deacon

The Global Economic Crisis brought about by the banking scams has engendered considerable debate¹ at a global level concerning the implications of the crisis for social development policy and in particular for social protection policy in developing countries.

In summary the Washington Consensus which argued that the key to effective social development was global market access, free trade and a residual role for the state in terms of targeted safety nets for the most vulnerable was fundamentally challenged. Many working in the UN system and aid business concluded that one of two alternative approaches was now called for. The most radical was a call for a return to state-led social and economic development in which expenditures on social services including health, education and water and sanitation would be countercyclical and enable countries to weather the crisis. The other was an argument that the most vulnerable had to be protected by a new universal Global Social Floor underpinning the volatilities of the global market in the interests of those most affected by these volatilities.

Various meetings held in the wake of the global financial crisis have promoted this second idea of a more progressive

approach to global social policy. These included, for example, a public presentation of the campaign for a Global Social Floor by representatives of the ILO, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UNICEF and HelpAge International at a public side event of the Doha Financing for Development Conference in December 2008. The publicity material for this event, 'A New Deal for People in a Global Crisis: Social Security for All', asserted that: "The current global financial crisis is an opportunity to create a Global New Deal to deliver social protection in all countries through basic old age and disability pensions, child benefits, employment programs, and provision of social services..... Social security is a human right (Articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and it is affordable, a basic package is estimated to cost from 2 to 5 percent of GDP as an average. It is feasible if the international system commits to providing financial support for a Global New Deal to jump start an emergency response to the urgent social needs of our times".

Co-ordinated action

Subsequently the UN System Chief Executives Board for Co-ordination (CEB)² in Paris in April 2009 agreed a CEB Issue Paper; *The Global Financial Crisis and its impact on the work of the UN system*. The paper called for coordinated action across the UN system in eight key policy fields. Most important from this article's point of view was initiative six, which was to work towards a global "Social Protection Floor which ensures access to basic social services, shelter, and empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable". This has subsequently been elaborated in June 2009 as a "floor (that) could consist of two main elements: (a) public services: geographical and financial access to essential public services (water, sanitation, health, education); and (b) Transfers: a basic set of essential social transfers..... to provide a minimum income security" (UNCEB 2009). The ILO and WHO would

lead on this policy supported by a host of other agencies including UNICEF and UNDESA. The Global Social Floor had become UN policy.

Naturally one turns to one of the leading global development agencies, UKDFID to see how it intends to support this Global Social Floor social protection initiative. Alas using the UKDFID search engine the links generated for Global Social Floor direct us to various floors of the DFID headquarters. Seriously, instead we find among the six key priorities set out in the new UKDFID Business Plan³ the third priority which is to "Make British international development policy more focused on boosting economic growth and wealth creation". Regarding this growth priority there is the clearly articulated view of International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell that "the private sector holds the key to tackling global poverty".⁴ A new department within DFID will be created consisting of private sector and economic expertise to work for more private investment in the poorest countries.

Economic growth

"I want", says Mitchell, "this department to be the place that lives and breathes the new DFID culture of private sector-led development". As part of its wealth creation goal DFID will promote an African Free Trade Area and work with the G20 to agree duty-free access for Least Developed Countries. At the same time the newly created International Growth Centre (IGC) which is directed and organised from hubs at the LSE and Oxford (under Paul Collier) was initiated and funded by UK aid from DFID. The website⁵ says that "IGC promotes sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research". Searching DFID's website for emerging policies once again wealth creation is listed under the banner that says "Economic growth is the most important means of raising incomes and reducing poverty in the developing world"⁶.

As desirable as some of these policies may be it is as if the lessons of the 20 years of

...it is as if the lessons of the 20 years of the UNDP's Human Development Reports that trade and private sector-led growth needs to be accompanied by redistributive and public sector investment measures have been forgotten or perhaps not even read by the new Ministerial team.

the UNDP's Human Development Reports that trade and private sector-led growth needs to be accompanied by redistributive and public sector investment measures have been forgotten or perhaps not even read by the new Ministerial team⁷. Certainly there is absolutely no engagement here with the global debate on these questions and no acknowledgement of the new UN social protection policy. That is not to say social issues are entirely absent from the new DFID. Priority five is to "work to empower and educate girls, recognise the role of women in development and help to ensure that healthy mothers can raise strong children".

