SOCIAL POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Inside:
- Social Policy in the Middle East
- SPA Awards 2008 nomination form
- An interview with Hilary Land
- SPA Annual Conference booking form
Social Policy Review 20
Analysis and debate in social policy, 2008
Edited by Tony Maltby, Patricia Kennett and Kirstein Rummery

Social Policy Review provides students, academics and all those interested in welfare issues with detailed analyses of progress and change in areas of major interest during the past year. Contributions reflect key developments in the UK and internationally, and focus on developments and change in core UK social policy areas. The first part of Social Policy Review 20 focuses on developments and change in core UK social policy areas. Part two provides in-depth analyses of topical issues from both UK and international perspectives, while this year’s themed section examines ‘Gender and policy’.


PB £65.00 ISBN 978 1 84742 076 3 304 pages tbc June 2008

Free copy included in SPA membership. A 20% discount is available to libraries and organisations wishing to subscribe to this annual volume. Contact Ann Moore (ann.moore@bristol.ac.uk).

www.policypress.org.uk

Orders should be sent to:
Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4YN, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)1235 465500, Fax: +44 (0)1235 465506, Email: direct.orders@marston.co.uk
Editorial board nominations required

Journal of Social Policy

There are three vacancies arising on the editorial board of the Journal of Social Policy. The editorial board meets twice a year. Throughout the year members are expected to referee a small number of papers submitted to the Journal and provide advice to the editors when required. Editorial board members serve a term of four years.

Elections will be held at the AGM held at the SPA Conference at the University of Edinburgh in June. If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, in the first instance please contact the editors, Jan Pahl or Emma Wincup (jsped@kent.ac.uk) to discuss the role of editorial board members.

Social Policy and Society

There are three vacancies arising on the editorial board of Social Policy and Society. The editorial board meets twice a year, and members are expected to be involved in refereeing papers submitted to the Journal. Editorial board members serve on the board for four years.

Elections will be held at the AGM at the SPA Conference held this year at the University of Edinburgh in June. If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, in the first instance please contact the editors, Pete Dwyer peter.dwyer@ntu.ac.uk and Sharon Wright (sharon.wright@stir.ac.uk) to discuss the role of editorial board members.

Nominations for both editorial boards should be emailed to the SPA Hon. Secretary, Tess Ridge (T.M.Ridge@bath.ac.uk). Please provide brief details of interests and experience, which will form the basis of a short summary on the ballot form, and the names of a proposer and a seconder (both of whom must also be SPA members), by May 30th 2008.

PolicyWorld is published two times each year. Contributions for future issues are welcome. A factsheet for contributors can be downloaded from www.policy-world.com. Click on “Contributors” and click to download the Acrobat PDF. Please supply copy as a Microsoft Word document or an RTF file via email to the editor Kate Merriam at katemerriam@cantab.net.

Graphs, tables and images can be handled in a variety of formats – please contact the editor in advance of submitting these.
The University of Edinburgh in the beautiful capital of Scotland will host the 2008 Social Policy Association annual conference.

Delegates will be accommodated in the high-grade Chancellor’s Court residences overlooking Holyrood Park, with sessions in the George Square central campus close to city centre attractions (for locations see www.ed.ac.uk/maps).

The conference will start with lunch on Monday 23 June and run until lunch on Wednesday 25 June. The conference dinner will be on Monday evening at the University’s renowned nineteenth-century Playfair Library Hall in Old College.

On Tuesday evening (6.30-8.00) there will be a reception at the Scottish Parliament. Dinner can be booked at the residences on Tuesday (expected to be available 6.00-7.30 and so may partly overlap with the reception) but it is not included in the conference package in order to give delegates the chance to explore the many fine restaurants in the city. The Edinburgh International Film Festival will be running at the same time and you may wish to extend your stay and enjoy the long evenings of late June (to do this please book direct with the Bed and Breakfast team at the Pollock Halls of Residence, asking for Chancellor’s Court – see booking form). For information on the residences, see www.edinburghfirst.com.

To reflect this emphasis, all three plenary speakers are based outside the UK – Ann S. Orloff from Northwestern University Illinois, Wim van Oorschot from Tilburg University in the Netherlands, and Michael Keating from the European University Institute in Florence. In addition, there will be an international panel session with speakers from several parts of the world to discuss new themes in global social policy.

Papers will be organised within the broad theme of the conference in the following streams (which will fill some or all of the five parallel paper sessions):

- Welfare reform
- Children and families
- Work, economy and welfare
- Governance and territorial social policy
- Comparative analyses
- International/global
- Social policy in developing countries
- Theoretical and methodological innovation
- Health
- Social work and social care
- Crime and criminal justice
- EU social policy
- Migration, refugees, asylum-seekers
- Welfare markets
- User perspectives
- Disability and care
- Teaching and learning
- Open stream

The booking form is attached. Early booking at a discount has to be made by 23 April and the final deadline – beyond when only day delegate rates will be available, space permitting – will be 23 May.

The conference is organised by the Social Policy subject area of Edinburgh University’s School of Social and Political Studies, with Professor Jochen Clasen and Richard Parry as lead organisers. The conference secretary is Alison Scott, who is based at the University’s Centre for Research on Families and Relationships. Further information will be posted via the SPA conference link on www.social-policy.com and www.socialpolicy.ed.ac.uk
BOOKING FORM

Please book and pay on-line at www.crfr.ac.uk/spa/spa_index.html

or complete this form in CAPITAL LETTERS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name:</th>
<th>First Name:</th>
<th>Title:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telephone:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Mobile:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Protection:
I agree that my email details may be circulated on the list of delegates.  
Please tick

Special requirements: (e.g. accessible accommodation, dietary requirements, LOOP, etc):  
Please specify below (or contact Alison Scott, alison.scott@ed.ac.uk to discuss)

Section 1: REGISTRATION FEES (including lunches, tea and coffee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>REGULAR BOOKING</th>
<th>LATE BOOKING (after 23 April)</th>
<th>Amount to pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPA/BSA Members:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA/BSA Member</td>
<td>£170</td>
<td>£220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Unwaged/Retired rate*</td>
<td>£100</td>
<td>£130</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-SPA/BSA Members</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-member</td>
<td>£230</td>
<td>£280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes 1 year SPA Membership)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Unwaged/Retired rate*</td>
<td>£120</td>
<td>£150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Day delegate rate      |                 |                               |               |
|------------------------|                 |                               |               |
| • 1/2 day (Monday)     | £60             | £80                           |               |
| • 1 (Tuesday)          | £90             | £120                          |               |
| • 1/2 day (Wednesday)  | £60             | £80                           |               |

**Total section 1**          |               |                               | £               |

*limited places, please apply early
### Section 2: ACCOMMODATION AND EVENING MEALS

Either book the WHOLE CONFERENCE or select individual items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount to pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHOLE CONFERENCE:</strong></td>
<td>£140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed and breakfast accommodation on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th June, Reception and Conference Dinner on Monday 23rd June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception and Conference Dinner on Monday 23rd June</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed and breakfast accommodation on Monday 23rd June</td>
<td>£45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed and breakfast accommodation on Tuesday 24th June</td>
<td>£45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner at Halls of Residence on Tuesday 24th June (not included in Whole Conference fee)</td>
<td>£12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total section 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** BED AND BREAKFAST EXTRA NIGHTS can be booked directly from the accommodation provider on 0131 651 2007, bed.breakfast@ed.ac.uk, and will cost £54 per night. Payment for these extra nights will be required at the time of booking by credit or debit card.

### Section 3: TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION 1 + SECTION 2</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Section 4: PAYMENT METHODS

- Please make cheques payable to “The University of Edinburgh”
- You can book and pay securely online at [www.cfr.ac.uk/spa/spa_index.html](http://www.cfr.ac.uk/spa/spa_index.html)
- To request an invoice, please tick here √ print this form and send it to Alison Scott at the address below.
- Credit Card (MasterCard / Visa / Maestro / Switch / Solo only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Card Type:</th>
<th>Exact Name on Card:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Card Number:</th>
<th>Expiry Date MM/YY:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start Date (if applicable) MM/YY:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature: ..........................  Date: ..........................

Please complete and return this form to Alison Scott, CRFR, The University of Edinburgh, 23 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9LN.

*Note: cancellation charges may apply*
An interview with Hilary Land: 2007 SPA Lifetime Achievement Award winner
by Kevin Farnsworth

The work of Hilary Land was celebrated by the Social Policy Association in 2007 with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Hilary was presented with her award by Polly Toynbee at the SPA Annual Conference in June 2007.

Hilary graduated from Bristol University with a general science degree, specialising in Pure Mathematics in 1963 before going to the LSE to take the Diploma in Social Administration. This she found to be far more exciting than her first degree, especially given that she was lucky enough to be tutored by Brian Abel-Smith. After completing the Diploma, she was appointed to a research assistantship on the national poverty survey directed by Brian Abel-Smith and Peter Townsend and was responsible for carrying out a pilot study of large families along with Dennis Marsden and John Veit Wilson. In her own words, she “happened to be in the right place at the right time”.

Hilary considers the multidisciplinary nature of social policy to be its key strength. The fact that students of social policy are introduced to a range of disciplines, she argues, gives them a wide range of career choices beyond directly working within systems of welfare provision. The key challenge is to provide students with a sufficiently broad historical perspective. She feels that too often, historical works are undervalued. Like Alan Walker and Jonathan Bradshaw, she cites Richard Titmuss, Tawney and Barbara Wootton as the key inspirations to her work and she regrets that students often fail to read them. She owes her biggest intellectual debt to Eleanor Rathbone who was introduced to her by Adrian Sinfield. Rathbone’s analysis of the inability of the wages system to meet the needs of all workers and families both in principle and practice, Hilary argues, still stands today. “Her critique of the male breadwinner/dependent housewife model, helped me make sense of my own parents’ marriage and introduced me to feminism in practice as well as in theory”. As a result, gender became central to Hilary’s analyses of social policy.

Another key figure whom Hilary singles out as being an important figure in her academic career is Roy Parker. Hilary’s work with Roy in the 1970s taught her that “policy change can take a long time, but also that the principles underlying policies matter in order to overcome opposition and to win and sustain support both inside and outside government”. Research, she argues, plays a key role in influencing change.

One of the most positive shifts in the direction of the study of social policy in recent years, Hilary suggests, is the development of comparative perspectives. When she was a student at the LSE, there lurked an assumption that the British knew better than anyone else. There was little discussion of the contribution Commonwealth migrants were making to the development of the British welfare state. Today she feels that one of the most encouraging signs of the vitality of social policy is the development of comparative scholarship which is manifest not just in the literature and the European wide programmes in some of which both Alan Walker and Jonathan Bradshaw have played a leading role, but also in the recent establishment of networks such as the European Social Policy Analysis Network. Their conferences are buzzing with ideas and well attended by young scholars from countries across Europe. The development of her own ideas owes a great deal to the networks of feminist scholars from both within and outside Europe to which she belonged from the 1970s onwards.

