

# POLICYWorld

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION



## Whatever Happened to the Third Way?

- ☐ Annual Conference Booking Form
- ☐ Hugh Bochel on MPs and Welfare
- ☐ New Postgraduate Section
- ☐ Workshops Round-Up





# 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)

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## EditorialTeam

### Editor:

#### John Hudson

Department of Social Policy & Social Work  
University of York  
York  
YO10 5DD  
e-mail: jrh10@york.ac.uk

### Book Reviews Editor:

#### Linda Bauld

Department of Policy Studies  
University of Bath  
Bath  
BA2 7AY  
e-mail: L.Bauld@bath.ac.uk

### Print Designer: Nick Hunt

#### The Lavenham Press

47 Water St., Lavenham  
Suffolk CO10 9RN  
Tel: 01787 247 436  
e-mail: nick.hunt@lavenhamgroup.co.uk

### Editorial Board:

#### Jack Chen

Department of Social Policy & Social Work  
University of York  
York  
YO10 5DD  
e-mail: jyc100@york.ac.uk

#### Kirstein Rummery

Government, International Politics and  
Philosophy  
University of Manchester  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL  
e-mail: Kirstein.Rummery@man.ac.uk

## ExecutiveCommittee

### President: Polly Toynbee

#### Chair: Saul Becker

Nottingham University  
e-mail: Saul.Becker@nottingham.ac.uk

#### Vice Chair: Nick Ellison

Leeds University  
e-mail: N.Ellison@leeds.ac.uk

#### Honorary Secretary: Tess Ridge

University of Bath  
e-mail: ssstmr@bath.ac.uk

#### Treasurer: Rana Jawad

University of Sussex  
e-mail: r.jawad@ids.ac.uk

#### Karen Clarke

University of Manchester  
e-mail: Karen.Clarke@man.ac.uk

#### Peter Dwyer

University of Leeds  
e-mail: p.j.dwyer@leeds.ac.uk

#### Kevin Farnsworth

University of Sheffield  
e-mail: k.farnsworth@shef.ac.uk

#### Chris Holden

Brunel University  
e-mail: Christopher.Holden@brunel.ac.uk

#### John Hudson

University of York  
e-mail: jrh10@york.ac.uk

#### Tony Maltby

University of Birmingham  
e-mail: T.Maltby@bham.ac.uk

#### Robert Page

University of Birmingham  
e-mail: r.m.page@bham.ac.uk

#### Jan Pahl

University of Kent  
e-mail: j.m.pahl@kent.ac.uk

#### Jackie Rafferty

SWAP/University of Southampton  
e-mail: j.rafferty@swap.ac.uk

#### Karen Rowlingson

University of Bath  
e-mail: K.Rowlingson@bath.ac.uk

#### Kirstein Rummery

University of Manchester  
e-mail: Kirstein.Rummery@man.ac.uk

#### Christine Skinner

University of York  
e-mail: cbes100@york.ac.uk

#### Sharon Wright

University of Stirling  
e-mail: sharon.wright@stir.ac.uk

#### Adam Whitworth

University of Oxford  
e-mail: adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk

#### Emma Wincup

University of Leeds  
e-mail: E.L.Wincup@leeds.ac.uk

#### Nicola Yeates

Open University  
e-mail: n.yeates@open.ac.uk

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**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](http://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 John Hudson at [jrh10@york.ac.uk](mailto:jrh10@york.ac.uk). Graphs, tables and images can be handled in a variety of formats – please contact the editor in advance of submitting these.



John Hudson



Linda Bauld



Kirstein Rummery



Jack Chen



# The Fourth Annual East Asian Social Policy research network (EASP) International Conference

**Restructuring Care Responsibility:  
*Shifting the family-state-market boundary in East Asia***

**Hosted by:**  
East Asian Social Policy research network

**Co-Organised by:**  
Department of Sociology, The University of Tokyo  
Social Policy Research Center of National Taiwan University

**Supported by:**  
Comparative Social Policy Network (Korea)  
Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath (U.K.)  
National Policy Foundation (Taiwan)  
Social Policy Studies Network (Japan)  
Taiwanese Association of Social Policy (Taiwan)

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October 2007

**Venue:** Hongo Campus, The University of Tokyo, Japan

## ***Further Information***

Full details of the  
conference registration and call for papers  
can be found on the EASP website at:  
[www.welfareasia.org](http://www.welfareasia.org)



# Higher Education news

Linking research  
and teaching

## Supporting academics through different stages of their careers

**SWAP, in conjunction with the Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics and the British Sociological Association, recently ran an event for those new to teaching sociology and social policy in higher education. The event was attended by post graduate students and part time contract teaching staff. Participants wanted different things from the event including help with:**

- teaching courses designed by others
- design of assessment strategies
- how to manage marking of course-work and exams

- making lectures more interesting and interactive, including for research methods teaching
- using diverse teaching methods
- planning the content and structure of units
- adapting teaching styles used in schools to higher education

It was clear that most participants had received little or no preparatory training or support from their school or department in advance of undertaking teaching activities. This may suggest that the group who attended happened to be unlucky or their

experience may be indicative of patchy access to staff development opportunities for PGRs and part-time contract staff at a wider level. Two participants had been supported to access their institution's accredited post graduate programmes in academic teaching practice.

SWAP would like an event with a disciplinary focus for new teachers to be an annual event and we welcome ideas for ways of promoting the event, timing etc and also what other resources might be helpful, production of which SWAP could support.

## National Research Conference November 9 2007, Manchester

**The student experience of higher education inside and outside the classroom**

**Are you undertaking or have you recently completed research that highlights findings related to the impact of recent social policies on the student experience of higher education?**

This conference – titled University life uncovered - how are students' experiences outside the classroom impacting on their learning? - provides an opportunity for you to share your research with a wide audience of policy makers, higher education practitioners, HE policy officers and managers. A call for abstract submissions can be found on the SWAP website at

[www.swap.ac.uk/social\\_policy\\_conference/index.html](http://www.swap.ac.uk/social_policy_conference/index.html)

The conference will bring together a number of thematic strands to explore the 'whole' student experience, including:

- Economic perspectives on student experiences (fees, choices about studying and living locally or away, widening student 'markets', students and parents as consumers)
- Students and citizenship (student experience of crime, housing, community)
- Life at university (student experience of volunteering, mental health and well being)
- How life as a student outside the institution impacts on learning inside it (job/study balance)

### How to contact us

For details of the full programme of SWAP events, online registration and activities visit the SWAP website [www.swap.ac.uk](http://www.swap.ac.uk) or contact [swapteam@soton.ac.uk](mailto:swapteam@soton.ac.uk) tel: 02380 597782

## Editorial board nominations required for the Journal of Social Policy

**There are two 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.**

Elections will be held at the AGM at the University of Birmingham in July. If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, in the first instance please

contact the editors, Jan Pahl or Emma Wincup (jyped@kent.ac.uk) to discuss the role of editorial board members.

Nominations 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 July 6th 2007.

## Nominations open for Vacancies on the Social Policy Association Executive Committee

**There are four vacancies arising on the SPA Executive Committee, with elections to be held at the AGM at the University of Birmingham in July.**

The Committee meets four times a year to progress the work of the Association and also undertakes a range of work within working-groups and on an individual basis during the intervening periods. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee and willing to

take on responsibility for one or more of the Executive's areas of work, such as publicity, external relations, membership services, teaching, learning and recruitment, publications, or research, please contact the SPA Hon. Secretary, Tess Ridge (T.M.Ridge@bath.ac.uk) with the names of a proposer and a seconder (both of whom must also be SPA members) and with details of which areas you might be interested in/able to contribute to, by July 6th 2007.