Instead of the Global Social Floor it is clear that UKDFID regards security in fragile states to be a priority. Priority number four is to "improve the coherence and performance of British international development policy in fragile and conflict-affected countries, with a particular focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan". In line with the Strategic Defence and Security Review spending to support fragile states and conflict affected states will increase from 22% to 30% of ODA by 2014-2015. Speaking at the Royal College of Defence Studies the International Development Secretary⁸ said he "want(s) to see DFID, FCO, MoD and the Armed Forces working even closer together, for example delivering effective

Security Sector Reform. The Stabilisation Unit is proof that this experience is possible; it is time now to build on this so that we can change mindsets and habits across Government. Cross-Whitehall cooperation should be second nature for DFID staff, and we will encourage our colleagues in the FCO and MoD to think and act similarly. This is what I have in mind when I say we should develop an 'integrated approach'. As part of the SDSR we will be discussing new ways to develop the Conflict Pool – a unique cross-departmental funding arrangement - so that it can better support the full breadth of our work in conflict-affected countries."

ODA levels

To be fair we have to acknowledge that the Coalition government in its Comprehensive Spending Review had to be congratulated on sticking to its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) levels to the 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2013 and enshrine it in law. Under the previous Labour government but now under the Coalition government the UK is one of very few countries outside the Nordic group of countries who are sticking to pledges on ODA made at the G8 in Gleneagles in 2000. It has to be noted however that for 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 the spending only stays at the same level of GNI as now (0.56%) leaping to 0.7% in 2013-2014. This means a leap from 8.8 billion in 2012-2013 to 11.3 billion in 2013-2014! In the same vein Andrew Mitchell announced on Boxing Day⁹ that the UK's contribution to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund replenishment call will be £40 million, confirming the UK as the Fund's biggest donor above Sweden. The Department's Administration budget will however be cut by 33% over the period raising concerns about the ability of the Department to deliver the increased aid effectively.

Finally, let it be said that these funds could be raised in other ways to avoid the concerns of some that money that could have been spent on UK social provision is being spent abroad. The proposed financial transaction tax on currency and other trading, now known as the Robin Hood

tax if levied even at a low rate would generate even greater funds to spend on international development. Moves to introduce such a tax have now reached the agenda of the G20 with even the IMF subscribing to its technical feasibility. It is possible that President Sarkozy will try to push for its introduction when the French Chair the next G20 in 2011. The UK government position at that point will be important. However, while the UKDFID Business plan for 2011-2015 discusses initiatives it will advance in global free trade and climate change mitigation it is silent on global taxation policy.

Bob Deacon is Professor of International Social Policy, Sheffield University and UNESCO Chair in Regional Social Integration, UNUCRIS, Bruges.

Endnotes

- 1 This section is based upon: Deacon, B (2010), 'Global Social Policy Responses to the Economic Crisis', in Farnsworth K and Irving Z. (eds) Social Policy in Challenging Times: Economic Crisis and Welfare Systems, Bristol, Policy Press.
- 2 The CEB is the main instrument for executive heads of the UN system to co-ordinate their actions and policies.
- 3 Strategic Priority Number 3 in the DFID 2011-2015 Business plan.
- 4 DFID Press Release 12th October 2010.
- 5 <http://www.theigc.org/>
- 6 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/Emerging-policy/>
- 7 See Human Development Report 2010: The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Development. UNDPHDI Office, New York <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/>
- 8 Speech by International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell at the Royal College of Defence Studies on 16 September 2010
- 9 "Britain warns of Aid Crisis after G20 nations leave \$100million shortfall in disaster relief fund", Observer 29th December 2010.

WHY THE THIRD WAY FAILED

Way thinking, which were identified and exploited by the Conservatives in the May election.

First, Third Way social policies were directly derived from its economic model, and specifically from the theory of information, incentives and contracts promoted by Joseph Stiglitz at the World Bank. This both identified the leading role of finance capital in globalisation, and insisted that the banks were the key (because the best-informed) agents for supplying 'stability with growth' for the national economy. So the repeated assertion that the crash was a global phenomenon sounded hollow, set against Gordon Brown's hubristic claim of 'no more boom and bust'.

Both the scope and the substance of public policies were based on these economic principles. Thus the plans for further 'modernisation' and expansion of the public services collapsed with the banking crisis, along with the credibility of the whole system of regulation, management and target-setting developed under the Third Way regime.

by

Bill Jordan

The same theory which prescribed a 'light touch and a limited touch' for the oversight of the banks had also laid down the detailed structures – the trusts, strategic authorities, inspection bodies, outcome measures, standards and funding principles – for the public sector. Central government amassed the information, designed the incentives and sanctions, and defined the contracts under which its policies were planned to produce socially desirable results. This approach was reproduced in the way that services were managed, right down to the lowest level.