Reflecting upon the resilience of welfare systems, Hilary feels that families remain one of the most important social systems for most of us and have been amazingly resilient despite major economic, demographic and social changes and in spite of the gloomy prognostications of many politicians and social commentators during the past two hundred years. However, although families are providing more care than ever before, social and employment policies, she feels, fail to properly recognise or value this, despite the change in rhetoric. In the UK, the long hours work culture is undermining not only families’, in particular women’s, capacity to care but also that of the wider community. What is happening to the everyday practice of citizenship when we are so pressed for time? What is happening to the very valuable notion of ‘public service’ which motivated and informed the practice of those who worked both paid and un-paid, in the statutory and voluntary services. The language which turns ‘citizens’ into ‘customers’; the assumptions that competition always enhances ‘choice’; that it is more ‘efficient’ for state support to take the form of cash rather than directly and collectively provided services and that local government must be kept subordinate to central government and “the market” together with the obscene growth in inequalities in incomes both within and between countries, over the past thirty years are undermining of the universal welfare society which she, and those who taught her, believed was a desirable end. There is no doubt in her mind that that there is still a large, important and challenging agenda for students, researchers and teachers in social policy.
Higher Education news

Linking research and teaching

Forthcoming events

- **Techtrain** - An interactive event for institutional teams or individuals to create e-learning strategy or artefact with support of expert coaches, inspirational speakers such as the Centre for Digital Story Telling in California and software demos such as Policy Review TV. (University of Birmingham, 1 - 2 April)

- **Regional workshops** - Active Learning for Active Citizenship: multimedia resources for teaching and learning inside and outside the university (Sheffield Hallam University, 7 April)

- **Assessment feedback** - what is it for? Staff and student perspectives (University of Lincoln, 19 May)

- **Teaching Welsh Social Policy** – curriculum materials development workshop (Wales, Spring 2008)

For more information on the above events and others visit www.swap.ac.uk/events

New online video resources

At the 2007 SPA conference in Birmingham SWAP interviewed a group of notable academics about their recent work and thoughts on studying Social Policy. The outcome is a series of new videos to support both classroom and individual study.

**Contributors and topics include:**

- **Pete Alcock** – How do we study Social Policy?
- **John Clarke** – The welfare state and imagining welfare futures
- **Hartley Dean** – What is Social Policy?
- **Nick Ellison** – Why is Social Policy an important subject?
- **Ruth Lister** – The concept of poverty

The videos are hosted on You Tube, on the swapsoton channel, but may also be accessed with supporting material through SWAP’s digital learning resources web page on its new website, launching in February.
National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) - Deadline approaching for individual strand

Funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland (DELNI) the NTFS Individual Awards aims to raise the status of learning and teaching in higher education, and recognises and awards teachers and learning support staff for their excellence in teaching.

Under the individual strand of the scheme, 50 awards of £10,000 will be made to recognise individual excellence in teaching and learning. This individual award may be used for personal, professional and pedagogic development in learning and teaching.

Higher education institutions in England and Northern Ireland are invited to nominate up to three individuals who can demonstrate excellence in three areas:

- Individual excellence - evidence of promoting and enhancing the student learning experience.
- Raising the profile of excellence - evidence of supporting colleagues and influencing support for student learning in (and, if appropriate, beyond) the nominee’s institution, through demonstrating impact and engagement beyond the nominee’s immediate academic or professional role.
- Developing excellence – the nominee’s commitment to her/his ongoing professional development with regard to teaching and learning and/or learning support.

To find out more and download an application pack visit http://tinyurl.com/2hdwnc

Closing date for nominations is noon on the 12th March 2008.

E-learning grant

As part of the e-supported Learning and Teaching Enhancement (ELTE) Project, SWAP is offering individual grants of £200 towards the cost of the following course. In order to receive the grant delegates are required to write a short case study for publication by SWAP, after completing the course, describing how the learning from the course has informed their learning and teaching practice. To apply for one of the grants available please download an application form from http://tinyurl.com/387yq.

Or if you are considering applying for another e-moderating course or similar and would like us to consider support towards the course fees please contact Lee Reynolds (l.reynolds@soton.ac.uk) with details.

Using online methods to support education & training - provided by the Institute of Education, London

The course is structured to enable groups with common interests to collaborate online with each other, while at the same time participating in the general activities of the course with a wider range of professionals from other subject fields.

Start date: 31 March 2008

Length: 10 weeks, finishing 8 June 2008.

Cost: £499 ( £299 after grant).

For more information and to apply for a place visit www.ioe.ac.uk/english/OET.htm or email Anita Pincas (a.pincas@ioe.ac.uk).

Online resources to support teaching and learning activities related to the Middle East

The following sites include a range of reference materials and images (note copyright restrictions may apply) that may be transferable to teaching related to the Middle East from different disciplinary perspectives. Alternatively, they may provide you with ideas of how to develop your own materials.

- Intute Middle Eastern Studies page
  www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/middle-eastern

- Oxford Islamic Studies Online – JISC collection (subscription only)
  www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/catalogue/ois#content

- Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) Searchable repository: resource example Global Connections - the Middle East
  www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=82009

- Middle East Policy Council Resources
  www.mepc.org/resources/policy.asp

- BUBL Catalogue of Internet Resources on the Middle East
  http://bubl.ac.uk/link/m/middleeast.htm

- Pars Times Middle East Resource Guide
  www.parstimes.com/mideast/

- University of Chicago Library Middle East Department
  www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/mideast/PhotoArchive.html

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

www.social-policy.com
The modern Middle East (see map) is a mixture of both Arab and non-Arab countries, a minority of which may be classed as fragmented parliamentary democracies (Turkey, Lebanon, Israel and possibly Iran), and the large majority, as totalitarian regimes (either monarchical such as Morocco, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia or military/party-states such as Egypt, Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority).

With diverse socio-political trajectories in relation to Western superpowers since the 17th century, and vast reserves of natural resources (oil, natural gas and water), the Middle East has become consumed by its strategic geo-political importance both in the intellectual enquiry of expert observers and in the foreign policies of dominant world governments. With a population of almost half a billion, most of which is Muslim, the region has also come to acquire a complex political profile based on its association with political conflict, economic stagnation and religious extremism. However, a social policy perspective is distinctive in its capacity to offer a different narrative about the socio-political dynamics of the Middle East, based on its ability to capture the struggles for social justice by a diverse array of social actors.

My aim here is to give a broad and up-to-date account of social policy in the region by highlighting the key political, economic and cultural forces shaping human well-being there. I also highlight the main social and redistributive policies which Middle Eastern countries have pursued since independence - and subsequently, where they have failed. Juxtaposed to this, is the primary role of both secular and religious social action to fill the gap in social welfare left by state incapacity and neglect.

The main assertion I make is that social policy exists in the Middle East in a truncated form, squeezed by the taxing climate of militarism and globalisation. At the heart of this difficult situation is the propensity for hostile confrontation between most Middle Eastern states and the societies they govern, which reaches its most acute expression in the competition with Islamic social groups over control of the public sphere. Thus, we may note that whilst current state social policy in the Middle East can be classed as residual, productivist, paternalistic or dependent primarily on revenues from natural resources (the ‘Rentier’ State), societal actors, and religious welfare organisations in particular, are putting forward a coherent social vision, backed by a solid funding base and a deeply ethical definition of social welfare. Caught in between, is a frustrated and disenfranchised populace from both middle and working classes.
This situation means that social welfare provisioning in the Middle East today is in a critical condition because it is both important and fragile. It is important because it has acted as the main vehicle of political legitimacy for the state and ruling elites, as well as some of the societal groups who claim to act in the public interest. And it is fragile because in this same quest for political legitimacy, social policy has lost its own innate legitimacy – rendering its effective operation evermore urgent.

**International intervention and the Middle East’s political economy**

It is argued that the most influential force shaping the socio-economic development of the region has been the play of international economic and political interventions in it. These have combined adversely with ineffective political structures and unbalanced development policies within Middle Eastern countries.

Whilst we do not want to demonise European colonialism, many authors agree that colonialism/mandate rule set the scene for the establishment of the key political and economic structures which have shaped the trajectory of human wellbeing in the region. A key example is modern-day Sudan, where the current juxtaposition between modern and traditional farming sectors is rooted in colonial rule and has perpetuated wealth inequalities as well as the social deprivation of the majority rural population. The success of European colonial rule was founded on the political alliances which were formed with wealthy local merchants and elites, with special preference for major urban centres where economic activity flourished. As a result, wealth in the Middle East became concentrated amongst the urban elites who were often prominent land-holding families and tribal leaders – a situation which continues to characterise the framework of social policy today.

The polarisation of wealth in the region, together with an increasingly market-oriented economy have exacerbated the current situation of indebtedness, high unemployment, formation of large estates with absentee landlords, and the emergence of a poor peasantry and landless wage-workers. This situation has been further compounded by the discovery of oil and hydro-carbon gas and the subsequent over-reliance of industries in the oil countries in the region such as Lebanon benefited through employment for graduates; new labour legislation (favouring workers in large public enterprises) such as health, retirement pay, maternity pay; free education; free hospital care; and basic consumer subsidies, the most important which were food and housing. The acceleration of urbanisation and economic development was accompanied by significant attainments in education (female illiteracy for example, plunged from 79% in 1970 to 23% in early 2000). Non-oil countries in the region such as Lebanon benefited through economic investments and financial aid from the oil-rich countries as well as remittances from their own expatriate workers.

But this was a short honeymoon. The easy access to capital made possible by oil revenues offered a short-cut to prosperity with a dark underbelly: it concentrated wealth amongst the urban elite, thereby eliminating the need to develop the economic capacity and technological skill of the populace and perpetuating patrimonial structures in society which undermined the development of citizenship rights and political participation. This reliance on natural resource rents for social spending has earned the welfare regimes of the Middle East the label of ‘Rentier’.

Combined with the fact that democracy is new to the region and military conflicts have not subsided, states in the Middle East have become increasingly detached from their societies. Strong states like Algeria and Egypt have become more coercive, whilst weak states like Lebanon and Yemen have become consumed with internal political divisions. In both situations, corruption, clientelism and the embezzlement of public funds have crept their way into the state apparatus to become key instruments in extending the powers of the ruling elites. The effects of the worsening political climate in the region has been compounded by unbalanced public spending; the main feature of this has been the increase in military spending at the expense of social...
protection, education and healthcare (with the exception of Tunisia). Today, the most generous social security benefits in the Middle East go to the armed forces.

To make matters worse, since the 1990s, the majority of Middle Eastern states have been undergoing tough structural adjustment programmes whose principal victims have been the poor, since the role of the state both as a provider of jobs and purveyor of social services has been further curtailed. Ironically, in countries like Egypt, the government has not been able to cut back spending on key subsidies due to the increase in violent social protest. In this context, social spending now acts as one-off measures to appease social unrest.