## Back issues

**of PolicyWorld can be downloaded from our website at:**

**[www.policy-world.com](http://www.policy-world.com)**

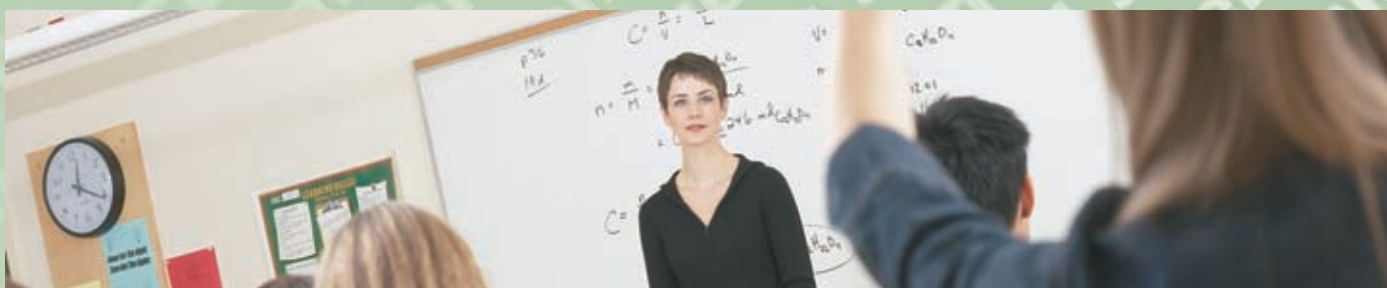


## 2008 and 2009 Social Policy Association Conference Venue Switch

**The 2008 and 2009 Social Policy Association annual conferences will now take place at the University of Edinburgh. Further details will be announced in future issues of Policy World and on [www.social-policy.com](http://www.social-policy.com)**



# Upcoming Conferences and Seminars



The **European Network for Housing Research 2007 Conference - Sustainable Urban Areas** – will take place in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 25-28 June 2007. Details: [www.enhr2007rotterdam.nl](http://www.enhr2007rotterdam.nl)

The **Australian Social Policy Conference** will be held at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 11-13 July 2007. Further details: [www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/confer.htm](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/confer.htm)

The **2007 Social Policy Association Annual Conference** will take place at the University of Birmingham, 23rd-25th July 2007. Further details: [www.social-policy.com](http://www.social-policy.com)

The **Public Administration Committee Annual Conference 2007**, will take place in Belfast, 3-5 September 2007. Theme: "Something Old, New, Borrowed, and Blue – Where Next for Public Administration in the UK? The annual conference of the PAC will be organised by the School of Policy Studies at the University of Ulster. It will be the first time in many years that the PAC has held its annual conference outside England. Details: [www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/spri/pac.php](http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/spri/pac.php)

The **8th European Sociological Association (ESA) conference** will take place in Glasgow, September 3-7, 2007. The theme is "Conflict, citizenship, and civil society". Keynote speakers include Margaret Archer, Donatella Della Porta and Nicos Mouzelis. [www.esa8thconference.com](http://www.esa8thconference.com)

The **British Sociological Association Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference 2007** will take place 6-8 September 2007 at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. Plenary speakers include Professor Gareth Williams (Cardiff University) and Professor Jane Seymour (University of Nottingham) Details: [www.britsoc.co.uk/events/msconf.htm](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/msconf.htm)

The **Work, Employment and Society Conference 2007** will take place at the University of Aberdeen, 12-14 September 2007. Key note speakers include: Madeleine Bunting, Guardian columnist and author; Arne Kalleberg, President-elect of

the American Sociological Association; and Allyson Pollock, Head of the Centre for International Health Policy at the University of Edinburgh. Details: [www.abdn.ac.uk/wes2007](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/wes2007)

The **2007 British Society of Criminology Conference - Crime and Justice in an Age of Global Insecurity** - takes place at the London School of Economics on 18th-20th September 2007. Plenary speakers include Professor Jonathan Simon (the University of California Berkeley), Shami Chakrabarti (Director of Liberty), Rod Morgan (Ex-Chairman of the Youth Justice Board) and Anne Owers (HM Chief Inspector of Prisons) Full details: [www.lse.ac.uk/bcc2007](http://www.lse.ac.uk/bcc2007)

The **European Group of Public Administration (EGPA) 2007 Conference** - Public Administration and the Management of Diversity – will take place in Madrid, Spain 19-22 September 2007. Details: [www.egpa2007.com/](http://www.egpa2007.com/)

The **Annual ESPAnet (European Social Policy Analysis Network) Conference 2007**: September 20-22, Vienna, Austria. The conference focuses on changing paradigms in European social policy and in European social policy analysis. The conference provides a forum to address theoretical and methodological questions, to reflect on inter- and multi-disciplinarity in social policy research and to discuss novel analytical trends. It will also deal with changing paradigms in the concept, and in the actual configuration, of social policies in Europe. It will ask whether there are shifts in underlying basic principles, ideas or objectives, which factors might drive such changes and what directions this might indicate for the future of social policies in Europe. Details: [www.espanet.org](http://www.espanet.org)

The **Twenty-Ninth Annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Research Conference** will take place 8-10 November, 2007 at the Washington Marriott Hotel and Embassy Suites Hotel in Washington, DC, USA. The theme will be: What Else Shapes Public Policy Analysis and Management? Details:

[www.appam.org/conferences/fall/dc2007/index.asp](http://www.appam.org/conferences/fall/dc2007/index.asp)

The **East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP)** will hold its fourth conference will at the University of Tokyo, Japan, from 20th to 21st October 2007. The main focus of the fourth EASP conference is to explore the way East Asian welfare regimes restructure the responsibility of care between the state, the market and the family (and the voluntary sector). Details: [www.welfareasia.org](http://www.welfareasia.org)

The **British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference 2008, Social Worlds, Natural Worlds**, will take place Friday 28th – Sunday 30th March 2008 at the University of Warwick. Keynote Speakers: Nikolas Rose (LSE), Garry Runciman (University of Cambridge), Kate Soper (London Metropolitan University) The theme of this conference invites engagement with contemporary debates about the relationship between the natural and the social and the ways in which the nature-culture distinction is being challenged by developments within both social theory and empirical research. This conference aims to generate a conversation between different substantive areas of sociology and across disciplinary boundaries in order to illuminate the special contribution of sociologists both to how we understand human societies and to the complex questions facing them in the 21st century. Details: [www.britsoc.co.uk/events/Conference.htm](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/Conference.htm)

The **58th Political Studies Association Annual Conference - Democracy, Governance and Conflict: Dilemmas of Theory and Practice** – will take place 31 March - 3 April 2008 at the University of Swansea. Details: [www.psa.ac.uk/2008/default.htm](http://www.psa.ac.uk/2008/default.htm)

The **International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) World Conference 2008** will take place at Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, 16-19 August 2008. Further details: [www.cfess.org.br](http://www.cfess.org.br)

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Volume 35, 2007, 4 issues – January, April, July and October

*Policy & Politics* is a leading journal in the field of public policy. It explores the match between theory and empirical applications and links macro-scale political economy debates with micro-scale policy studies. The journal is unique in focusing on cross-cutting themes across a wide range of policy areas, including: governance and democracy; policy making and implementation; state and civil society; comparative and international policy; accountability and regulation; theorising the policy process; and evaluation.

**SPECIAL RATE FOR SPA MEMBERS.** See [www.policypress.org.uk](http://www.policypress.org.uk) for details.

### **Evidence & Policy: A journal of research, debate and practice**

Volume 3, 2007, NEW 4 issues – January, May, August and November

*Evidence & Policy* is the first peer-reviewed journal dedicated to comprehensive and critical treatment of the relationship between research evidence and the concerns of policy makers and practitioners, as well as researchers. International in scope and interdisciplinary in focus, it addresses the needs of those who provide public services, and those who provide the research base for evaluation and development across a wide range of social and public policy issues – from social care to education, from public health to criminal justice.