As a system that operated impersonally through abstract economic forces, it neither required nor sought the involvement or loyalty of staff and service users. As a result, even its achievements often went unappreciated, while its mechanistic processes were resented and its failings deplored. With the abrupt end to its expansionary momentum after the crash, it had few committed defenders.

The Conservative Party election manifesto seized upon these shortcomings. Along with the promises to 'create a safer banking system' and 'a more balanced economy', it announced an intention to redistribute

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With the defeat of the New Labour government in the UK general election of May 2010, a model of government which dominated left liberal politics in many parts of the affluent world for two decades seems to have slipped quietly into history. The policy reviews announced by Ed Miliband on his accession to the party leadership imply a search for a new approach.

But the inquest on the Third Way will need to investigate some fundamental issues. Which parts, if any, of Third Way thinking can be salvaged? Did the dust from the economic crash obscure New Labour's

policy successes, such as the reductions in NHS waiting times and the expansion in university places? But above all, does the Conservatives' Big Society represent a viable alternative model of government, and if so which of the failings of the Third Way might it remedy?

Central weaknesses

In 1997, Tony Blair was able to present his party's election campaign as a programme for equality of opportunity, social justice and national renewal. By 2010, New Labour's approach looked technocratic and uninspired, bereft of original ideas. In my view, this decline can be understood in terms of three central weaknesses in Third

power from the central state to individuals and communities, and to involve people as activists in local affairs. The 'bonfire of the quangos' in the first months of the coalition government focused early spending cuts on Third Way regulatory and administrative structures.

Second, these formal systems disconnected inspectors, management and staff from the human subject-matter of their services. Scandals such as the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Hospital Trust, involving the avoidable death and suffering of hundreds of patients, revealed that ordinary compassion and professional standards had been sacrificed to the attainment of lucrative Foundation status, and that inspections had failed to identify lapses in patient care and safety. Enquiries into the death of Baby Peter in Haringey uncovered similar failures of inspection and management systems to identify serious professional oversights.

The Third Way approach showed little sensitivity to the moral and cultural features which sustain good practice in human services, focusing instead on implementing 'evidence-based' methods through electronic record-keeping, and assessing 'quality standards' against official check-lists. The result was too often a practice environment in which empathy, creativity and imagination were not nurtured.

Again, the Conservative election manifesto identified this weakness and promised to give public service staff more autonomy and the discretion to use their judgement. They would also become more accountable to service users. There would be new community organisers to assist in the formation of groups and associations at the local level.

Third, citizenship was defined in terms of a contract between individuals and the state, and sustained through the former's 'independence' and self-responsibility. In the Third Way view of society, the social order was shaped by such beings, earning and consuming in their search for self-realisation. Ethical goals, such as distributive equity, social well-being and sustainable lifestyles, did not require their conscious engagement; the government aimed to manipulate the framework in which their lives were led to bring about such outcomes.

The reforms of the public services were designed to promote individual choice and the personalisation of provision, so that the experiences of service users re-enforced and replicated those they had as market consumers. Despite a rhetoric of 'community', there was little in the civic sphere to promote the solidarities and loyalties on which commitment to the welfare state ultimately relied.

Excessive individualism

During New Labour's final term, research surveys (such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's on Contemporary Social Evils) showed that the public saw UK society as too individualistic, and excessive individualism was also blamed by the Good Childhood Enquiry for the very low position of the country's children in league tables of child well-being in affluent countries.

Yet the same philosophy also resulted in a regime of greater surveillance, more sanctions and restrictions of civil rights, especially for the most disadvantaged members of society. Because increased inequality denied such citizens access to the resources needed for autonomy and self-reliance, more authoritarian measures were required to exercise control and reduce social conflict.

The Conservatives' Big Society initiative was conceived as a project for mending 'Broken Britain' through the creation of an active, engaged form of citizenship, expressed through participation in the common good. In speeches on this theme before the general election, David Cameron used the phrase 'collective action', and insisted that he aimed for a radical, long-term reconstruction of social relationships and civic culture.

Mass protests

In the event, the coalition government's initial programme has been dominated by public spending cuts, imposed to control the budget deficit. Reductions in benefits payments, rises in student fees and miserly allocations to urban authorities under the local government settlement have all revived memories of the Thatcher era; the forms of collective action they have inspired have been mass protests.

At the same time, structural reforms in public services have been introduced at an alarming pace. The devolution of funding in

the NHS to GP consortia, and in education to schools, has been characterised by Vince Cable as 'Maoist', but is also seen as offering huge openings for commercial interests in these key services.