Thus, the key social problems of the Middle East today are: (a) a widening income gap; (b) undernourishment; (c) persistent poverty; (d) illiteracy and unemployment; (e) low female labour participation and the persistence of legislation which hampers the socio-economic well-being of women. One of the more shocking issues is the reticence of some Middle Eastern states to acknowledge the existence of poverty within their borders. Jordan and Lebanon for example, only started to address the problem of poverty in official state discourse in the late 1980s/90s. Thus, new social actors have been slowly taking root under the banner of “Islam is the solution”.

Religious welfare and Islamic revival

It is impossible to understand social policy in the Middle East without looking at the historic role of religious welfare institutions and the current revival in Islamic welfare organisations, both independent and attached to state agencies. This is why the ‘Rentier’ state thesis is only part of the social policy picture in the region, if not its least dynamic part. Islam is not the only religion in the Middle East, Christian and Jewish institutions and the current revival in Islamic welfare organisations may thus be understood in the following terms: (1) social groups, growing disillusioned with the secular Middle Eastern state and in this sense they are seeking to offer an alternative vision of society and an alternative political option based on Islam; (2) linked to this is the phenomenon that many Islamic welfare organisations, in Egypt, Yemen and Jordan for example, are middle class organisations whose primary function is to provide jobs for middle class professionals and protect their political status; (4) social welfare provisioning is a key facet of the identity of controversial political organisations such as Hizbullah and Hamas who act very much as social movements within their societies. Such organisations have evolved organically within their societies in response to exclusion from the formal state apparatus; (5) the discourse of these Islamic welfare groups is rooted in the fight for social justice and their vision of social welfare is deeply concerned with human ethics, and (6) not all Middle Eastern states are in conflict with Islamic (or religious) welfare organisations. In Lebanon and Iran for example, religious welfare NGOs are sub-contracted by the state to offer social welfare services. In these cases, common political goals underpin the relations between the state and welfare NGOs.

The proliferation of Islamic welfare organisations may thus be understood in the following terms: (1) social groups, growing disillusioned with state corruption and failure to provide equitable social welfare services, have sought to fill the gap themselves. Today, a host of Islamic welfare institutions provide education, health care, income transfers, even basic public works such as sanitation and sewage systems to hundreds of thousands of poor people. Many of these Islamic groups have attracted the growing numbers of educated yet unemployed youth in the Middle East, owing to the fact that large segments of the professional middle classes want to react against the rising cost of living and unemployment. Along the way, poor populations have been exploited by some Islamic groups; (2) Islamic groups feel disillusioned with the secular Middle Eastern state and in this sense they are seeking to offer an alternative vision of society and an alternative political option based on Islam; (3) linked to this is the phenomenon that many Islamic welfare organisations, in Egypt, Yemen and Jordan for example, are middle class organisations whose primary function is to provide jobs for middle class professionals and protect their political status; (4) social welfare provisioning is a key facet of the identity of controversial political organisations such as Hizbullah and Hamas who act very much as social movements within their societies. Such organisations have evolved organically within their societies in response to exclusion from the formal state apparatus; (5) the discourse of these Islamic welfare groups is rooted in the fight for social justice and their vision of social welfare is deeply concerned with human ethics, and (6) not all Middle Eastern states are in conflict with Islamic (or religious) welfare organisations. In Lebanon and Iran for example, religious welfare NGOs are sub-contracted by the state to offer social welfare services. In these cases, common political goals underpin the relations between the state and welfare NGOs.

Conclusion

Many challenges lie ahead for the effective functioning of social policy in the Middle East. These include: (1) how to deal with the outcomes of government and market failures which have engendered unemployment; (2) opening up the political system to new political actors; (3) resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and wider conflicts amongst Middle Eastern countries; (4) recognising the legitimacy of social policy both for economic development and political stability.

Rana Jawad is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick.
Social citizenship and the voluntary sector: Ottoman Awqaf, a pious foundation

By Engin Isin

There is considerable debate on the role of voluntary associations and non-governmental organizations for delivering social or public services. Such associations called the ‘third-sector’ or more broadly ‘civil society’ are said to serve between the state and citizen and serve functions that would be hard for the state to fulfill.

While languages may differ the role of associations within the modern state has been continually debated over the last two centuries. It is still an object of debate precisely because it polarizes those who think that many, if not all, services should be delivered by the state versus those who think that grassroots or voluntary organizations should deliver at least some services. This debate also polarizes the Left and the Right not always in expected ways. Sometimes you will find that the Left commentators will call for more involvement of voluntary associations and the Right more involvement of the state.

There is also considerable debate about the role of beneficence (philanthropy and charity) in providing and delivering services. All this is complicated by the fact that multicultural societies now involve complex cultures of publics and of services. The development of Islamic finance, for example, has made significant impact on provision and delivery of some services. This is clearly a caricature of these debates but the role of the state vis-à-vis voluntary associations in delivering public and social services is an ongoing struggle.

When T.H. Marshall so elegantly formulated his conception of modern social citizenship almost sixty years ago, he would not have thought much about voluntary associations. He assumed a central role for the state as the epitome of ‘welfare socialism’. But today it is a matter of concern how those social and public services he regarded as rights would be delivered to citizens.

Against this background, it is useful to step back from ongoing debates and shed some light on how such services were delivered ‘elsewhere’.

I have been investigating Islamic beneficence during the Ottoman Empire as represented by an institution called the waqf (pl. awqaf). Islamic awqaf are known as pious foundations, which provided most social services in Islamic states for centuries. They became particularly ubiquitous between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, during the Ottoman Empire. Amongst the wealthier classes it became common to become a benefactor by founding awqaf that provided social and public services. While the Islamic institution of beneficence existed for centuries before the Ottoman Empire, during the empire it was institutionalized, codified and systematized to the extent that by the eighteenth century awqaf provided almost all social and public services. Under the Ottoman Empire the waqf became a systematic way of building cities by service complexes (külliye or imaret) through which a definitive shape was given to cities. The prominent complexes include Süleymaniye, Fatih, Sehzade, Eyüp Sultan, and Lâleli külliyes in Istanbul, which are considered amongst the finest Islamic architecture.

But such complexes were not limited to Istanbul only. Throughout the empire thousands of madrasahs, schools, libraries, mosques, caravanserais, business centres (hans), bazaars, fountains, bridges, hospitals, soup kitchens or almshouses, lodges, tombs, baths, and aqueducts were founded either as part of such külliyes or imaret or standing alone. Awqaf could also include other immovable property such as rural land that yielded income for urban property as well as movable property such cash, books and other valuables. A waqf scholar, Nazif Öztürk, estimates that throughout the Ottoman Empire more than 35,000 awqaf were founded, each including many such buildings. That means a vast majority of Ottoman architecture was built as awqaf. According to Öztürk, the waqf economy, by employing vast numbers of people and providing income, constituted about 16% of the Ottoman economy in the seventeenth century, about 27% in the eighteenth and about 16% in the nineteenth century. Similarly, another waqf scholar Murat Çizakça estimates that by the end of the nineteenth century awqaf was providing more than 8% of total employment in the Ottoman Empire.

The most interesting aspect of these awqaf is that their finance and maintenance depended on voluntary beneficence and was not a centralized or state-driven practice. Founding a waqf meant endowing privately held property for charitable use in perpetuity for functions that are set out in its founding deed or charter (vakfiye) and according to the conditions specified therein. The waqf deed also set out the way in which the waqf property would be administered and maintained. The deed was registered and authenticated by a local judge (kadi) and did not require further approval. The principles
underlying the waqf were then self-sufficiency, perpetuity, autonomy and beneficence. Amongst waqf founders were prominent sultans, sultanas, pashas, as well as much less prominent members of the Ottoman governing and merchant elite. More significantly, there were notable numbers of women and non-Muslim waqf founders, which needs to be investigated in terms of rights and duties.

To be sure, throughout centuries the waqf had its critics. It is often mentioned that as early as the 1630s, Koçi Bey, who is known for two treatises of advice to Ottoman Sultans (Murad IV and Ibrahim), argued that state-owned properties were increasingly alienated as waqf property and thus used for familial purposes. It was also charged over the years that alienating property for waqf purposes was a way of bequeathing family property that would otherwise become state property. Similarly, founding waqf was seen as a method of avoiding taxation since the property alienated would become exempt. For these reasons, the vast amounts of lands alienated for awqaf made the functioning of the army almost impossible, hence the military powerless, which distributed land to its soldiers and officers as rewards. The waqf is also said to produce a dependent class of both users and administrators whose interests guided the management and maintenance of awqaf rather than the original and ostensible aims of beneficence and charity. (This should sound familiar to us about the debates over welfare.) These reasons were seen fundamental for the weakening of the imperial administration and of the empire.

As severe as these criticisms were, the most severe attack on Ottoman awqaf came from Europe-led modernization project that started in the 1830s and accelerated later in the century. While there had been earlier efforts to centralize information about thousands of awqaf throughout the Empire, in the 1830s there was an attempt at central administration of all awqaf and attempts to abolish the system all together. The pressure to abolish the system directly came from British and French attempts to abolish the system all together. The pressure to started in the 1830s and accelerated later in the century. While Ottoman awqaf came from Europe-led modernization project, which was an attempt at central administration of all awqaf and thousands of awqaf throughout the Empire, in the 1830s there had been earlier efforts to centralize information about other intermediate institutions and awqaf, which were likened to such relatively autonomous and decentralized European institutions. The European and British hostility toward awqaf was therefore deeper than immediate self-interest as awqaf represented a formidable barrier to the will to centralize and unify. That is why there was continuity between the hostility toward awqaf that started during the Tanzimat period and the early republican period in the 1920s and 1930s.

These trends clearly came into view during the republican era and the founders of the Turkish republic aimed to abolish the waqf system once and for all. The Awqaf Law of 1935 most vividly illustrated this, which even aimed to abolish the term ‘waqf’ to be replaced by ‘institution’. The impact of this transformation on the question of republican citizenship has yet to be investigated. Yet, by the 1960s, the unified, centralized and universal idea of social citizenship had come up against difficulties both in the West and East and new ways of thinking about citizenship were well under way. The waqf not only survived as a practice but also, with a new law in 1967, was given a new life and future. Murat Çızağaç has documented the significant role prominent businessmen-philanthropists such as Vehbi Koç played in the formation of 1967 legislation, which restored, amongst other things, the protected status of awqaf deeds, tax exemption, decentralized registry, and quasi-autonomous administration. While there is considerable debate about the so-called ‘new awqaf’, their importance on the Turkish republican citizenship since the 1970s is also awaiting investigation.

Clearly, at least Ottoman awqaf, have been an object of social struggles over centuries. That it survived until today, albeit in different forms, attests to its importance. It is too simplistic to assume that Ottoman awqaf simply represented the interests of a class protecting its property from state confiscation or encroachment just as it is inaccurate to assume that Ottoman awqaf came into being solely for providing religious services. The focus on motives limits our understanding.