**SPECIAL RATE FOR SPA MEMBERS.** See [www.policypress.org.uk](http://www.policypress.org.uk) for details.



### **Benefits: The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice**

Volume 15, 2007, 3 issues – February, June and October

*Benefits* publishes high-quality work that is essential reading for academics, practitioners, policy makers and students. Focusing on poverty and social exclusion, the journal explores links with social security (including pensions and tax credits), employment, area regeneration, housing, health, education and criminal justice, as well as issues of ethnicity, gender, disability and other social inequalities. In addition, experts present succinct discussions of topical questions and offer a comprehensive round-up of key publications produced within and outside government.

All three journals are hosted online by Ingenta

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# Social Policy and Society

## Annual call for Themed Section Proposals

**Prospective Guest Editor(s) of a Themed Section are invited to submit a proposal before the annual deadline which for this year is:**

**1st November 2007**

**Proposals for a Themed Section should be submitted in Microsoft Word format by e-mail to [spseditors@stir.ac.uk](mailto:spseditors@stir.ac.uk). This proposal will include:**

- the envisaged title
- the names and institutional affiliations of the proposed Guest Editor(s)
- a rationale for the Themed Section that outlines the key issues to be explored and justifies the authors chosen (no more than two A4 pages in font size 12)
- a list of contributors and their institutional affiliations
- an ordered list of contents that conforms with the requirements set out in (3) below.
- the author(s), title and a 200-300 word abstract of each proposed article.

**Themed Sections must contain the following:**

- An 'Introduction', usually written by the Guest Editor(s) providing a short introductory piece to the Themed Section
- a set of peer reviewed articles –no more than six articles in total
- a 'Review Article', which provides a selected review of the key literature
- a short 'Some Useful Sources' guide to key sources in the area.

The total word limit for an entire Themed Section is no more than 40,000 words. This is to include all tables, endnotes and bibliographies.

Each individual article must be no more than 5000 words in length and must conform to the Instructions for contributors. Refer to: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=SPS&type=ifc>

All proposals are reviewed by the Editorial Board in January. Guest Editors whose proposals are subsequently accepted, will be invited to publish a Themed Section in the journal. Guest Editor(s) will then receive further detailed guidance from the Managing Co-Editors about their responsibilities e.g. the required refereeing process, production deadlines etc.

**Prof Peter Dwyer**, Nottingham Trent University  
**Dr Sharon Wright**, University of Stirling  
 Managing Co-Editors, Social Policy & Society



# Whatever Happened to the Third Way?

**With the Blair era at its end, we reflect on the rise and fall of the philosophy Blair had hoped would form the heart of a new era for the centre-left: the Third Way**

**The closing of the Blair era has sparked an inevitable debate about his policy legacy. While it is, arguably, too soon to offer a balanced assessment of Blair's place in history, it has been evident for some time that Blair himself has been concerned with the 'legacy issue'. It might even be suggested that since taking over as leader of the Labour Party, Blair has had a strong desire to tie his leadership to an epoch defining shift in the values of the (centre-)left: in abandoning the historic Clause IV of the party's constitution, rebadging the party as 'New Labour' and weakening its links with the trade union movement, Blair has been keen to demonstrate his modernising instincts and to draw clear blue water between the 'Old Labour' approach and his own.**



Yet, while Blair was clear from day one in office that New Labour needed to be different from Old Labour – and equally clear that it must be distinct from the New Right – he was acutely aware that that his early ideas might appear somewhat anchorless. While a new language accompanied New Labour – his speeches were peppered with terms such as 'community', 'opportunity' and 'responsibility' and traditional staples of Labour Party rhetoric such as 'equality', 'redistribution', 'socialism' and even 'Labour' were rarely used – his approach often appeared to be defined in opposition to an established set of values rather than offering a deep and coherent alternative philosophy. Though his New Labour vehicle instantly struck a populist note that appealed to voters, after just a few months in power Blair publicly expressed concern about the need for New Labour to outline a defining philosophy for his government that could rival Thatcherism. It was at this time that references to the potential for a 'Third Way' began to appear in his speeches, with Blair's thoughts inspired in part by the exchange of ideas between his own team of policy advisors and the then US President Bill Clinton's advisors during an extended 'wonkathon' that took place in Chequers in November 1997.

However, quite what a 'Third Way' would mean in practice remained a moot point. In January 1998, Blair turned to academe and the think tanks for help. Over the course of January and February, Downing Street, together with the Cambridge based think tank Nexus, ran an open seminar on the Third Way. The choice of Nexus as the partner in this endeavour was something of a surprise. It was hardly an established Labour Party leaning think tank akin to the Fabian Society or even the IPPR. Nor had it blazed a media trail with its work in the way that the then recently established Demos had done. In fact, few people had heard of it and, perhaps, few remember it today (it has long since perished). Perhaps this was because Nexus was not a formal organisation at all, but an internet based network. The early days of New Labour coincided with the early days of the world wide web and the choice of a new think tank that presented itself as being at the cutting edge of the internet 'revolution' chimed thoroughly with New Labour's own image. Much of the debate took place online, with papers from (amongst others), the (then) Director of the IPPR, Gerald Holtham, the (then) General Secretary of the Fabian Society, Michael Jacobs, and the MIT's Stuart White. Follow ups included many pieces by academics, including David Marquand of Oxford University and Julian Le Grand of the LSE. There was a large

element of interactivity, with 300 members of the NEXUS network mailing list (which was semi-open) able to discuss the papers and offer their own thoughts via e-mail.

While critics might suggest that the outcomes of the debate were, at best, somewhat fuzzy, a summary of the debate was produced by the NEXUS director, David Halpern, and discussed at a Third Way seminar in Number 10 in May 1998 that was organised by the (then) Director of Policy in the Downing Street Policy Unit, David Miliband. But, what the 'Third Way' lacked in intellectual coherence it more than compensated for with political momentum. Over the course of the summer, the ideas developed during these discussions were fleshed out and in September there was a triple whammy of Third Way landmarks. Firstly, the Fabian Society published a short pamphlet by Blair on titled 'The Third Way: New Politics for the New Century' in which the Prime Minister outlined his version of the new philosophy. At the same time, the (then) Director of the London School of Economics, Anthony Giddens, published 'Third Way: the Renewal of Social Democracy'. Giddens had been working with Blair for sometime – he had been invited to the New Labour-New Democrat wonkathon that had taken place in Chequers – and his book provided some intellectual boosterism to the Third Way concept. Finally, to coincide with these events, Blair (and Giddens) flew to New York to join Clinton and the then Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi for a high level seminar on the potential for the Third Way concept to the form the basis of a new (cross-national) approach to social democracy.

These events placed some serious political momentum behind the idea of a Third Way and the following year-and-a-half probably marked its political high-point as Blair and Clinton continued to push the idea hard while also aiming to flesh out its meaning. Significantly, further high-level, cross national seminars took place throughout the next 18 months, with an increasing number of political leaders joining the gatherings. The increasing scale of these events is certainly worthy of note. In April 1999, a roundtable discussion in Washington titled 'The Third Way: Progressive Governance', was attended by Blair and Clinton, along with the newly elected German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema, and the longer standing Prime Ministers of Sweden and the Netherlands – Wim Kok and Göran Persson. This event was soon followed by a further seminar in Florence in November, where the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, and the Brazilian President, Fernando Cardoso, joined the discussions. A still bigger meeting took place just over six months later, this time in Berlin, with the launch of a Third Way rooted 'network for progressive governance' being attended by 14 centre left leaders. Much emerged from these events, not least a joint communiqué issued by Blair and Schröder in May 1999 that looked to map out a path for social democracy throughout Europe. In 'Europe: The Third Way/Die Neue Mitte', the two leaders openly invited all European social democrats to join them in their plans for modernisation of centre-left thinking and, with social democrats seemingly in the political ascendancy across Europe, their prospects for forging a new political movement seemed very bright indeed.