Up to now, therefore, the coalition's approach has been as much shaped by economic factors as was the Third Way's, and methods such as contracting and 'nudging' as central to its implementation. It remains to be seen which aspects of the Big Society idea will enter the mainstream of social policy in the years ahead.

In particular, the proposals of Phillip Blond – a 'Red Tory' critic of Thatcherism as well as statism – demand a major shift of resources towards social enterprises, mutual organisations, co-operatives and associations, in an attempt to revive local economies and empower citizen engagement.

In principle, this shift could be supported by the long-term reform of benefits for people of working age introduced by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith. Although the first impact of his package will be felt in terms of cuts and increased conditionality, it could eventually allow people more scope to work on innovative projects to improve the quality of life in their communities.

The obvious danger of the Big Society is that citizens will act within narrow solidarities, and that more resourceful and better-organised groups will enhance their advantages over the worst-off. Above all, the new approach could make it more difficult to achieve the pooling of risks across large and diverse populations, as would be required for a properly-funded National Care Service.

As for the Third Way, its passing has been largely unmourned, but its legacy is pervasive, in policy thinking and in public sector structures. It is likely to survive as the Ghost in the Machine for many years to come.

Bill Jordan is Professor of Social Policy at Plymouth University. He is the author of 'Why the Third Way Failed: Economics, Morality and the Origins of the 'Big Society'', published by Policy Press in October 2010.

WELCOME



Welcome to this New Year edition of *Policy World*, and to the postgraduate community pages. This provides an excellent opportunity to think ahead to the coming academic year, and plan for future events and developments.

Protests and cuts - a call to arms

Recent events mean that we are in an era of dramatic political, policy and social change. The hike in tuition fees has implications for the learning experience as a postgraduate, for the teaching role if you are a postgraduate who teaches social policy, and for your future intellectual, research and employment opportunities as you emerge from doctoral study. The phrase "Things will never be the same again" has become ubiquitous in departmental hallways, and the postgraduate community - given its place at the frontier of learning, teaching and research practice - is exposed.

Not only do developments in the sector impose personal challenges, but they speak to fundamental questions about the role of social policy, systems of welfare, and social rights. The right to free education and to street protest is questioned, and the treatment of our colleagues and peers by Government and authorities raises vital social questions that we, as an intellectual community, are well placed to think through.

This is a call to arms.

I suggest that as a postgraduate community, that we need to consider how best to respond to the dramatic changes that are taking place, and how it might be possible to assert influence. The recent protests and sit-ins provide inspiration for future action. The SPA has already put together a report that establishes the role of welfare systems and importance of research expertise (see p.4).

How could we contribute to resistance against future cuts and changes to the Universities sector?

As a start, two events are planned for the academic year 2010-2011 and these are detailed below.

Forthcoming events

A teaching and learning event (see overleaf) will be held in May 2011 at the University of Leeds. This event will evaluate the role of social policy in contemporary higher education and challenges of teaching social policy in light of changes to the sector, critically assess the student learning experience, and examine threats to intellectual and creative freedoms in research and teaching practice which will be imposed by financial cuts to social sciences and humanities.

The SPA conference 2011 will provide you with a platform to discuss your research and to network with peers and more established scholars (see p.9). This event is an excellent opportunity to disseminate your research, cement your academic profile and discuss recent developments in the higher education sector. There will be an AGM for the postgraduate community, which presents an important chance to feed back to the SPA about your own needs, and what you think that the organisation can do for you. Details about presentation options and abstract submission can be found below.

Travel expenses will be made available to SPA postgraduate members to facilitate your attendance at these events. Remember that if you would like to plan your own event you can apply for small grant funding (see p.6).

Policy People - tell us about you

Finally, I invite you to contribute information and ideas to 'Policy People'. This addition to *Policy World* is for members' news, such as job changes, appointments and awards. This is an excellent place for new members to introduce themselves and their interests. We are interested in what you are up to, so let us and the wider social policy community know!

Get in touch!

If you have ideas about future actions against the changes to welfare systems and higher education, or any contributions for the 'Policy People' section of the next issue of *Policy World*, please contact me at r.dobson@leeds.ac.uk. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you at the future events.

Rachael Dobson

Postgraduate representative

**The Social Policy Association Conference 2011
4-6 July 2011, University of Lincoln
'Bigger Societies, Smaller Governments?'**

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite **postgraduates** to attend the conference. Options for participation include:

- presentation in a regular conference stream
- presentation in a session closed to postgraduates only
- show-casing research in a poster presentation
- join forces with your peers and submit a proposal for a symposium, with three or four abstracts linked to a particular theme.