It is important to focus on Ottoman awqaf as practices that organized, maintained, and provided these services as a result of various complex reasons and consequences. As we are going through debates over the role of voluntary associations in providing and delivering social and public services especially in increasingly multicultural societies such comparisons as I have made are more than of historical interest.

Engin Isin is a Professor of Citizenship in the Politics and International Studies department of the Open University.
Gender and social policy in the Middle East: Family law, neoliberal reform and women’s economic citizenship

by Valentine M. Moghadam

Social policy seeks to protect against risks and contingencies while also providing social equity to achieve social development. Do all social policies meet these goals? In particular do all social policies expand women’s participation, equity, and rights? This paper summarizes arguments in Karshenas and Moghadam (2006), and Moghadam 2006, 2007.

The literature on social policy is overwhelmingly concentrated on the experiences and models of the welfare state in advanced capitalist countries, in particular Europe and North America. The feminist component of this literature consists largely of: historical investigations of maternal politics and policies in the United States, comparative studies of gender and welfare regimes in the core countries, and studies of the distribution of care and the problem of employed women’s double burden. The typology of the three worlds of welfare capitalism by Gosta Esping-Andersen and the theory of the evolution of civil, political, and social rights of citizenship by T.H. Marshall often conceptually frame these investigations.

The emerging literature on social policy in a development context suggests that East Asia among other regions might represent a different experience and model. The recent study by Karshenas and Moghadam (2006) (please refer to edited publication by these authors in the list of references) suggests that the Middle East and North Africa region might constitute a distinctive pattern based on the characteristics and consequences of the regional oil economy, the rentier state, and Muslim family law. In particular, I have argued that social development, gender equity, and women’s social participation have been profoundly shaped by combinations of development strategies and family laws, whether during the oil boom era, post-oil era, or the current neoliberal era.

Muslim family law should be seen as a social policy itself, inasmuch as it is intended to provide rights, responsibilities, and protection for family members. For example, because Muslim men have the right to unilateral divorce and women do not, Muslim family law mandates the mahr (a sum of money from the groom to the bride), which is sometimes paid in full and sometimes deferred until the event of divorce. The highly formal Islamic marriage contract stipulates the amount, which is usually agreed to by both families. A husband is obligated to provide for his wife and children, and in return for this maintenance, the wife is obligated to obey her husband. Non-maintenance by the husband is grounds for divorce. Under classical interpretations a wife is exempt from any responsibility for housework or even childcare and she is under no obligation to share her wealth or any earnings with her husband; her sole obligation is to bear him children. Women may own and dispose of property, but they inherit less property than men do. Non-Muslim widows cannot inherit from Muslim husbands.

As a social policy, Muslim family law can be/is inconsistent with other policies, such as labor laws that spell out the social rights of working women. It contravenes the UN’s International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which is the main framework of economic citizenship. The ICESCR prescribes the right of people to a freely chosen job; equitable and equal wages for work of equal value; dignified working conditions for workers and families; professional training; equal opportunities for promotion; protection for families, especially for children; maternity protection; protection of boys, girls, and teenagers against economic exploitation. Because Muslim Family Law and norms in many countries prevent women from applying for or staying in a job without permission of father or husband, and in some countries certain occupations and professions are off-limits to women, this denies women the right to enjoy the ICESCR’s provision for “a freely chosen job” and thus inhibits economic citizenship.

Muslim family law, therefore, has had the following effects: (a) it unintentionally undermines goals of social development and social equity because it is a patriarchal gender contract; (c) by institutionalizing women’s “wifely and mothering roles and men’s breadwinning roles, Muslim family law marginalizes women from paid employment; (d) by granting men control over women’s choice of work, it denies women a key civil right that is also essential for social development and gender equity; (e) the provisions of Muslim family law may be inconsistent with other legal and policy frameworks, such as more neutrally-worded labor laws or constitutional guarantees of equality; (f) they may also inspire or reinforce inequality and bias in social security provisions and pension schemes.

Political economy is similarly relevant to our understanding of social policy. During the oil-boom era of the 1960s and 1970s, state expansion and social expenditures resulted in literacy increases, social mobility, and access by some women to education and employment. There was generous social provisioning and high wages for the paid work force, but this salariat was small and thus vast sections of the economically active population – rural and female – were largely left outside its purview. Class, urban, and gender biases were inscribed in the social policies, and especially in the social security policies and provisions of labor law. Amongst the principal beneficiaries were men and members of the urban middle class. Social security and labor legislation did not extend to domestic workers/servants, irregular or casual workers, unpaid family...
workers, or peasants, rural workers, and small farmers. Given the size of rural populations in MENA countries such as Egypt, Iran, Syria, and Turkey, this meant that the majority of citizens relied on family support systems in a situation that helped to reproduce the patriarchal family (e.g., large, extended families with a preference for sons, and the unpaid labor of female members). At the same time, many social welfare benefits were issued to male household heads in the form of a family registry book or identity cards.

Throughout this period, pro-natalist sentiments prevailed and sometimes were translated into state ideology. In some cases pro-natalism led to family allowances and child benefits. Countries that established a system of family allowances in the 1950s were Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria, and Morocco. But in all cases the pro-natalist stance favored women’s maternal roles, even when lip service was paid to the importance of women’s social participation, as in Egypt and Iraq. This had spillover effects in the area of education, where not only was there a large gender gap, but the increase in girls’ enrollments was much lower than that of boys.

In these ways, the achievements of health and education were undermined by the gender bias implicit in the political economy and explicit in the family law. When the oil boom ended and the period of structural adjustments and debt servicing began (1980s, 1990s), countries were forced to cut social spending. In some cases this exacerbated the problem of social development and led to setbacks in social welfare. It also compelled more women to seek jobs to augment household incomes, although they often faced unemployment or very poor working conditions.

In more recent years, organized women in the MENA region have called for expanded rights, including more access to economic participation. In the 1990s, women activists throughout the MENA region targeted Muslim family law as an obstacle to women’s participation, equality, and rights. North African women’s groups formed the Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité, and issued an alternative “egalitarian family code”. For Moroccan women the strategy of tying women’s rights to children’s rights and social development bore fruit when a new government and new king responded positively to demands for a change to the Mudawana, the highly patriarchal family law. After several years of intense social dialogues pitting feminists against fundamentalists, a new and more egalitarian family law was introduced in 2004.

But today MENA women face a neoliberal economic policy environment that has a strong effect on social policy. For example, in the Maghreb, governments seeking integration into the global economy have revised labor laws and social policies to reflect the new economic realities of flexible labor markets; they offer unemployment insurance and legalize temporary contracts and longer periods of overtime. At the same time, governments have acceded to demands of the women’s movement and instituted new provisions to protect working women from discrimination and sexual harassment. The new social contracts are thus based on a neoliberal model which is characterized by flexibilization, privatization, and targeted social assistance. And the new gender contract appears to be based on a liberal model – the human rights of working women are protected under the new anti-sexual harassment legislation. While a positive development on a certain level, it is also inadequate, inasmuch as broad social and economic rights have yet to be addressed and the new policies are weakly implemented.

The quest for women’s economic citizenship, therefore, requires demands for the enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation, along with more expansive social rights, such as the extension of labor legislation to non-protected categories of workers, more generous maternity or parental leaves, and gender equality in social security and pensions.

Valentine Moghadam is based at Purdue University, USA where she is Director of the Women’s Studies Program, and Professor of Sociology. She was also Chief of the section on Gender Equality and Development in the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO (France) until 2006.

**References**


Social Policy in Iran: Islamic or Secular?
by Mahmood Messkoub

The current concerns with the rise of Islamic militancy often ignores the historical setting within which Islamic ideology takes hold and has to operate, and more importantly govern. The trajectory of specific policy areas, e.g. welfare and social policy, provides a fertile ground for exploring the importance of history for the rise and activities of Islamic parties and movements, hence the question mark in the title. To understand the development of social policy in Iran since the Revolution of 1979 one has to step back and investigate the history of social policy in Iran and the role of social movements as well as modernizing ideas and influences both before and after the Revolution.

Taking such a historical approach reveals that there has been a remarkable degree of continuity in the development of social policy in Iran that has been based on the demands and aspirations of various social movements as well as the economic and social agenda of the state. Social policy, especially in the field of education, has closely followed the ebb and flow of social movements going back to the early 20th century that combined with a modernising elite and ideas to set the agenda for some of the early educational and social reforms before the Second World War. In the open democratic era after the war and with the emergence of political parties and trade unions, demands were put on the national political agenda that entered the political debate and laid the foundation of the social policy in later years. These policies included land reform and provision of health, education and social insurance. Class politics was also present in the granting of special privileges to the security and armed forces that became the bulwark of the ancien regime between the coup of 1953 and Revolution of 1979. The bureaucracy also received special treatment in areas of health and social insurance. Major social policy initiatives of the 1960s were in the area of land reform and primary education including a rural literacy campaign. The Land Reform changed the face of Iranian countryside and created a predominantly owner-operated mass of farmers while the majority of land owners who were allowed to keep their best land became commercial farmers and developed a more diversified business base with substantial interests in urban areas. The majority of them did not lose much of their political influence by maintaining their long established links with the royal court, the armed forces and bureaucracy.

In the 1970s higher oil prices greatly boosted the state’s revenues and its capacity to increase its expenditure on social affairs, especially health and education, and widen the coverage of the health insurance programme. Yet on the eve of the revolution still half of the population were illiterate, infant mortality rate was about 100 per 1000 live births, and there were big gender and rural/urban divides as well income/class divides in terms of access to basic health and education services as well as human development indicators.

After the Revolution the new regime inherited a fairly well developed administrative and physical infrastructure as well as substantial inequalities. The popular demands of the Revolution, with regard to equality and improved living standards, were enshrined in the Constitution. This was in keeping with much of the pre-Revolution social policy initiatives that dated back to the heydays of democratic and social movements of the 1940s and early 1950s.

Moreover, special interest groups and constituencies continued their claims over the government budget that in the case of the armed forces (including the newly established Revolutionary Guards) was helped by the Iran-Iraq war. The clergy and seminary students have also been singled out, receiving special treatment under the insurance programmes of Medical Care Insurance Organisation, that started in 1972 to offer medical insurance to government employees. In 1994 a law was passed to extend its services to the rest of the population, that if fulfilled, would make it the most important medical insurance body in Iran.

The political influence of religion on social policy goes far beyond such special privileges and here lies an important departure from pre-revolution practices. First, the post-revolution state combined the egalitarian tendencies in the Islamic ideology with the demands and needs of the poor and deprived sections of the population. Second, before the revolution access to state run health and welfare institutions were not used as a means of mass social control (though access to government jobs with their social perks were severely restricted for dissident individuals who would not get clearance from the security agencies). Since the Revolution, access to some social welfare programmes has become an important instrument of social control. It is worth noting that by the late 1990s, two of the most powerful and religious foundations or Boniyads - the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Foundation for the Martyr – as well as the Emam Khomeini Assistance Committee were providing support for nearly five million people with a total budget of over $500 million (almost as large as the government budget on health, medical treatment and nutrition.)