Yet, despite all of this activity, the very idea of a 'Third Way' was



greeted with much scepticism, particularly within the UK. During the Nexus debate in early 1998, the Fabian Society's Michael Jacobs had effectively summed up the views of many when he argued that 'in the context of Blairite politics the concept of a 'Third Way' [is] an exercise in 'phrase-making', an attempt to find a new label for the political philosophy / ideology towards which New Labour is groping'. Little had seemed to change in the subsequent period. At the close of the Florence seminar, Will Hutton appeared somewhat perplexed by the discord between the energy being invested by so many political leaders in exploring the potential for a Third Way and the idea's reception more generally. Writing in *The Observer* he said he had 'witnessed nothing like it my journalistic career... six purported Left-of-Centre heads of state will spend a day in Florence talking about what it will mean to be progressive in the next century... Not since the war has there been such a concentration of international political power discussing a political idea'. Yet, he noted that 'The Third Way has not had much of a hearing in Britain... dismissed as purposeless guff; substance-free, New Labour meanderings lacking rigour'. Indeed, while not without sympathy for the project itself, he suggested that, in the UK at least, 'the Third Way has bombed before it has even been properly launched'.

Certainly the muted reception of the idea seemed to rankle with its key exponents. In 2000, Giddens tried to respond to much of the scorn in a new book, *'The Third Way and its Critics'*. However, with Clinton's term of office coming to a close – and Bush poised to replace him in the White House – the slowing political momentum behind the Third Way made it difficult to tackle such strong scepticism. Certainly Clinton seemed to concede as much when, making one of his final speeches as President, he told an invited audience at Warwick University that: 'We [Blair and Clinton] have worked hard in our respective nations and in our multinational memberships to try to develop a response to globalization that we all call by the shorthand term, the Third Way. Sometimes I think that term tends to be viewed as more of a political term than one that has actual policy substance, but for us it's a very serious attempt to put a human face on the global economy'. Reflecting on the speech in *The Times*, Peter Riddell noted that 'The imminent departure of Bill Clinton from the White House is in marked contrast with the triumphalist days of just two years ago' and he concluded that, for all their hopes of providing a new political philosophy for the 21st century, just one year into the new millennium 'The Third Way has become unfashionable'.

Blair and Giddens, however, looked to keep the momentum going after Clinton's departure. Perhaps as a response to the growing scepticism at home, they looked to emphasise the Third Way's global reach. Writing in *Prospect* magazine in March 2001, Blair bemoaned the reception given to Third Way ideas in his own country, claiming it was ironic that while the movement commanded international attention that 'in Britain, where New Labour pioneered some of these ideas, the Third Way is often disparaged as 'meaningless', 'reheated liberalism', 'neither one thing or the other'. Rather than ditching the idea, however, he promised a 'Third Way, Phase Two', arguing the new movement offered an effective modernisation of social democratic values and was already of great historical significance on the grounds that 'It is a Third Way for Britain because it represents a third phase of post-war history - following the settlements of 1945 and 1979.' At the same time, Giddens published another book on the concept - *'The Global Third Way Debate'* – that struck many similar notes, though it lacked the coherence of his earlier

works insofar as this piece was an edited collection drawing on mainly already published pieces written by a mixture of politicians, policy analysts and academics from across the world.

Significantly, by now there were signs of admission from Blair and Giddens that the label itself was perhaps unhelpful: a small passage in Blair's *Prospect* piece said as much when referring to 'Third Way politics, or 'progressive government' as some describe it'. The gatherings of 'Third Way' leaders that had begun in Washington in 1999 with the explicit purpose of discussing the concept – and coincided with the launch of Blair's Fabian Pamphlet – had now been rebranded as 'Progressive Governance Summits'. Indeed, when, in December 2000, Blair, Schröder, Persson and (then) Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato helped launch 'Policy Network', a more formal institute designed as a vehicle for sharing thinking about the future of social democracy, the term 'Third Way' was notable in its absence, replaced, for the most part, by meeker notions of 'progressive politics' and 'progressive governance'.

How far this disagreement over labels represented a disagreement over ideas is a difficult question to address. Certainly the historical connotations of the 'Third Way' were problematic in some countries and, for instance, Schröder's preference for the term 'the new middle' over the 'Third Way' seems to owe more to linguistic heritage than policy difference. How far the loss of momentum behind the idea represented its failure to capture the political imagination is a more straightforward question to address, for by 2002 it seemed to be rapidly moving off the radar. In March, Blair delivered a keynote speech to an invited audience of academics, policy analysts and think tank staff that reflected on five years of New Labour in power. The venue, the London School of Economics, Giddens still its Director, seemed tailor made for a set-piece talk about the virtues of Third Way thinking. Instead, Blair conceded that the New Labour philosophy had been 'unclear and controversial' and that there was a danger that, in dealing with the daily concerns of government, New Labour had 'lost sight of the destination'. Rather than outlining how the Third Way had provided a clear vision of where New Labour should be going, Blair instead admitted that 'sometimes it can seem as if [governing] were a mere technocratic exercise, well or less well managed, but with no overriding moral purpose to it... [we need] to explain the 'why' of the programme, to describe it not point by point but principle by principle.'

Significantly, it was not the need for a 'Third Way' that featured heavily in this speech about principles, but the need for a 'Third Phase' of New Labour: the first being shifting to the centre-left after defeat in 1992, the second laying firm (economic) foundations after gaining power in 1997 and the third phase being delivery of public service reforms in Labour's second term. Indeed, the phrase 'Third Way' did not feature: 'progressive consensus' was the preferred terminology on this occasion. In the media – and on the Conservative Party benches – the speech was widely interpreted as an attempt to 'relaunch' New Labour. A headline in *The Independent* neatly summed up



the views of the commentariat: 'Forget the Third Way, now it's the Third Phase'.

At this time, media perception that the Third Way was already an idea whose time had been and gone was heightened by the declining political fortunes of many of the leaders who had attended the early Third Way summits: by the summer of 2002 Jospin had given way to Raffarin as Prime Minister of France, Kok to Balkenende in the Netherlands and Amato to Berlusconi in Italy. A swing to the right seemed to be in evidence and when Blair hosted a Third Way meeting in Chequers during the summer of 2002, it was a reduced gathering as a consequence, with Schröder, Persson and the Finnish Prime Minister, Paavo Lipponen, being the only national leaders in attendance. Clinton, amongst others, was invited too in order to add some political weight, but for some commentators the dwindling attendance at the event was proof that whatever momentum there had been behind the idea was well and truly lost. The, Sunday Times, interpreted the event as an emergency summit convened to save the movement and concluded that 'The 'Third Way' championed by Tony Blair and Bill Clinton has been blown off course by the rise of the right in Europe.'

The Chequers meeting may well have been a last ditch crisis meeting for the Third Way. If so, how far Blair and Clinton decided it was worth fighting for the concept itself is unclear. Certainly it seems that Clinton agreed to make it the theme of a speech he would deliver to the Labour Party annual conference later that year at which he told party members that the 'Third Way works'. Blair defended the concept in an interview with Prospect magazine too, telling its editor David Goodhart that, far from being redundant, all of his New Labour agenda could be read in Third Way terms. Added to this, in the summer of 2003 Blair hosted another of the Progressive Governance conferences in London, with an expanded gathering billed as the 'largest ever gathering of international centre-left leaders, policy-makers, politicians and thinkers'. Fourteen heads of state were in attendance (from: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden and the UK), along with participants from some thirty countries. Yet, while speeches by Clinton (who argued that 'the Third Way should be the dominant mode of thinking about change in 21st century') and Blair (who claimed 'only a modernised social democracy – the true description of the Third Way... can offer a sensible answer to [globalisation's] challenge') front-staged the Third Way, they appeared increasingly isolated in their advocacy of this terminology. Indeed, a joint communiqué issued by the heads of government at the end of the conference did not mention the 'Third Way' at all, with 'progressive governance' again being the preferred term.