Please follow guidelines for abstract submission as outlined at www.lincoln.ac.uk/conferences/spa2011.

On the abstract, it is **essential** that you record your status as a postgraduate and mark your chosen option as: 'Presentation', 'Symposia', 'Postgraduate presentation' or 'Poster'.

Further information about the conference and on-line booking is available at: www.lincoln.ac.uk/conferences/spa2011

This one-day event will:

- create a supportive and reflective environment where delegates have the opportunity to express their aspirations for HEI teaching.
- stretch and question the parameters surrounding what students in social policy departments can learn, and what can be taught.
- enable delegates to think critically through contemporary challenges associated with the teaching and learning experience.

Confirmed speakers include:

Professor Mary Evans,
Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics

Dr. Shona Hunter,
Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds

Dr. Helen Lucey,
Psychology, University of Bath.

The speakers will cover a range of themes such as: social policy as a substantive area; the student 'learning experience'; the role of 'feedback'; and future constraints on creative freedoms in research and teaching practice

The event is designed to be of interest to any academic currently teaching social policy in an HEI environment but particularly for postgraduates who teach. Developed primarily in response to postgraduate feedback to events co-hosted by the Subject Centre for Social Policy and Social Work and the SPA, the event provides a space for creative and critical thinking about teaching and learning. For more information and booking go to www.swap.ac.uk/events/swapevents/130511teachingsocialpolicy.html.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Date: 13th May 2011

Event: Facing forwards and confronting challenges: issues in teaching and learning in a time of transformation

Venue: Beechgrove House, University of Leeds

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)



SWAP has recently started a JISC/HEA funded project to bring together open educational resources (OERs) in social work and social policy. Open educational resources are materials that are freely available to be used and repurposed.



As part of the project, SWAP will collaborate with six partners (Social Care Institute of Excellence [SCIE]; Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services [IRISS]; the Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health [CEIMH], University of Birmingham; the Centre for Human Service Technology [CHST], University of Southampton;

School of Electronics and Computer Science [ECS] and University of Southampton Library) to create the sector's first collective online repository - SWAPBox.

SWAPBox will offer a wide range of social work and social policy resources for learning that will be uploaded by project partners and individual SWAPBox members. These resources will be subject to online peer review.

Another key objective of the project is to stimulate a genuine cultural shift encouraging educators not currently engaged in technology-enhanced teaching and learning to use OERs on a regular basis. The interactive elements of SWAPBox will foster engagement between novice and expert OER users to create a supportive online community. A dedicated help and support section will provide guidelines including how to modify existing OERs and how to turn your teaching materials into shareable resources to be uploaded onto SWAPBox.

SWAP will be organising opportunities to share examples and experiences of using OERs, and to introduce SWAPBox to the social policy and social work community.

To sign up and start using SWAPBox, please go to www.swapbox.ac.uk.

NEW SWAP RESOURCES



In focus – Technology-enhanced learning and teaching: recent developments

The seventh edition of SWAP's newsletter showcases examples of technology-enhanced learning in Northern Ireland, Wales and England. It includes examples of online modules designed to deliver policy and practice relevant distance learning.

To request a copy of *In focus* please contact swapteam@soton.ac.uk

EVENT FUNDING

Do you have an idea for an event related to the learning and teaching of social policy? SWAP has funds available to support institutions to host regional workshops or similar events.

Visit www.swap.ac.uk/getinvolved/host.html for more details.

FORTH- COMING EVENTS

13 May 2011

SWAP event - Facing forwards and confronting challenges: issues in teaching and learning in a time of transformation, University of Leeds.

www.swap.ac.uk/events/swapevents/130511teachingsocialpolicy.html

16-17 June 2011

HEA event - Internationalisation of Pedagogy and Curriculum in Higher Education, University of Warwick

www.heacademy.ac.uk/eventsandnetworking/academyevents

26 June 2011.

C-SAP event - Teaching about Islam in the Social Sciences Workshop, University of Birmingham
www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/events/details/100-teaching-about-islam-in-the-social-sciences-workshop

For more information on this and other forthcoming events visit:

www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/events

SWAP (Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Social Policy and Social Work)

SWAP's technology-enhanced learning pages contain information on why and how to use technology to enhance learning and teaching, as well as many useful links to audio, video and multimedia resources.

www.swap.ac.uk/themes/whytech.html

C-SAP (Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics)

C-SAP hosts clusters of themed online resources sites. These include:

Domestic violence www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/volunteering/page_01.htm

Race and ethnicity www.teachingrace.bham.ac.uk/

Active learning active citizenship www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/ALAC/index.html

Dissertation guidance www.socscidiss.bham.ac.uk/index.html

Open Educational Resource www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/oer/index.html

Openlearn - free access to Open University course materials.