These foundations were established after the Revolution to either manage the expropriated assets of the old elite, in the case of the Foundation for the Oppressed, or to provide support for the war veterans and their families, in the case with the Foundation for the Martyr, or general assistance to the poor and needy, in the case of Emam Khomeini Assistance Committee. They are Islamic institutions and come under the office of the Supreme Leader (Emam) and are not accountable to the elected institutions of the presidency and the parliament.

It appears that efficiency has been of little concern in setting up these ‘Revolutionary Institutions’ given the overlap among their activities and their lack of public accountability. Notwithstanding the political role of these institutions, their reform, consolidation and regulation should be put on the agenda of any future re-organisation of the welfare system in Iran if the current
ambitious plan of extending social security to rural areas were to be realized.

Real per capita spending in social affairs fluctuated significantly since the revolution declining during the war years that increased later to reach the pre-revolution level by 1999. In real terms education’s per capita budget declined but that of health increased. The result in the state education sector was larger classes and two-shift schools whilst private schools flourished. However, the literacy rate improved reaching 75 per cent and combined enrolment ratio rose to 74 per cent by 1997.

Increased real per capita expenditure on health and nutrition improved the key health indicators. By the late 1990s infant mortality and under 5 mortality rates had declined to 30 and 37 per thousand live births respectively while maternal mortality rate had dropped to 37 per 100,000 live births, with life expectancy reaching 70 years. The human development index rose from 0.566 in 1980 to 0.721 in 2000, an increase that has been typical of countries in the medium HDI category in the MENA region (UNDP, 2000. Human Development Report. Oxford University Press).

Impressive as these human development indicator figures are they mask social inequalities and disparities that exist between rural and urban areas and between men and women. Female adult literacy rate was 69 per cent compared with males’ 83 per cent. Female combined enrolment ratio was also lower than that for males.

Statistics on food and non-food consumption reveal that despite remarkable catching up of the poorest sections of the population since the revolution (see figures for 1979 in the appendix table) there remains a substantial gap between the rich and the poor in Iran. In 1996 the richest 10 per cent of urban population spent 18.7 times as much as the poorest 10 per cent on non-food items, while the corresponding figure on food items was 8.2 times. Figures for rural areas reveal an even larger gap between the rich and the poor.

Improvement in the field of basic health and education since the revolution could be attributed to an already existing physical and institutional infrastructure for the organisation and delivery of social services that had their origins in the social movements of the 1940s and early 1950s.

This brief outline of social policy achievements in Iran would indicate that the post-revolutionary Islamic regime could have achieved more given the enormous good will and mass support that it had in its early days and the substantial foreign exchange that has been at its disposal.

Mahmood Messkoub is an Economist and senior lecturer in the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague, Netherlands.

Social Policy in the Middle East - further reading

- Karshenas, Massoud and Moghadam, Valentine M (eds.). 2006. Social Policy in the Middle East – Economic, Political and Gender Dynamics. UNRISD, Palgrave

Further detail on this topic by the same authors will be featured in the forthcoming edition of Global Social Policy (GSP) Journal. GSP is published by SAGE and edited by Nicola Yeates (Open University, England), Robert O’Brien (McMaster University, Canada), and Meri Koivusalo (STAKES, Finland).
Social Policy in Israel

By John Gal

After enduring a period of intense efforts at retrenchment during the first half of the current decade, over the last two years the Israeli welfare state has undergone a period of consolidation. This has been due to a high level of economic growth, a relatively sympathetic though politically-weak government and intense efforts on the part of pro-welfare interest groups and advocacy organizations. Nevertheless, social spending still remains below that of most European welfare states while poverty and inequality levels are high, nearly on par with those in the United States.

Initial efforts to establish social protection institutions in Israel were undertaken immediately after independence in 1948. Despite the need to deal with an ongoing military conflict and mass immigration during much of its short history, Israel managed to establish a welfare state in the early 1970s. To a large degree, the Beveridge model, with its emphasis on universal, social insurance based benefits, served as the fundamental model for structuring major social security programmes. In addition, categorical noncontributory universal benefits have traditionally played a major role in the Israeli welfare state, these serving as means of compensating victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict and of dealing with the needs of immigrants. Finally, a nationally administered social assistance programme was introduced in the early 1980s. Universal health, education and personal social services complement the social security system. While the Israeli welfare state appeared to moving towards a more social-democratic model during its formative period in the mid-1970s, with the introduction of more universal services, greater state involvement in welfare, wider coverage of needs, the introduction of more wage-related and better indexed benefits, from the 1980s onwards efforts to privatize social services, to target benefits, to move benefit recipients into work and to cut social spending have been common. These efforts peaked during a period of recession and neo-liberal political dominance in the initial years of the new millennium.

Seen as a whole, the Israeli welfare state is a relatively comprehensive system that offers benefits and services which provide support and resources to deal with a wide range of needs and contingencies. However the generosity of the benefits, the quality of the services and access to them are often limited. These characteristics are reflected in social expenditure levels. Social spending (inclusive of education) currently comprises around a half of the state budget (before debt repayment), this in addition to another quarter of which is devoted to military expenditure. Social protection (without education) comprised 16% of GDP in Israel in 2006. It was down from a high of 18.6% in 2002. When assessed in a comparative perspective, the current level of spending on social protection in Israel is, of course, lower than the expenditure levels in most European welfare states. The relatively low expenditure level is partly a reflection of exceptionally high growth levels, between 5% and 7.4% over the last three years, of major cuts in social expenditure in the 2002-2004 period and of an increase in social spending that has lagged behind growth in the economy. It is also a reflection of the fact that fiscal welfare, in particular occupational pensions and tax expenditures, comprise a growing and crucial component in welfare provision in Israel. Initial figures from 2007 and budget plans for the coming year are expected to lead to a more significant increase in social spending during this period. However, spending levels are not expected to be on a par with the norm in the EU.

The social security system is a major component of social protection in Israel and comprises around 40% of all social spending. This system provides benefits that offer protection against most contingencies, and includes social insurance, categorical and means-tested programmes. Most of the major benefit programmes are universal. These include state old age benefits, child benefits, disability benefits, unemployment insurance, maternity benefits, work injury insurance and long-term care for the elderly. Means tested benefits provide top-ups for the elderly who lack any income from occupational pensions and social assistance for working-age individuals without any significant income from the labour market.

Benefit levels in many of these programmes are relatively low. This is particularly the case for old-age benefits, child benefits, social assistance and unemployment insurance. Comparative analyses indicate that the generosity levels of these are lower than in most other welfare states. Child benefits and social assistance were the targets of major cuts in the early years of this decade and, to a large degree, have remained at the benefit levels set during that period. While benefits for the elderly have always been low, reflecting the assumption that the major source of income for the elderly is an occupation pension. However, over the last two years, benefits levels for the elderly have risen, not least due to the fact that a pensioners’ party is a crucial part of the governing coalition. Similarly, benefits for the disabled have been on the rise in recent years reflecting the growing militancy and political effectiveness of the Disability Movement.

Activation has been a major goal of consecutive governments in Israel. This has been motivated by the strength of neoliberalism, but also by high levels of unemployment and relatively low levels of labour market participation. This goal has been used to justify cuts in benefit levels and restrictions on access to unemployment insurance and social assistance. It also led to the introduction of a welfare-to-work programme on an experimental basis. Initially structured along the lines of US schemes and highly privatized, this programme is now being reformed and should be more balanced and effective when it is expanded in the future.

Israel has a universal and comprehensive health system with provision provided by four HMOs, government-run hospitals and
a growing private sector of medical clinics. Funding is based on a progressive tax collected through the social insurance system. While health spending is relatively low, health statistics are impressive with infant mortality rates low and life expectancy levels higher than those in most other welfare states. Nevertheless, cuts in government subsidies for health and a growing privatization of health provision have led to increasing health inequalities. Moreover, the costs of medication and technologies not subsidized by the state has exacerbated these gaps and limited access to adequate health protection by the socially excluded.

The proportion of children in the Israeli population is particularly large, comprising a third of the entire population. A consequence of this is relatively high education expenditure levels. While schooling is free and the proportion of university graduates high, the education system has been the target of budget cuts in recent years. This has led to an increase in class size, dissatisfaction amongst teachers and an apparent drop in the achievements of Israeli students in international comparative studies. At the same time, the higher education system has seen major cuts in government support, a marked growth in lecturer-student ratios and a growth in the number of private higher education institutions. Efforts to reform the education system and higher education have raised tensions between the government and employees and were the cause of two particular long strikes earlier this year.

Despite its comprehensiveness, the Israeli welfare state has been relatively unsuccessful in overcoming inequalities created within an ever more polarized labor market and in dealing with poverty that is exacerbated by specific demographic and ethnic characteristics of Israeli society. In particular, large families among the Arab and orthodox Jewish communities and the low level of labour market participation among members of these communities create large pockets of social exclusion. Existing discrimination within the labor market of Arabs and inequal distribution of state resources enhance this social problem. As a result, poverty levels in Israel remain high with nearly a fifth of all families and a third of all children living below the poverty line. Though initial figures for the last year indicate that poverty levels have stabilized and even dropped slightly, clearly the welfare state has not managed to deal successfully with this issue. Greater effectiveness of state intervention in the labour market and higher spending on benefits and social services are clearly required to deal with issues of inequality and poverty in the short and the long runs in Israel.

Professor John Gal is director of the Social Policy Research Group at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Social Security Team Coordinator at the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.
Social Policy in the Middle East

Contemporary Social Policy in Turkey

The Welfare regime in Turkey has been undergoing a massive transformation during the last two decades. Highly reminiscent of Southern European counterparts, the regime is characterized by a corporatist social security system where health and pension benefits are largely determined by employment status (thus reflecting important inequalities) and the centrality of the role of the family in welfare provision. The labour market structure, characterized by the significance of small enterprises, self-employment and unpaid family labour, as well as by the importance of informal sector employment, also reflects characteristics attributed to the Southern European model. One defining component of this model is the historical weakness of formal mechanisms of poverty relief. This weakness of the social assistance component of the social policy package has been compensated in Turkey, as in other Southern European countries, by social protection provided by informal support mechanisms and through clientelistic relations with local or central state authorities.

This model has recently come under pressure through a series of technological, economic, political and demographic developments affecting the functioning of labour markets, state-society relations and the role of the family in welfare provisioning. The recognition of two important developments, one pertaining to the relationship between employment and income and the other to the role of the family in welfare provisioning, appears to be particularly important in defining the nature of this novel policy environment. Technological changes leading to the advent of flexible production along with the enhanced competition caused by globalization have together undermined employment opportunities in the formal sector. Regular, full-time jobs providing a family wage for male bread-winners have ceased to be a norm within the labour market. At the same time, demographic and cultural changes, significantly associated with urbanisation, have together made the family increasingly unable to fulfill the caring functions provided to the children and the elderly and to provide adequate safety nets for its unemployed members.