Moreover, for all the hubbub surrounding the London Progressive Governance conference, 2003 did not represent a good year for Third Way leaning social democrats. There were further changes in political fortunes that robbed the movement of some of its main figures, Finland's Paavo Lipponen losing power to Anneli Jäätteenmäki's centrist party and Canada's Jean Chrétien resigning as Prime Minister after becoming mired in scandal for instance. But above and beyond this, Bush's increasingly belligerent foreign policy began to place a wedge between leading social democrats in Europe. Most notably, less than five years after issuing a joint manifesto on the future of social democracy – and calling on all European social democrats to work together with them on their project - Blair and Schröder

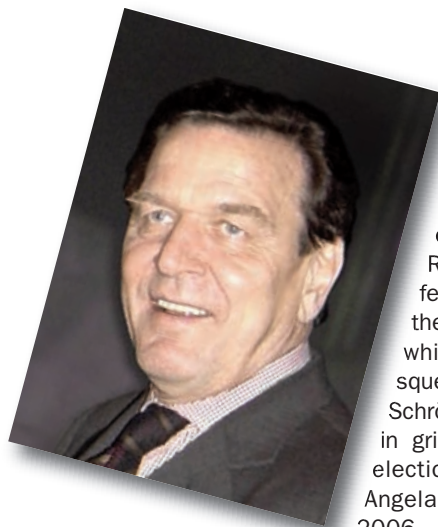
disagreed so vehemently over the question of military action in Iraq that it became difficult to imagine that they had ever shared a joint platform.

Iraq, as with so much of Blair's legacy, seemed to be the turning point in his ambitions for an international Third Way project. Shorn of the support of Schröder and increasingly allied to Bush in a manner that made overt links with the Democrats all but impossible, Blair now lacked the political capital he had earlier been able to draw on in his dealings with social democrat leaders. Blair's ambivalent position towards John Kerry's campaign during the 2004 US Presidential election seemed a far cry from the days when the Clinton and Blair teams had worked so closely together on policy ideas and campaign strategies.

Likewise, Schröder's implacable opposition to the war drove him ever closer to the French political leadership – despite their centre-right leanings – and, ultimately, led him to condemn Blair's approach as being too 'Anglo-Saxon' to be of use in shaping German public policy. Iraq also divided New Labour from their social democratic counterparts in New Zealand and Australia at this time: in both countries the Labo(u)r Party leaders were, unusually, relatively happy to sign up to the label of the 'Third Way' (in fact, Mark Latham, the (then) leader of the Australian Labor Party, even had a chapter in Giddens 'The Global Third Way Debate'), but both were also heavily opposed to the war.

By the time the Progressive Governance network assembled for another of their international summits in October of that year in Budapest, the band of leaders sharing the platform with Blair had noticeably thinned. Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand, was the only other serving head of a high-income OECD nation present, some of the others were rookies on the world stage (Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány was less than month into office) and many of the more established leaders, such as South African President Thabo Mbeki and Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, had previously been very much on the margins of the network. They might, perhaps, have been joined by Australia's Mark Latham had his ALP not, in a general election held just days previously, failed dismally in their attempts to dislodge John Howard's government. As with the US Presidential elections, once close ties that had existed between New Labour and the ALP during the mid-1990s were nowhere to be seen during this campaign, not least because Howard's decision to join Bush and Blair in deploying Australian troops in Iraq (and Latham's commitment to withdraw them by Christmas if he took over) again made it impossible for him to be critical of an important right-wing leaning military ally. In the wake of the Iraq conflict, the sense of unity and common purpose to be found amongst the centre-left parties at the turn of the century had dissipated almost as quickly as it had emerged.





From hereon in, the Third Way appeared to slip away into the ether. There were further electoral defeats: Romania's Nastase fell just months after the Budapest summit; while Blair and Clark squeaked home in 2005, Schröder, his government in gridlock, called a snap election that he lost to Angela Merkel; and, in 2006, Persson's Social Democrats lost their grip on

power in Sweden. But, aside from the electoral defeats, talk of the Third Way itself seemed to almost die out completely. Media discussion of the subject became almost non-existent and even Giddens' output on the topic waned: there were no new Third Way themed books and, aside from the odd short piece (including a slightly odd article in the *New Statesman* in which he suggested that Gaddafi was using Third Way ideas to transform Libya), his attentions appeared to be shifting elsewhere. Less than a decade into the new millennium, the new philosophy for the 21st century appeared to be dead-in-the-water.

Or was it? There are good reasons for us being wary of calling time on the Third Way. Its exponents might well claim that there has been a shift towards the centre ground in many of the nations where the Third Way social democrats lost power. In Germany, Merkel's Chancellorship is only possible on the basis of a power sharing arrangement with the Social Democrats. In the UK, the Conservatives appear to have shifted to the centre also. Certainly Blair regards this as a central part of his legacy; in a dossier outlining his legacy that was recently sent to all Labour MPs, he claimed: 'Labour in office has combined objectives which had once been considered competing

opposites... [consequently] the essence of Third Way politics is now the guiding principle for all mainstream British political parties.'

On top of this, while Blair's time in the political spotlight has drawn to an end, many of those who played such a key role in cooking up the Third Way in the first place remain very much on the scene. In particular, David Miliband's role should not be under-estimated: as Head of the Downing Street Policy Unit during Blair's early years, he was played a leading role in the joint meetings between the New Democrats and New Labour, was responsible for drawing Giddens into these discussions and for mobilising the Nexus network that played an important early role in the debate. Quite what the election of a President Hillary Clinton in 2008 would mean for the Third Way remains to be seen – if it occurs; she was heavily involved in early Third Way events too (in fact, it was Hillary, rather than Bill, Clinton, that lead the New Democrat party delegation at the first 'Third Way' gathering at Chequers way back in November 1997).

Ultimately, we might also ask whether the disappearance of the label equates with the disappearance of the political agenda. This seems unlikely. In his latest book – 'Over to You, Mr Brown' – Giddens largely eschews the phrase 'Third Way' and even concedes that it 'is not an especially luminous term'. Yet, his suggestions for a future agenda do not differ radically from his earlier thoughts. What is more, he is resistant to suggestions that it was a mistake to use the term, not least because the choice of such a bold phrase helped open up a wide debate about the future of social democracy. And, despite the debates over terminology, the modernisers looking to push social democrats towards the political centre seem to retain the political momentum across much of the world. How far Blair can claim to have been responsible for shaping this movement is open to question; but in making such a bold attempt to drive the debate along, it seems likely that, though the hand of history is no longer on his shoulder, Blair has ensured that the Third Way will need to merit more than a mere footnote in the history of social democracy.





# The 41<sup>st</sup> UK Social Policy Association Conference

## *New Frontiers? Social Policy in the 21st Century*

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM : MONDAY 23 - WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2007

The 2007 Social Policy Association conference will be held at the University of Birmingham from 23rd – 25th July.

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# UK Social Policy Association

## 41st Annual Conference:

*New Frontiers? Social Policy in the 21st Century*

University of Birmingham, 23rd –25th July 2007

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# UK Social Policy Association

## 41st Annual Conference:

*New Frontiers? Social Policy in the 21st Century*

University of Birmingham, 23rd –25th July 2007

### Theme and sub-themes

Papers have been invited which address the overall theme 'The State of Welfare: Past, Present and Future' and the following sub-themes:

- ⊙ Poverty and Social Exclusion
- ⊙ Older people and Later life
- ⊙ History
- ⊙ Labour Markets
- ⊙ Children and Families
- ⊙ Crime and Criminal Justice
- ⊙ Environment
- ⊙ Health and Social Care
- ⊙ Housing
- ⊙ User Perspectives
- ⊙ Inter-Professional Working
- ⊙ Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- ⊙ Teaching and Learning
- ⊙ Research Methods and Methodologies
- ⊙ International Social Policy
- ⊙ Global Social Policy

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### Booking Queries

For any queries please contact Tina Wilkinson at [t.m.wilkinson@bham.ac.uk](mailto:t.m.wilkinson@bham.ac.uk)

# PolicyWorld Interview

## Hugh Bochel

**Hugh Bochel** is Professor of Public Policy at the University of Lincoln. His book, **‘Welfare Policy Under New Labour: Views from Inside Westminster’** - co-authored with Andrew Defty - has recently been published by The Policy Press.