Topics freely available include:

- Sport media and culture: Who's calling the shots?
- The meaning of crime
- Reading visual images
- Does prison work?
- Learning from audio visual material: migrants and borders
- Nationalism, self-determination and secession
- Retiring lives? Old age, work and welfare.

<http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/course/category.php?id=11&perpage=15&page=1>

International and Comparative Social Policy Group

A website designed to provide a useful resource for teaching, learning and research into international and comparative social policy. Recently added resources include images of Bangladesh.

<http://www.globalwelfare.net/>

The Health Education Assets Library

The Health Education Assets Library contains free, high-quality digital materials for medical and health sciences education.

www.healcentral.org/

Skills for Access

An online resource providing informed, practical and pragmatic advice and information on multimedia, accessibility and learning. www.skillsforaccess.org.uk/index.php

Disclaimer: inclusion of the sites on this list does not constitute a recommendation in relation to the quality or currency of resources or information found on these sites.

WEB RESOURCES

CONTESTATION AND CONTINUITIES: HEALTH AND WELFARE POLICY IN THE BIG SOCIETY

20th January 2010, Cardiff University

By Aimee Grant, Lee Gregory and Christala Sophocleous



Professor
Gareth Rees
addresses
delegates

The rapidly changing policy areas of health and social security were the focus of the 'Contestation and Continuities' conference hosted by Cardiff University on the 20th January. With a historic coalition government in Westminster leading to a mixture of liberal and conservative ideas feeding into policy development, delegates were invited to consider the extent to which this offers something new or is merely a rebranding of themes found in many New Labour policy initiatives.

The idea for the conference was formed at the SPA conference last July in Lincoln. Inspired by these individual and collective reflections, we recognised that as PhD researchers we are among the first group of social investigators encountering the Big Society at the coalface.

Hosted in the opulent surroundings of Cardiff University, the conference attracted 40 delegates from institutions throughout the UK. The conference offered postgraduate

researchers the opportunity to consider the implications of the Big Society thesis for their own research topics and reflect on the wider ramifications for welfare and health policy. The assembled papers highlighted both the perennial issues of public policy - including citizenship, motherhood and governance - whilst also drawing our attention to how seemingly 'stable' concepts such as time and work are being appropriated in contested re-workings.

Professor Janet Newman (Open University) opened the conference with a discussion of her emerging research findings exploring the changing ways in which commitment to feminist ideas are practiced and enacted over time. She highlighted how women engaged in different fields of power - policy making, judicial and representational/voice work, and operating at different levels of action - have created and utilised 'spaces of power' which challenge dominant debates and create new imaginaries and practices.

The second key note address in the afternoon, from Professor Gareth Williams (Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Ethics), outlined the changes in limiting long term illness alongside the rise of Incapacity Benefit claims since the 1970s. Critical of the isolated labour market explanations adopted by the New Labour government around incapacity, Prof. Williams argued that increased conditionality was inappropriate within social security as incapacity was not simply about health issues but linked to wider economic, cultural and value based concerns. Inevitably this leads us to the more fundamental question of the kind of society we want to create.

The body of the conference was divided into three streams:

- Families, children and health
- Time, work and the Big Society
- Access to welfare in the Big Society

Families, children and health

Presentations in this stream focused upon several substantive areas of social policy.

Opening the session, Hannah Zagel's (University of Edinburgh) work critically examined activation policies for lone mothers within an international context, highlighting differences between mothers from differing occupational and class groups. This was followed by Catherine Rose Stocks-Rankin (University of Edinburgh) speaking on charges for care home services for older people within Scotland. Stocks-Rankin's analysis of local authority contracts provided interesting insight into the representation of gender within both formal and informal care provided to older people. The final paper, presented by Anne Crowley (Cardiff University), documented the participation of children in making policy decisions related to their lives in Wales and Tamil Nadu, India. Within Wales these involved petitioning Ministers, but within India a more direct approach was found. Crowley drew attention to the evidence gap regarding the impact of children's decision-making power in terms of health and welfare which sparked a lively debate.