In the context of Southern European countries, similar developments have brought forth the missing social assistance component of social policy and led to the introduction of institutional mechanisms for assuring the livelihood of the individual independently of his or her employment history. Actually, Turkey has not remained immune to the challenges which have led to such institutional changes in the Southern European context. However, in the Turkish policy environment such changes are rendered difficult by a series of preconceptions, which are held by people with different political convictions but nevertheless work in the same way to block institutional imagination and meaningful reform initiatives. The traditional left in the country exhibits extreme reluctance in accepting that social policy has to complement economic measures to adequately address the plight of the poor. Those who adhere to such a leftist position draw attention to the failures of economic policy in understanding poverty as an outcome of insufficient employment creation and feel that any social policy measures toward poverty alleviation are necessarily palliative.

Ideas about the role of the state in poverty alleviation are also shaped by the past experience of access to irregular housing on public land or employment in State Owned Enterprises, which the urban poor could have through informal state-society relations. Popular demand for social assistance thus remains limited by expectations reflecting the traditional welfare regime of the country, in which clientelistic relations appeared as important mechanisms of social integration. Conservative liberals, in the meanwhile, combine a faith in the invisible hand with the belief in both the ability and the responsibility of the family and the community to take care of the needy. These approaches reflect an inadequate understanding of the challenges that the society faces, which in fact call for a major transformation of the roles hitherto played by the labour market, family and the state in providing social protection to the individual. It is only through an adequate response to these challenges that social policy could properly contribute to social solidarity among autonomous individuals that form a democratic society. Such a response, in its turn, requires a mentality change regarding the role of the state in the society. This is the major issue that social policy research is in a position to address in contemporary Turkey. In other words, one essential task of social policy research is precisely to try to instill the consciousness that a decent life with relative security from the risks of unemployment, poverty, ill health, etc. is a citizenship right, hence the duty of the state to provide.

It is against this background that in 2004 Social Policy Forum (SPF) was founded at Bogazici University as an independent research and policy centre to to generate a deeper interest among policy makers and academics as well as in the public opinion, in a wide range of issues pertaining to main areas of social policy including poverty, social exclusion and social assistance schemes; social security reform; transformations in the world of labour and labour organisations.

The research agenda that the SPF is currently developing focuses in the following areas:

- Employment patterns and policy options, with specific attention to currently very low female employment.
- Provision of care for children, elderly, and the disabled a) as area with a significant employment creation potential and in its implications for female labour force participation, and b) with specific attention to the regulatory framework required in a setting where public-private-NGO partnerships become increasingly important in the provision of care.
- Child poverty, through an emphasis of school as a welfare domain.
- Much neglected ethnic dimension of poverty and social exclusion, with particular attention to the case of Roma.

In these areas, the SPF intends to pursue comparative and collaborative research by developing closer relations with European researchers affiliated with universities and research institutes.

Please address queries on this topic to Burcu Yakut-Cakar spf@boun.edu.tr, Researcher at the Social Policy Forum, Bogazici University

www.social-policy.com
Call for Papers:
Social Policy Association Postgraduate Workshop Series
Social policies for children: childcare, child poverty and child development, University of Oxford: 9.00-5.30, April 18th 2008

Please forward to postgraduates in your department. Apologies for cross-posting
The Social Policy Association (SPA) is pleased to announce the first event of 2008 in its Postgraduate Workshop series to complement its successful annual Postgraduate Conference. This follows the successful launch of the SPA’s Postgraduate Workshop series last year. The workshop will bring together postgraduate students sharing a focus on social policies for children, a policy area which has risen to the top of the policy agenda in recent years as governments across the world seek to promote successful child outcomes - both as children as ‘beings’ and ‘becomings’ - and to affect parental (and particularly maternal) employment. The workshop is a one-day event for a small number of postgraduates working in this area to come together for presentations and detailed discussion around this common theme. We are delighted to have two recognised experts in the area - Fran Bennett and Teresa Smith from the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at Oxford University - to chair the day.

Aim of the workshop to explore social policies for children
The aim of this postgraduate workshop is to bring together postgraduate researchers, academics and professionals researching issues around children - child development, child poverty, childcare and beyond - in order to present, discuss and explore perspectives, priorities, research questions and findings. The importance of social policy research in relation to children, child well-being and child outcomes has gained a central place both in academic and policy arenas. Central debates concern child well-being, enhancing child development, the importance and design of family policies for parental employment as well as work-family reconciliation, the need to ensure a productive labour supply for the future, and beyond, and this event aims to bring together postgraduate students working on these issues to share both their research findings and research experiences. The workshop will be an excellent opportunity to learn about and discuss new research from postgraduate researchers about these issues, as well as to meet and network with fellow postgraduate researchers with a similar focus to share experiences as well as findings. The issues are multi-disciplinary by nature and abstracts are welcomed from postgraduate students within any discipline, which may include, but is not limited to, social policy, policy studies, politics, education, economics, sociology.

We are delighted to have Fran Bennett and Teresa Smith to contribute as the event’s Academic Chairs for a day which will consist of presentations by postgraduate researchers and those working in these policy areas, followed by ample time for discussion. It is anticipated that the event will bring together 6-8 presenters, and non-presenting participants and poster presentations are encouraged.

Call for papers
The event is planned for 9.00-5.30 on Friday 18th April 2008 at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be sent to adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk by Friday 7th March and should include your name, postgraduate year of study and university department. Participants are expected to present on the day and are strongly encouraged to submit a written paper in advance of up to 5000 words in order to stimulate discussion of their presentation. As with all SPA Postgraduate Workshops and Conferences, all written papers received will be eligible to be nominated for consideration for the SPA’s Best Postgraduate Publication Award which will be published in the Social Policy Review. There is no charge to attend the event and the SPA will provide up to a maximum of £40 per participant for travel and accommodation expenses.

If you would like to become a member of the SPA or would like more information about any of the SPA’s activities for postgraduates please visit www.social-policy.com or contact the SPA’s Postgraduate Representative at adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk.

Receiving information about the SPA’s postgraduate events through the Jiscmail electronic mailing lists
Advertisements and calls for papers for all of the SPA’s postgraduate events are distributed to electronic mailing lists but many postgraduate students are not signed up to these lists. So if you are a postgraduate student then why not sign up now to make sure you know about these events as they are advertised. Lecturers and researchers, you can help too by encouraging postgraduates in your department to sign up to these electronic lists! Signing up is easy to do: go to www.social-policy.com and follow the link to ‘electronic mailing list’. Go to ‘Subscriber’s corner’, click on ‘subscribe’ to lists, and sign up to the lists you wish to. One widely used list is social-policy-jiscmail. To sign up to this list click ‘show all lists’ on the left, go to page 61 of the directory of lists, and check the ‘SOCIAL-POLICY’ checkbox. Go to the bottom of the lists, select the ‘subscribe’ option and click ‘submit changes’. Sounds harder than it is! There are other lists which might be useful too but SPA postgraduate events will always be sent to this SOCIAL-POLICY list so you’ll stay in touch with all of the SPA’s expanding range of activities and events tailored to postgraduate researchers.
Review of the SPA’s 2nd Postgraduate Workshop:
Social Policy in developing and transitional economies: challenges and possibilities.
University of Oxford, December 2007

December saw a dozen postgraduate students from around the UK and Europe gather in Oxford for a Postgraduate Workshop focussing on social policy in developing and transitional economies. Following the successful introduction of the workshop series back in March last year, this event again highlighted the range and high quality of postgraduate work being conducted and confirmed that these postgraduate workshops are a stimulating and much enjoyed addition to the SPA’s activities for postgraduate students alongside the annual Postgraduate Conference.

The day covered a wide range of topics: Sweta Rajan (University of Oxford) Gender (in)equality and work-family conflict: A study of Indian call centres; Philipa Mladovsky (London School of Economics) A conceptual framework for community-based health insurance in low-income countries: social capital and economic development; Divya Srivastava (London School of Economics) Do the poor get access to cheap medicines? An empirical analysis of international pricing; Pam Kilpadi and Syed Mohammad Ali (University of Bristol and Central European University) Elite Capture of Resources, Land Reforms and Poverty Reduction in Pakistan and South Asia; David Stuckler (University of Cambridge) Social costs of mass privatization; Maria Brown and Michael Briguglio (University of Malta) The Unemployed Labour Force aged 40 years and over in Malta; Mark Langan (University of Manchester) Private sector support as social policy tool? The case of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

The quality both of the presentations and written papers was extremely high and there was no shortage of vibrant discussion throughout the event (debate which continued into the evening for many over a drink or two). There was a willing sharing of ideas, readings and experiences and the positive feedback from participants reflected the energy and enthusiasm shown throughout the day. The event again proved its value in providing a forum for postgraduates to meet fellow postgraduate researchers working in similar areas and to make new contacts. Overall the workshop was an overwhelming success and fulfilled all of the hopes and motivations which the SPA had for this workshop series. The day was a perfect way to round off a busy year for the SPA’s postgraduate events and we are looking forward to welcoming a new Postgraduate Representative in 2008 to continue to develop the success of these activities. My thanks go to several people in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at Oxford: to Elaine Evers for helping on the day, to Professor Peter Kemp for volunteering the use of the department’s facilities, and in particular to George and Teresa Smith for chairing the day. Particular thanks are due to all of the postgraduates who took part and who made the day so enjoyable and stimulating.

New Year, New SPA for Postgraduates!

SPA membership for postgraduates is fantastic value at just £18 per calendar year and gives all of the usual benefits of membership, as well as events tailored for postgraduate researchers: free copies of the Journal of Social Policy, Social Politics and Society, Social Policy Review, and the Policy World newsletter; reduced rates at the annual SPA Postgraduate Conference; Postgraduate Workshops; and access to the SPA’s Postgraduate Network. Now is the perfect time to join and to enjoy a whole year’s worth of benefits. If you would like to become a member of the SPA visit http://www.social-policy.com/membership.aspx
Call for Papers:
Social Policy Association Postgraduate Workshop Series


The Social Policy Association (SPA) are pleased to invite papers from postgraduate students for their 3rd Postgraduate Conference. The SPA Postgraduate Conference will take place on Thursday 26th June 2008 at the University of Edinburgh and will provide an opportunity for postgraduate researchers to present and discuss their work with peers, and to receive comments and feedback in a friendly and informal arena. The day will be structured around themed sessions with short presentations in each followed by questions and discussion, and presenters are encouraged to provide full written papers in advance in or stimulate discussion. Postgraduates are of course welcome at the main SPA Conference taking place earlier in the same week.