**Policy World:** Hugh, thank you for talking to Policy World about your new book ‘Welfare Policy Under New Labour’. The book itself is based on extensive interviews with MPs and Peers and offers us a fascinating picture not only of the role that Parliament plays in the making of social policy but also documents the views of Parliamentarians themselves about welfare policy and, indeed, the welfare state. Before we talk about some of the detail of the book, could you begin by telling us a little about the history of the project? Some of your earlier work explored the role of Parliament in welfare policy and the new book clearly builds on this.

**Hugh Bochel:** I was very lucky to have done some work on parliament with Peter Taylor-Gooby in the mid-1980s, effectively at the height of Thatcherism, when we interviewed nearly one hundred MPs. Unsurprisingly, at that time there were major differences between Labour MPs, who generally tended to favour high levels of state spending on welfare and (fairly) redistributive policies, and Conservative MPs who wanted much more minimal, safety net provision, and tax cuts (with consequent reductions in public expenditure). It has always been in my mind that it would be good to be able to repeat that piece of work again, partly because of the changing debates about welfare, but also because I think that until relatively recently the ‘policy’ side of social policy had perhaps had a relatively low profile.

**Policy World:** So the new book, in effect, represents the picture 20 years on from the earlier study: you asked many of the same sorts of questions in order to both document the views of Parliamentarians on welfare policy now and to compare them with the views of a previous generation of Parliamentarians?

**Hugh Bochel:** Yes, we wanted to try and make some comparisons between the position at what was a very similar stage of the Blair governments with that of the Thatcher period. And, where general beliefs and attitudes are concerned we were able to do that.

Compared with the 1980s Labour MPs had clearly moved towards the centre, driven at least in part by a perception that the public were unlikely to support tax increases to pay for welfare and for many of them this was reinforced by the election

defeats of 1979 to 1992. The same was true of Conservatives, who had moved towards the centre, believing that the public would not support tax cuts, again reinforced by consecutive election defeats.

It was interesting in some respects, that pre-Cameron, we were picking up some indicators from Conservative MPs that there existed a more liberal, socially-responsible leaning - saying things like ‘There is such a thing as society’ - and this was even among some of the party’s frontbenchers, but given the more right-wing leaning of the party, some of those people felt that they were the only ones; they did not talk to their colleagues about these things. It was only when we looked at the responses to a number of interviews that we became aware of it, and that was probably before the Conservatives themselves did!

**Policy World:** It is interesting that you say that: I am not sure why, perhaps because the focus of debate tends so often to be on the government, but I wasn’t expecting the story of the Conservative Party to feature so strongly in the book. In the end, the story of its journey seems as important as Labour’s to me, because you seem to be suggesting that both Labour and Conservative MPs have shifted towards the centre somewhat: you even suggest that a new welfare consensus may be emerging. That is quite a bold claim and one that many of the MPs you spoke to seemed uncomfortable with too!

**Hugh Bochel:** Well, the book is about Parliament, rather than the government, and there are arguments for and against concentrating on one or the other of those, but yes, the Conservatives in Parliament have certainly shifted substantially too. I think that the reasons for the movements of MPs and parties are interesting - there is not one simple explanation, so it is a combination of ‘lessons’ from elections (especially defeats), perceptions of what the public want and will accept, turnover of MPs, and so on.

We have tried to be a bit careful about a new consensus, although other people have certainly used the term to describe what is happening in terms of policies and approaches, and many of the pressures may be the same as those observed in Parliament. There is, among many MPs, certainly a relative commonality of views that there is no real public appetite at

present for tax cuts or for tax increases, and that in itself limits policy options significantly. There is also considerable agreement among MPs of all parties that the state needs to play an active role in helping people who are in need, particularly to help people out of poverty and to some extent into work. But it is a limited consensus: there are many Labour MPs who continue to favour a redistributive approach to welfare with a significant role for the state; there are also many Conservatives who favour tax cuts and a smaller state; and there are also similar divisions within the Liberal Democrats on these topics. If there is a consensus it may therefore be about what the role of the state can or should be at present, rather than about long-term ideals and deeply held values. There is also, as you say, a general consensus among MPs that there is not a new consensus on welfare!

**Policy World:** The divisions you found within the parties were very interesting: for one of your questions about who should be responsible for providing welfare, the Conservatives were equally divided three ways between favouring the private sector, public-private partnership and a more general mixed economy of welfare! Am I right in thinking you found that while there seems to be more consensus between parties than in the 1980s, the parties themselves are actually more divided internally than during the Thatcher era?

**Hugh Bochel:** Yes, that is more or less the case, perhaps reflecting the pressures that the parties have been under since the 1980s. The number of rebellions against the government since 2001 has been one symptom of this, although we found even Labour loyalists, for example, disagreeing on the direction of government policy, so that it is too simplistic to try and draw a clear line between ‘New’ and ‘Old’ Labour MPs, or to portray rebels as ‘the usual suspects’ on social policies. Similarly, while the majority of Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs are content to follow their Leader’s positions for now, should they enter government, it would appear that there is also the potential for their internal divisions to emerge on welfare issues.

The changes to the House of Lords appear to some extent to have encouraged MPs to rebel, since with no party now having a majority there, MPs know that they can knock bills back and forth between the two

Houses, and there was some evidence of attempts to coordinate opposition on some legislation. Again, this may well set precedents that future governments may have to deal with.

**Policy World:** The role of rebels and rebellions has had quite a lot of attention recently, partly because of Phil Cowley's book 'The Rebels'. Cowley is quite forthright in his criticism of simple views that Parliament has become subservient to strong party leaders, pointing to the increasing frequency of rebellions under New Labour. As well as exploring MP's policy values, you also asked them to reflect on their means of influence. Voting against the government certainly featured, but less formal means of influence often seemed to matter more to MPs.

**Hugh Bochel:** Absolutely - MPs made the same point back in the 1980s, that they use all sorts of means to influence government - and governments frequently do not even raise the possibility of legislation if they feel that they may not get it through parliament. Rebellions normally take place when other attempts have failed. However, for academics that is very frustrating. We can identify a range of mechanisms that MPs can and do use, but it is almost impossible to say how much these get used or what their impact is. And this is, of course, further confused by the other influences - the media, pressure groups, public opinion, and so on. We need to try and come up with means of taking our analyses a stage further so that we can start to get to grips with these problems.

**Policy World:** MPs from all parties seemed to be very positive about the role of select committees. People often don't realise that these committees were only established as recently as 1979. Select committees would have been in their infancy when you conducted the mid-1980s study. Would it be right to describe them as a success story or are their merits exaggerated somewhat? I know that some of the MPs you spoke to felt there were still considerable weaknesses in the system.

**Hugh Bochel:** The Departmental select committees were introduced in 1979 and in many respects they have had a very good record of scrutinising the work of government - they have produced some

excellent reports based upon good quality evidence. The change to make Chairs of the committees to some extent a career path - as opposed to moving into ministerial office - has probably also been a helpful reform, although overall the turnover of members means that it is difficult for MPs to develop real specialist knowledge of the areas of work of the committees.

However, there remain some problems with them. Even though more of their reports are now debated - including in Westminster Hall - there is no requirement for this. Also, to have any impact, their reports really have to be unanimous, which some people have argued encourages them to choose topics upon which they are more likely to agree, so some of the more contentious policy areas may not be examined. And, when government is apparently trying to be more joined-up, it can be hard for departmentally based committees to scrutinise such activities.