Time, work and the Big Society

A parallel session reflected on time and work in the Big Society. Ruth Naughton-Doe (University of Bristol) highlighted how time banking was being presented as an exemplar of the good society. She went on to outline findings from her Masters research on time banking within a hostel for homeless people. While, in theory, time credits were promoted as a means to co-produce services, her research problematized this thesis and presented evidence to suggest that co-production could not be seen simply as an outcome but must develop as a process. Presenting a more theoretical perspective, David Frayne (Cardiff

University) highlighted insights offered to policy analysis from the sociological theory of work. Key to his argument was how the ideological emphasis on paid work is evident in the political rhetoric surrounding welfare policies and can be traced within critical theory. Frayne argued that there has been a tendency to valorise formal employment as a means by which the individual orientates themselves in the world. This ideological emphasis on employment causes clear problems for those without jobs, yet Frayne's research participants showed through their own activities that another way of life is in fact possible. Bringing this session to a close Lee Gregory (Cardiff University) also took up the theme of time banking to discuss its potential tensions with the Big Society. Drawing on previous research and theoretical developments being pursued within his PhD he argued that whilst time banking can easily be co-opted into Big Society rhetoric as a tool of neo-liberal welfare retrenchment, the application of critical ideas from the analysis of community currencies - alongside the application of the social theory of time - uncovers a potential radicalism to time banking, which has been overlooked.

Access to welfare in the Big Society

The third paper session focused on the increased conditionality attached to social security in two papers on Incapacity Benefits. Ruth Patrick (Leeds University) opened the session by summarising the coalition's Work Programme in relation to the long-term sick and disabled before comparing the programme to the previous New Labour approach. Patrick also highlighted the need to redefine work - tying the debate into the arguments presented earlier by Frayne and

Gregory and echoed in the second keynote address by Prof. Gareth Williams, and developing a clear undercurrent to much of the debate throughout the day. Following Patrick's talk, Jenny Ceolta Smith (Sheffield Hallam University) examined the role of the Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisor in relation to implementing the Work Programme, focusing in particular on the interventions Advisors offer those with long-term health conditions claiming Employment and Support Allowance. Shifting the focus of the session, Martin Jones (Aberystwyth University) focused his paper on issues of governance and sustainability in relation to a Welsh Assembly Government's community walking scheme - *Lets Walk Cymru*. Finally, Dave Sayers presented a textual analysis of the Welsh Assembly Government handling of equality issues within policy documents.

Conference feedback

Feedback from postgraduate students on the conference was very positive, with networking highlighted as a considerable benefit.

Comments included:

"It was a really excellent opportunity to network and meet other students, and to hear what is going on with other people's projects, it is really worthwhile. Hopefully an outcome out of this will be to develop a network around my own area, welfare-to-work."

"I think it's been a brilliant opportunity to network and to apply a lot of different theories to different PhDs to inform and progress debate."

The conference was made possible by funding from a variety of sources enabling organisers to make the conference free and offer travel bursaries to half of the delegates. 'Contestation and Continuities' was hosted by Cardiff University School of Social Science and received funding from the Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness (FSHI), the SPA, the Social Policy Research Group at Cardiff University, and the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Methods and Data (WISERD). It was also supported by Vitae. The conference was organised by three SPA members - Aimee Grant, Christala Sophocleous and Lee Gregory (all from the Social Policy Research Group at the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University). Pod casts and presentation slides from the day can be found online at: <http://tinyurl.com/65essuy>



Professor Janet Newman in action

POLICY PEOPLE

Welcome to Policy People – devoted to SPA members and their news. The Association is of course keen to welcome policy makers, postgraduate students and international members to our ranks, and so it makes perfect sense to welcome and celebrate our new colleagues. *Policy People* is also a useful forum for us all to update colleagues on our movements and successes and to pay obituary tribute. If you are new to the SPA and would like to introduce yourself, or have other news you'd like to share – of an award, a job move, an appointment (to a committee or editorial board etc.) or the loss of a colleague – please do get in touch at s.a.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk.

With best wishes, Simon Pemberton



Michael Hill receiving his award. The photograph was taken by Dr Chun-Tsai Hun (Kui) – the most recent doctoral graduate (jointly supervised with Susan Balloch) from the University of Brighton, and now lecturer in the Department of Indigenous Development and Social Work, National Dong Hwa University.

Michael Hill was presented with a special award at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Taiwanese Social Policy Association.