Themes of the 2008 Postgraduate Conference
Papers are welcome across the range of social policy topics, particularly in relation to the themes of this year’s event: ‘Challenging Boundaries’. Amongst others, papers may address issues relating to: the future of social policy; international and comparative social policy; policy learning and policy transfer; change and consistency in welfare state transitions; education; health; crime; research methodologies; gender and family policy; ethnicity, class and disability perspectives; user perspectives; poverty and social exclusion; demographic change; labour markets; and housing. Session themes will be decided based on the topics of submitted abstracts.

Abstracts and Papers
Postgraduates interested in participating should submit abstracts (max 500 words) by Friday 11th April 2008, including name, postgraduate year of study, and university department to adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk. Presenters are strongly encouraged to submit written papers in advance of the event (max 5000 words) to support discussion of their presentation. As with all SPA Postgraduate Workshops and Conferences, all written papers received will be eligible for consideration for the SPA’s Best Postgraduate Publication Award which will be published in the prestigious Social Policy Review.

Cost
Members of the SPA: £7, including lunch and coffee. Non-members of the SPA: £25, including the year’s membership to the SPA (usually £18 for postgraduates), lunch and coffee. For a list of benefits to SPA membership or to join the SPA see http://www.social-policy.com/membership.aspx. The SPA will provide up to a maximum of £40 per participant for travel and accommodation expenses.

If you would like to become a member of the SPA or would like more information about any of the SPA’s activities for postgraduates please visit www.social-policy.com or contact the SPA’s Postgraduate Representative at adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk.

SPA Postgraduate Events Timetable 2008

April 18th 2008:
Postgraduate Workshop, Oxford University
Theme - Social policies for children: childcare, child poverty and child development

26th June 2008:
3rd SPA Postgraduate Conference, Edinburgh University

Dec 2008:
4th Postgraduate Workshop
Theme - undecided
To suggest a theme for this workshop contact the SPA’s PG Rep

For further details about the SPA’s activities for postgraduate students, to find out more about any of these events, or to suggest a theme for an SPA Postgraduate Workshop please do get in touch with the SPA Postgraduate Representative: adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk.
**New titles from The Policy Press**

**Social policy**
Themes and approaches (Second edition, revised)
**Paul Spicker**

“There is more food for thought here than in most introductory texts. It captures the very particular approach to the study of social issues that is British ‘social policy’ which is gaining ground internationally. It also gives really helpful advice to any student embarking on this rewarding journey.”

*Howard Glennaister, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science*


---

**The short guide to social policy**
John Hudson, Stefan Kühner and Stuart Lowe

“This well-written and accessible text steps outside the usual concerns of the UK welfare state to deliver a highly original perspective focusing on key goals, delivery mechanisms and policy dilemmas.”

*Professor Martin Powell, University of Birmingham*

This short but systematic introductory text offers a clear and concise overview of the competing policy mechanisms that are typically used in the major pillars of social policy.


---

**Social policy in China**
Development and well-being
Chak Kwan Chan, King Lun Ngok and David Phillips

“This book presents systematic illustration of changes to Chinese social policy as it adapts to the market economy, and how it confronts the new social problems that accompany rapid economic growth.”

*Professor Shogo Takegawa, Department of Sociology, University of Tokyo, and Chair of the East Asian Social Policy Research Network*

This much-needed new textbook introduces readers to the development of China’s welfare policies since its conception of an open-door policy in 1978.


---

**Applied ethics and social problems**
Moral questions of birth, society and death
**Tony Fitzpatrick**

“At a time of increasing disillusion with facile ideological posturing and the banalities of party politics, Applied ethics and social problems will awaken students to some of the deeper ethical debates and timeless philosophical questions that should inform our study of contemporary social policy. It is a welcome contribution.”

*Dr Hartley Dean, Reader in Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science*

The Career Paths of DPhil Social Policy Students in the UK

A report by Rana Jawad (University of Warwick) commissioned by the subject Centre for Social Policy and Social Work (SWAP)

Introduction
At a meeting of the executive committee of the Social Policy Association in mid 2007 it was noted that there was a lack of formal research reports on the career paths of DPhil social policy graduates in the UK. It was evident from the ensuing discussion that there was a general assumption in the sector that most of these students progressed into higher education employment after they graduated. However, the personal experiences of executive committee members did not always confirm this to be the case and members were keen to obtain more factual evidence on the career paths of DPhil social policy students. In response to this, the Subject Centre for Social Policy and Social Work commissioned a basic, preliminary mapping of what social policy DPhil students in the UK do after graduating. The key findings are presented in this report which looks at both British and overseas graduates between the academic years 2002-2006 (data for 2007 will not be available until 2008). The data reflects the activities of students in the first 6 months following graduation.

Data sources
Available retrievable data is detailed below.

- Data about doctoral students in all subject areas in the UK was obtained from published sources such as the “Destinations of Leavers of Higher Education” reports published by HESA and Prospects (http://www.prospects.ac.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/p!eLaXi) . These sources provide a general picture of the destinations of the doctoral student population and are useful for comparison purposes with social policy DPhil students. They do not offer information specific to the latter student group.

- Secondary data was supplied by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) (www.hesa.ac.uk/) compiled from their own surveys with students and from surveys done by HEIs.

- Data was obtained about social policy DPhil students from 20 HEI careers services, based on localised surveys they had already done with their students. (The data was primarily collected by email following contact with a total of 85 HEIs).

Data about the career paths of DPhil social policy students? Given all the caveats highlighted above, analysis of the HESA data suggests that:

- The definition of social policy
In order to do a basic frequency analysis of the DPhil social policy student population, a required preliminary task is to define which subject areas come under the heading ‘social policy’. By conducting direct telephone discussions with representatives of HESA and the HEIs about this subject it was found that the degree of social policy is not defined in a homogenous way across these institutions despite the fact that HESA does have comprehensive definitions for all subject areas and separates social policy from social work 1. HEIs have different classifications for social policy which are not necessarily based on the title of subject of study but the department or faculty to which the student belongs. A common degree title in this respect was ‘PhD in Social Studies’. This title could be used to include social policy DPhil students who in some cases, had even graduated from social policy departments in their universities. It would therefore appear from this cursory investigation that HEIs are not always consistent in their classifications of social policy degrees,2 or aware of the diversity of classification taking place across the sector. (One career officer said that they would make changes to their data collection entries following this discovery).

- Lack of alignment between data provided by HESA and the HEIs
Related to the definition issue is the apparent lack of alignment between the data provided by HESA and that provided by the careers services of the HEIs themselves about DPhil students. For example, in 2003, the careers service of one HEI reports having 2 Social Policy DPhil graduates, whereas in the HESA data, it has none. On the other hand another HEI, which is reported by HESA as having the highest social policy DPhil population in 2004, itself reports equally high numbers of graduates for that same year (though not exactly the same figure which was provided by HESA).

- Incomplete or no data about destinations
A considerable number of HEIs had incomplete data on their DPhil social policy students. Particularly worth noting is the apparent lack of current data on the destinations of international students. Even in the case of UK-domiciled students, some HEIs could only provide basic data about nationality and the nature of the degree obtained.

- Time-frame of data
A key limitation in the nature of the existing data is that it only covers students six months after graduating. Thus, it would be very difficult to make a rigorous assessment about the long-term career patterns of the student group under question. It should be noted that this issue is the same for all student groups in all subject areas.

- Over-representation of certain students in the data
An issue which is already highlighted in the existing literature and which relates more to the validity of student surveys is that the data reported tends to primarily reflect the views of high-performing graduates. Students who have not been successful in their careers are less visible. It may be the case that they may not have felt confident enough to answer the surveys conducted by HESA and the HEIs.

What can the currently available data tell us about the career paths of DPhil social policy students?
Very few Social Policy DPhil graduates are reported as being assumed to be unemployed (under 8% for all of the years under consideration) but a significant number are pursuing work and further study (around 20%).

The total number of Social Policy DPhil graduates remained fairly constant between 2003 and 2005 but, in 2006, numbers fell by about 10%.

When we compare Social Policy and Social Work DPhil graduates, we find that the total number of Social Policy students supersedes that of Social Work in terms of those entering full-time employment, those assumed to be unemployed and those pursuing further work and study. However, it should be noted that the number of students surveyed was very small. Consequently, this comparison would need to be verified by further research.

International students are the second highest proportion of students in the DPhil Social Policy group: around 25%. The smallest group of Social Policy DPhil graduates are from the EU accession states (around 1%).

80% of Social Policy DPhil graduates have been able to find full-employment within the UK within 6 months of graduating for each of the four years between 2003 and 2006. This figure also includes self-employment which is also cited by Prospects as representing a significant proportion of DPhil Social Science graduates.

What types of careers are Social Policy DPhil students going into?

Returns from twenty HEI careers services detailing the types of employment taken up by seventy seven DPhil Social Policy graduates for the four years between 2003 and 2006 confirm that like their other social science DPhil peers, social policy graduates are concentrated in higher education posts, namely as lecturers and research associates (forty six). In addition seven classified themselves as consultants, five as associate directors, two as social co-ordinators and two as social workers. The range of other professions singly cited was broad – Bishop, community regeneration, councillor, criminologist, election campaigner, health visitor, IT support, nurse, policy analysts, senior business officer, psychologist, secretary, solicitor, youth worker. (These employment types are as denoted in the data provided by career services).

All of the employment types cited above were based UK-based except for the youth worker (Australia), the policy analyst (New Zealand) and the criminologist (USA). All of the graduates whose destinations were reported were British nationals.

It appears that there is very little data regarding the employment of international students. Careers services contacted pointed out that it was difficult to obtain data on these students.

It is important to read these returns with caution as they merely represent the sum total of data which were reported back, however, although the numbers are not fully representative, it is significant to note that they follow the pattern of employment already described by the academic information sources noted earlier. Based on these returns we can make a rough estimation that around 60% of Social Policy PhD graduates remain in higher education posts and the rest are dispersed into a variety of social and commercial sectors.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the research process leading to this report itself has revealed several important insights. The key issue is the apparent lack of alignment between HESA and the HEIs with regard to the definition of social policy as a subject area, and the actual data reported. Indeed, it appears that the data collected to date by the HEIs has tended to be partial or incomplete. Consequently the findings reported here can only be seen as a cursory picture of the career paths of social policy DPhil students over a four year period spanning from 2003 to 2006.

Thus, this report raises more questions than it answers. It would be helpful if further research were conducted to facilitate more uniform and comprehensive reporting about DPhil social policy students. Indeed, some of the key questions which further research could address are: Why have graduates entered the professions cited? How might the data on this group of students be harmonised across institutions? What is the impact of structural and personal factors on the career paths of social policy DPhil students? How might such research assist those running doctorate courses, and related to this, what else could they do to link destinations intelligence with recruitment?