**Policy World:** MPs are, of course, representatives of the people. You also explored the extent to which changes in MP's views have matched changes in public opinion. There were no easy answers here: you did find some evidence that there had been a 'hardening' of public attitudes on welfare to accompany the shift of MPs to the centre, but express caution about interpreting the data here.

**Hugh Bochel:** Well, we did not, of course, do a survey of public opinion, but there is some evidence of a hardening in the work that others have done (but no clear agreement on this). In some ways this uncertainty feeds into MPs views, both because of their representative role and their wish to get (re)elected. There is also some concern among MPs that the attempted solutions of the past have failed - so some Labour MPs believe that universal benefits, for example, did not remove poverty or reduce inequality, and have therefore shifted to favour selective or targeted benefits; similarly, some Conservatives feel that the individualism and market mechanisms of the 1980s and 1990s failed to achieve what they wished, and have consequently come to support some greater role for the state. Having done the research in the 1980s it was at times slightly surreal having Labour MPs call for selectivity and Conservatives for universal provision, although the particular contexts in which they were doing so

obviously need to be taken into account.

Also, our system obviously means that we elect MPs to be representatives, rather than delegates, and it would be unrealistic to expect them to reflect public opinion on everything. And if we, the public, want more spending on public services, but want to pay the same or less in taxation, we are making politician's jobs difficult!

**Policy World:** Finally, I wonder if I could ask you to speculate a little on what your findings might imply about the future of social policy in the UK. We have talked already about a possible new cross-party consensus on welfare that is emerging. As you said earlier, this is a limited consensus and, in many ways, a fragile one. However, I was interested in some of the analysis you undertook that compared the views of well established MPs with those of recently elected MPs. If I understood this correctly, for all the parties the values of the latter group appeared to be less sympathetic towards the traditional welfare state than the former. Only one of the Labour MPs elected after 1997 that you spoke to was in favour of a return to universalism and many of the recently elected Conservative MPs had a clear Thatcherite edge. Do you think we will see this tentative new welfare consensus harden as this new generation of MPs starts to replace the older generation - or should we avoid reading too much into this?

**Hugh Bochel:** I think that this is a difficult area to try and predict, but you are correct in identifying the apparent position - that the more recent cohorts of Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs are perhaps more favourable to an active rather than a universal welfare state, whilst the Conservatives do appear to be more favourable to a basic safety-net role for the state. However, the numbers are rather small here and so this should be perhaps seen as indicative. It might not be too surprising if more recently elected MPs tended to reflect 'traditional' party positions - after all, for the most part they are still selected by ordinary party members - and it may be that with time in Westminster their views will change somewhat. However, this is an area about which we know relatively little, so this is largely speculation. Where any 'consensus' is concerned, there are also likely to be many other influences, and the views of MPs can only ever be one part of this.







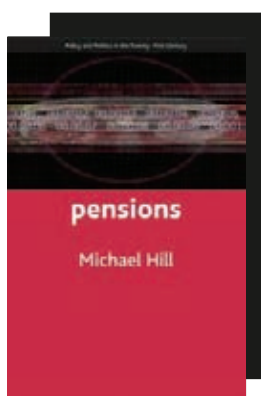
## The idea of poverty

**Paul Spicker**

*"This book provides a comprehensive, well written, and coherent overview of the concepts of poverty and the evidence about poverty. As such it is both an excellent text for students who must consider poverty and a useful general resource. The author has his own clear views, expresses them well, and in the best tradition maintains a clear difference between opinion and his account of poverty as a whole. This is an important addition to the literature."* **David Byrne, University of Durham, UK**

Making a committed argument for a participative, inclusive understanding of the term, Paul Spicker examines views about what poverty is and what should be done about it.

**PB** £15.99 **ISBN** 978 1 86134 888 3 **HB** £55.00 **ISBN** 978 1 86134 889 0 240 x 172mm 184 pages January 2007



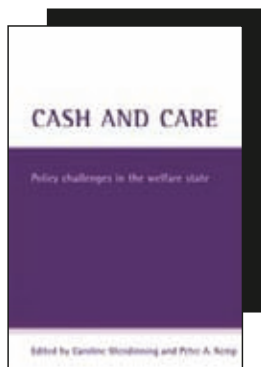
## Pensions

**Michael Hill**

*"Helping wider society understand the pensions issue more fully can only help those of us who promote a more generous and inclusive state funded pension scheme. This book will do that, and it is timely to be bought and read now."* **Rodney Bickerstaffe, Former President, National Pensioners Convention**

This book provides a much-needed introductory guide to the issues surrounding pension policy and offers a critique of some of the dominant ideas and assumptions. Noting the intense debate that currently surrounds the subject, the book explores a wider view of the continuing issues about pension policy.

**PB** £12.99 **ISBN** 978 1 86134 851 7 198 x 129mm 200 pages May 2007



## Cash and care

Policy changes in the welfare state

**Edited by Caroline Glendinning and Peter A. Kemp**

*"This rich and stimulating collection provides a fitting tribute to the memory of Sally Baldwin. It brings together original empirical material, theoretical perspectives and policy overviews in a wide-ranging, yet well integrated, contribution to our understanding of the relationship between cash and care. It should provide an invaluable resource for teachers, students, researchers and policy-makers."*

**Ruth Lister, Professor of Social Policy, Loughborough University**

**PB** £22.99 **ISBN** 978 1 86134 856 2 234 x 156mm 336 pages September 2006



## Making social policy work

**John Hills**

Social policy is now central to political debate in Britain. What has been achieved by efforts to improve services and reduce poverty? What is needed to deliver more effective and popular services to all and increase social justice? These are some of the questions discussed in this collection of essays by a distinguished panel of leading social policy academics.

**PB** £25.00 **ISBN** 978 1 86134 957 6 **HB** £55.00 **ISBN** 978 1 86134 889 0 234 x 156mm 256 pages tbc October 2007

## Workshop Report

# Disabled Fathers: Identifying Research, Policy and Practice Agendas

Majella Kilkey reports on a SPA-sponsored workshop

**A workshop, partly sponsored by the SPA, for and about disabled fathers took place at the University of Hull in February 2007. It was attended by about 25 people, including researchers working in the areas of disability, parenting, fathering and masculinities, practitioners working with disabled fathers and parents, organisations of disabled parents, and disabled fathers themselves.**

Majella Kilkey (Department of Criminology and Sociological Studies, University of Hull) opened the workshop by talking about how little we know about the experiences of disabled fathers, and why it is important that we should seek to find out more. She argued that disabled fathers have been marginalised within all the relevant bodies of research. Recent reviews of research on fathering for example, while appealing for greater recognition of the diverse contexts of fathering, do not identify disability as a relevant dimension of diversity. Within masculinities research both fatherhood and disability are marginalised. To the extent that these themes are addressed, they are treated in isolation of each other – so for example, there has been consideration of fatherhood and masculinities, and of disability and masculinities – so that a focus on disabled fathers as a distinct category fails to emerge. The literature on disability is similarly scant when it comes to fathers. There is a body of work on disabled parents, but this rarely separates out mothers and fathers, and even when it does, it is largely to focus, sometimes explicitly, but usually implicitly, on mothers. Finally, disabled fathers have not emerged within the research on parenting, which has failed to take up the subject of disabled parents in general, even in the context of an intensification of empirical and policy interest in parenting in the last few years.

Majella argued, however, that despite their marginalisation in research agendas, the prevalence of disabled fathers is unlikely to be insignificant. Moreover, their high risk of social exclusion as disabled people, takes their significance beyond the numerical. She suggested that without a fuller understanding of their experiences and needs, the development of appropriate responses to the exclusions of disabled fathers will be hampered, and initiatives around fathering and parenting more generally will be limited in their inclusionary potential. Finally, as policy agendas increasingly highlight the importance of fathers to family-life and child well-being, and as research agendas emphasise the

need to uncover the diversity in contemporary fathering, she noted that we should be careful not to miss the opportunity to bring disabled fathers into the frame.