The conference, at which Michael was a speaker, was held in November at the National Taiwan University, Taipei. The award was presented at the conference dinner, held in the beautiful surroundings of Sun Moon Lake. Michael has had a long-term association with social policy in Taiwan and the award was created by Michael's seven Taiwanese higher degree graduates. These graduates from the Universities of Oxford, Newcastle and Brighton, span a period of nearly 30 years, and are now in various important positions in social policy in Taiwan.

Michael Hill

Honoured by Taiwanese Social Policy Association

Jane Millar with Dr Jessie Wu, Dr Yea-huey Shue and Dr Fen-Ling Chen at Sun Moon Lake.



Gordon Chan, Director of the Social Security Division of the National Policy Foundation, and former President of the Taiwanese Social Policy Association, presented the award. He spoke warmly not just of Michael's academic contribution but also of his friendship over the years. As he put it, he was among the first generation of the social policy academic 'family' with which Michael has been associated for so many years, and which now has so many connections and branches.

Jane Millar was also keynote speaker at the conference and guest at the dinner. Jane has co-supervised three doctoral students from Taiwan, all of whom are now lecturers there in social policy.



Ruth Naughton-Doe

Ruth Naughton-Doe, a first year PhD student at the University of Bristol, has joined the SPA. Her PhD aims to evaluate the impact of time banking on individual and community mental well-being in the UK.

She explained: "Time banks are promoted as a new and exciting way for people to come together to help others and help themselves at the same time by sharing their skills. Participants 'deposit' their time in the bank by giving practical help and support to others and are able to 'withdraw' their time when they need something done themselves. It is seen as an alternative, empowering form of social service within communities which can increase social capital and reduce social exclusion." Ruth's research will be ethnographic, and she is currently developing a survey to measure changes to individual well-being.

Linked to this, Ruth's interests lie in co-production of public services, participation, power and mental well-being. She is also interested in philosophy of social sciences - particularly pragmatism and work by Foucault.

Ruth's plans involve finishing her PhD and getting as much teaching and conference experience as possible with a view to staying in academia.



Ruth Lister named as Labour peer

Ruth Lister, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough University, has been appointed as a member of the House of Lords. The peerage acknowledges Ruth's outstanding contribution to the academic discipline of social policy as well as her campaigning work at the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG).

Ruth was awarded the CBE in 1999 and elected as one of the founding Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences the same year. In 2009 she was elected a Fellow of the British Academy and this year received a lifetime achievement award from the SPA. She was also a member of the National Equality Panel, established by the then Minister for Women and Equality, Harriet Harman.

Naturally, Ruth seized this opportunity to further promote issues she has long campaigned for. "As a Peer I will be able to raise still further the profile of social policy and social justice issues in the UK."

Ed Miliband MP, Labour's Leader of the Opposition, said: "I am delighted with the new Labour peers that will be joining our team in the House of Lords. They are all excellent appointments and they will be working peers who will actively hold the government to account."

Many congratulations from the *Policy World* team.

Taylor-Gooby to chair REF subpanel



Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby has been confirmed by HEFCE as Chair of the Social Work and Social Policy subpanel for the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF), following his endorsement by the SPA. Professor Janet Finch will chair the main Panel C.

Following invitations from HEFCE, during early autumn 2010 the SPA canvassed nominations for REF panel members via the social policy jiscmail list. A subgroup of the Executive Committee then considered the 15 nominations received and selected eight of these - the number of social policy members on the last RAE subpanel. The selection aimed to achieve a spread across subject expertise, geographical location (in particular, ensuring that not all nominees came from English universities), gender, old and new universities, and those with and without previous experience of previous RAE panel membership.

Subsequently, HEFCE asked the SPA to nominate somebody with specific expertise in health policy, as this was a gap in the nominations. Executive Committee members made several suggestions and, after approaching potential nominees, put forward one additional nomination. SPA was also asked by HEFCE to nominate research users for the panel. Two were nominated, although several others declined to be nominated on the grounds of their workload.

Policy World was awaiting an announcement from HEFCE with regard to membership of the subpanel at the time of going to press.

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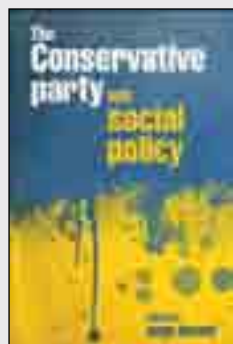
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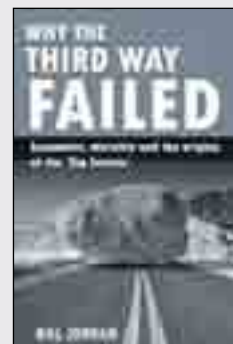
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