References


ii Prospects (http://www.prospects.ac.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/pLeXaLi), accessed in October and September 2007

iii The UK Grad Programme (website: http://www.grad.ac.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/p!eLaXi), accessed in October and September 2007

iv For a full break-down of the HESA definitions, please contact Rana Jawad.

v 2This refers specifically to cases where the degree in question was a social policy degree from a social policy department (and not a social policy subject combined with another subject or discipline).

www.social-policy.com
The 2010-2011 SPA Annual Conferences: call for expressions of interest

The Social Policy Association is seeking to appoint an institution or group to organise and run the SPA Annual Conferences in June or July 2010 and 2011. Our Annual Conferences generally attract 250-350 delegates from within the UK and overseas. We provide up-front financial support and our conference planning experience is readily available with ongoing support and guidance from the SPA Conference Group.

Expressions of interest should be sent to Tess Ridge (via T.M.Ridge@bath.ac.uk or at the address below). Organisations will then receive a letter asking for more detailed information including: detailed costings and supplementary information on the organisation, location and conference facilities. The deadline for detailed applications will be April 30th 2008. The final decision will be announced at the 2008 annual conference at the University of Edinburgh.

Tess Ridge, SPA Hon. Secretary. Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath. Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.

Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences: call for nominations for new Academicians

The SPA is a member of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences. In recent years we have successfully nominated a number of SPA members to become Academicians. This is a mark of distinction and denotes an outstanding contribution to the study and/or practice of social policy.

We have been invited to submit nominations for the next round of selection for new Academicians. Existing Academicians are entitled to make one nomination each year, and ‘learned societies’ – such as the SPA - can make up to six nominations.

Nominations need to include the reasons for making the nomination – details of the nominee’s contribution to the study and/or practice of social science; evidence of her/his contribution to the aims of the Academy; an up-to-date CV; and the agreement of the person being nominated. A copy of the form on which the nomination has to be submitted can be downloaded from the Academy’s website – www.the-academy.org.uk. If you would like to propose someone to be nominated by the SPA, please complete the form from the Academy’s website and send it to the SPA Hon. Secretary, Tess Ridge (T.M.Ridge@bath.ac.uk). All nominations will be considered by the SPA Executive before being ratified and forwarded to the Academy.
Small Grants Scheme

The SPA invites applications for its small grants scheme, 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. Each award offers a maximum of £500. The deadlines for applications are 1st March, 1st June, 1st September and 1st December.

Applicants will be expected to:

- Be SPA members;
- Publicise their seminar/workshop as widely as possible, including through SPA channels;
- Write a short report after the event to SPA members via Policy World;
- Use this as an opportunity to recruit new SPA members (including marketing via other channels, distribution of SPA leaflets, use of SPA logo, etc.);
- Make the seminar/workshop as inclusive as possible (attendance need not be limited to SPA members);
- Raise the profile of the SPA to external agencies (government, independent sector, research centres, etc) in the UK and other countries as appropriate;
- Provide a provisional budget which must include a full breakdown of costs, indicating the items on which the award will be spent, and specify whether additional funding from other sources is being sought or has already been secured.

Applications, which should take the form of a letter, should contain an outline description of the aims, rationale and nature of the proposed event itself. Applicants should also clearly demonstrate how it meets each of the above criteria. As much detail as possible about your plans to ensure that the award will benefit SPA members should be included at this stage.

The SPA reserves the right to pay the award in more than one instalment if this is appropriate. It also reserves the right to reject applications from those who have failed to fulfil small grant award conditions in the past.

Please send your application to Nicola Yeates, Department of Social Policy, Walton Hall, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA [N.Yeates@open.ac.uk].

University of Manchester, 18 January

SPA seminar on developing a code of research ethics


Karen Clarke

In September 2006 a small working group was established by the SPA Executive to develop a code of ethics for social policy research. As part of that developmental process, the working group organised a seminar in Manchester on 18 January this year to examine some of the issues involved.

Ron Iphofen (Bangor University), Vice Chair of the Social Research Association (SRA) and responsible for updating the SRA’s ethical guidelines between 2000 and 2003, talked about the principles underlying the SRA guidelines and about the RESPECT project - a code of practice for socio-economic research in the EU, led by the Institute for Employment Research at Warwick, to which Ron contributed. Ron’s presentation provided a very useful context for discussing some of the issues involved in developing discipline-specific ethical guidelines. Azrini Wahidin (Queens University Belfast), a member of the ethics subcommittee of the British Society of Criminology (BSC), described the process of developing the BSC’s Code of Ethics, which was published in 2006. Jan Pahl (University of Kent) then went on to explore the ethical issues of particular relevance to social policy research, using the four areas of obligation identified in the SRA guidelines to identify some specific ethical dilemmas for social policy researchers.

In the final session Karen Clarke (Manchester University) and Kirstein Rummery (Stirling University), representing the working group, presented their preliminary suggestions for the SPA code. Those attending the seminar represented a range of different institutions and experience and there was extensive discussion of the wide variety of issues raised.

The working group plans to produce a draft set of ethical guidelines for the Executive meeting in May 2008. These will be circulated to SPA members and to other relevant individuals and organisations for consultation, with a view to finalising them by late June.
The Social Policy Association is pleased to announce the call for nominations for this year’s awards, sponsored by The Guardian, Cambridge University Press and Policy Press.

This year the judges are all past winners of our prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, Jonathan Bradshaw (York), Hilary Land (Bristol), Adrian Sinfield (Edinburgh), and Alan Walker (Sheffield) and judging will be chaired by Kirstein Rummery (Stirling). Winners will receive their awards at the special Gala Dinner held during the annual Social Policy Association conference at the University of Edinburgh 23-25th June 2008.

All nominators must be members of the Social Policy Association. Please read the rules and criteria for each award carefully before making your nominations. Nominations are invited for the following awards:

**Lifetime Achievement**
This award is limited to SPA members and must be nominated by five members of the Social Policy Association. It will be awarded annually to a person the judges feel:

- Has made persistent contributions to research and organisation (of major conferences, influential reports, SPA exec posts, etc.) that has raised the external profile of the subject; and
- Has achieved recognition by non-academics with interest in social policy: journalists, campaigners and lobbyists, activists, user communities; and
- Has an acknowledged international reputation, as measured in terms of translations, citations, projects, academic posts; and
- Has made contributions to professional bodies and associations; and
- Has had an impact on political process/discourse (advisor to government, consultant to voluntary bodies/local government etc.); 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. They must be nominated by two members of the Social Policy Association and 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: eg books and book chapters published; articles in key Social Policy journals; cited works; presentations at key national and international conferences, and/or
- Evidence of a significant contribution made to the teaching of social policy: eg contribution to authored or edited textbooks; development of new degree courses; innovations in teaching methods, and/or
- Evidence of an outstanding record in research for someone early in their career: eg 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: eg 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 organization who in the opinion of the judges has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of social policy, either through campaigning, lobbying, service provision, fundraising, journalism, funding of research, dissemination of research (particularly to practitioners and other non-academic audiences) or through other non-academic means. They must be nominated by two members of the Social Policy Association and the candidates do not need to be members of the SPA (but will be strongly encouraged to join).

**Best New Publication**
This award is made to the author/s of any book, book chapter or article in an academic or other general periodical published between July 2006 and July 2007. It should make 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 members of the SPA and the candidate/s need not be a member(s) of the SPA (but will be strongly encouraged to join). Publishers cannot nominate publications for this award. A full copy of the publication must be included with the nomination form – this will be returned to the nominator 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 2006 and July 2007 (including the Social Policy Association’s annual conference, and national postgraduate conferences). The author/s of the paper must have been studying for a recognised postgraduate qualification at the time of the presentation. 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/or overheads are not acceptable) and be of publishable quality. The winner of this award will have their paper published in Social Policy Review.

Nominations can be made by any two members of the SPA and the candidate/s need not be a member(s) of the SPA (but will be strongly encouraged to join). A full copy of the publication must be included with the nomination form – this will be returned to the nominator when judging is complete.
## Nomination Form for the Social Policy Association Awards

Please read the criteria for the awards carefully before filling in the following form. Please complete the form and return it, with any accompanying documentation to:

**Kirstein Rummery**, SPA Awards Officer  
Department of Applied Social Science, Colin Bell Building  
University of Stirling FK9 4LA  
Email: Kirstein.Rummery@stir.ac.uk

Forms can be submitted via email and electronically via www.social-policy.com, but nominators must ensure that appropriate supporting documentation reaches the awards officer safely. Nomination forms must be received by Friday 14th March – no nominations will be accepted after this date. All nominees will be informed of the result prior to the annual Social Policy Association Conference in July. The judges’ decision is final and the judges will not enter into any correspondence about their decision.

A downloadable word version of this form can be found at [www.social-policy.com](http://www.social-policy.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of nominee</th>
<th>Award category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

Please write no more than 250 words justifying why your nomination meets the criteria for this award

Please state what supporting documentation you have included (please refer to the criteria for each award)

---

## Social Policy Digest

The Social Policy Digest is an online resource available to all SPA members and Journal of Social Policy subscribers. It is an invaluable, fully-searchable and regularly updated source of information about current events across the whole social policy field.

The Digest provides a commentary on changes in social welfare legislation and a review of the major reports and surveys published by government departments, leading think tanks and voluntary bodies. Access to the Digest is via subscription only.

If you are using a PC at a university that holds a current subscription to the Journal of Social Policy then you can access the Digest directly at: [http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_JSP](http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_JSP)

SPA members who wish to access the Digest from a home PC, or whose institution does not have a subscription to the Journal of Social Policy, will need to create a personal log-in ID. If this is the case you may find it helpful to download the Social Policy Digest User Guide from the SPA’s web site at: [http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/spsw/spa/digest.htm](http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/spsw/spa/digest.htm)
Available in June 2008

**Understanding global social policy**
Edited by Nicola Yeates

“The relationship between globalisation and social policy is one that is rapidly evolving and differentiated. This collection successfully captures these dynamics whilst at the same time providing empirical substance to developments at a particular point in time.” Patricia Kennett, Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Written by an international team of leading social policy analysts, this is the first student aimed textbook that comprehensively engages with the field of global social policy.


**Understanding inequality, poverty and wealth**
Policies and prospects
Edited by Tess Ridge and Sharon Wright

“Combining both conceptual, empirical and policy perspectives and a UK and global focus, this volume offers rich pickings for students and all who are concerned about poverty and inequality.” Ruth Lister, Professor of Social Policy, Loughborough University, author of Poverty (Polity Press, 2004)

This major new textbook provides students with a critical understanding of poverty and social exclusion in relation to wealth, rather than as separate from it.

**PB £19.99 ISBN 978 1 86134 914 9 HB £60.00 ISBN 978 1 86134 915 6 276 pages tbc June 2008**

Also in the Understanding Welfare series

For full details on all titles in the series visit www.policypress.org.uk

Orders and inspection copy requests should be sent to:
Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4YN, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)1235 465500, Fax: +44 (0)1235 465556, Email: direct.orders@marston.co.uk