Harriet Clarke of the Institute of Applied Social Studies at the University of Birmingham, gave the first substantive presentation of the day. Her talk – ‘Disabled Fathers’ Experiences: Findings from (and questions raised by) a study of ‘parenting’ and disability’ – reflected on Department of Health funded research, conducted under their Supporting Parents initiative, which explored disabled parents’ experiences of raising children. Harriet noted that whilst (disabled and non-disabled) fathers were involved in the study, her research arguably raised at least as many questions as it answered in relation to the gendered experience of parenting roles, as disabled fathers were under-represented in the study overall. The findings suggest that future research agendas on fathers’ experiences could usefully include: men’s experiences of disability and parenting in a life-course perspective; gendered responses to disabled fathers’ parenting support needs; disabled fathers’ experiences of parenting after separation and divorce; and disabled men’s experiences of both access to employment and access to parenting. She concluded that her findings point to the importance of gender-aware parenting research (which strives to highlight both men’s and women’s experiences and support needs in relation to parenting), as well as the value of developing research focused specifically on fathers’ experiences.

Kathy Jones of the organisation Fathers Direct, The National Information Centre on Fatherhood, addressed the question – ‘Disabled Fathers: Why Now?’ Kathy began by talking about fatherhood in the context of our rapidly changing society. She argued that the new gender and disability equalities agendas in particular, raise important challenges in a range of arenas for how we conceive and respond to issues around fathers and disabled fathers, and concluded by highlighting relevant work being done by her organisation.

John Keep’s (Chair of Disabled Parents Network - a national organisation of and for disabled people who are parents or who hope to become parents, and their families, friends and supporters) presentation was entitled ‘Disabled People. Parents Too! John gave a rich account of the difficulties

frequently experienced by disabled people to gain the support they need to parent. He argued that there were strong commonalities among disabled parents, who were often single parents, on low-incomes and living in poverty, and unemployed. He concluded, though, that the particular way gender impacts on the experiences of disabled parents remains to be explored.

Majella Kilkey then gave an overview of her current research project ‘Identities and Practices of Disabled Fathers’. The research aims: to develop knowledge of the ways in which disabled fathers understand fathering, in particular their notions of ‘good enough’ fathering, and how this fits with normative ideas on ‘good’ fathering; to develop knowledge of how the identities and meanings they attach to fathering have come about, in particular, the ways in which they are reconstructed over time and the roles played in this by impairment, disability and experiences of discrimination, socio-economic circumstances, significant life events, their own experience of fathering, and significant others; and to develop knowledge of how disabled fathers experience and practise fathering on a daily basis. Majella introduced some emerging findings from that research, around themes relating to ‘time to care’, ‘adapting’ to fathering in the context of impairment, disabled men’s experiences of gaining recognition as fathers, fathers’ experiences of gaining recognition as disabled men, the role that impairment plays in disabled fathers’ experiences, and differences among disabled fathers.

The penultimate session of the day consisted of break-away discussion groups, charged with exploring the question – ‘Disabled Fathers: where next for research, policy and practice?’ The two groups were facilitated by Anna Sandfield (Department of Psychology, University of Hull) and Simon Unsworth (Freelance Disability Consultant). Anna and Simon fed the key points to have emerged from the break-away groups into a final roundtable discussion, which drew the very lively debates which had characterised the day’s event to a close. In response to requests from both the participants and those who could not make the event on the day, copies of speaker’s presentations and the write-up from the break-away discussions have been put on the web, and are available at: [www.hull.ac.uk/cass/research/research\\_news/disabled\\_fathers/index.html](http://www.hull.ac.uk/cass/research/research_news/disabled_fathers/index.html)

# **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE**

**Following a series of consultations, the Nuffield Foundation has launched a new initiative on Administrative Justice, the administrative decisions by public authorities that affect individual citizens and the mechanisms available for the provision of redress.**

**With the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill before Parliament and forthcoming developments such as the new Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, the time is ripe for a broader initiative in this area. As an independent funder, the Foundation wants to consider the interests of citizens and bring empirical evidence to bear on discussions of policy and practice in this area.**

**A summary of our interests and calls for applications in specific areas are now available at [www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)**



## SPA/BSA

# study group for the Sociology of Social and Public Policy



On the 8th January 2007 the launch event of the new joint SPA/BSA study group for the Sociology of Social and Public Policy took place at the Palace of Westminster. An inaugural workshop and AGM were held and the convenors would like to thank all those who attended for their support. Short papers from Prof. Alan Walker and Prof. Nick Ellison provided the stimulus for a lively plenary discussion during which the focus of the study group was considered. There was general agreement that the central concerns of the group will be as follows: how we might understand, using sociological

theories and perspectives, the processes by, and contexts within which, social/public policy is generated, implemented and 'received'; how the empirical analysis of policy can contribute to theoretical development in sociology; and how the sociological analysis of policy can contribute to public and political debate. A more substantial 'mission statement' that draws upon contributions made to the plenary discussion is currently being developed by the convenors.

Originally a BSA Study Group begun in May 2006, membership of the

group has increased steadily since its inception, with a particular growth of interest from people working primarily in the field of social/public policy analysis, but who draw upon sociological theory and research as part of their work. This development provided the impetus for discussions with the British Sociological Association (BSA) and the Social Policy Association (SPA) that resulted in the group becoming a joint BSA/SPA study group in December 2006.

During the forthcoming year the group aims to develop its presence at the SPA and BSA annual conferences and to plan its own one-day conference and other activities. The group continues to welcome new members. If you would like further information please contact one of the convenors:

**Dr Angharad Beckett,**  
School of Applied Social Sciences,  
Durham University, Tel: 0191  
3346823, Email:  
angharad.beckett@durham.ac.uk

**Dr Justin Waring,** Department of  
Sociology and Social Policy,  
University of Nottingham, Tel: 0115  
951 5420, Email:  
Justin.Waring@nottingham.ac.uk

**The SPA has an electronic mailing list [social-policy@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:social-policy@jiscmail.ac.uk) that acts as a virtual forum for the distribution of conference announcements and upcoming events and for the discussion of matters of importance to the social policy community.**

**Anyone can join the list and it is free to join. You can sign up at:**  
**<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/social-policy.html>**



THE BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
SOCIOLOGISTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



# The British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2008

**Social Worlds, Natural Worlds**  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
University of Warwick

**Keynote Speakers**  
Nikolas Rose (LSE)  
Garry Runciman (University of Cambridge)  
Kate Soper (London Metropolitan University)

## Conference Theme

The theme of this conference invites engagement with contemporary debates about the relationship between the natural and the social and the ways in which the nature-culture distinction is being challenged by developments within both social theory and empirical research. A key aim of the conference will be to explore the social and sociological implications of recent developments – within and without sociology – which challenge the boundaries of the natural and the social in very profound ways. Such a challenge poses questions about how we understand human society and its relations to the world of nature as well as serious moral and political questions for human society. Sociological responses to these challenges are multifaceted but remain fragmented within the various sub-fields of the discipline – for example studies of the body and emotions have drawn attention to the ways in which humans are of both culture and nature while the emergent interest in the human-animal relationship constructs animals as part of culture. This conference aims to generate a conversation between different substantive areas of sociology and across disciplinary boundaries in order to illuminate the special contribution of sociologists both to how we understand human societies and to the complex questions facing them in the 21st century.

The conference theme is open to wide interpretation and we invite papers, posters, symposia or workshops which address the following **conference stream headings**:

- Biotechnology and society
- Science/religion
- Queer theory
- Animals in human societies
- Emotions and the body
- Theoretical perspectives
- There will also be an 'Open stream'
- Social movements
- Cultural constructions of nature
- Nature, culture and gender
- The environment
- A role for public sociology
- Methodological issues

All BSA study groups are strongly encouraged to contribute posters/papers/symposia addressed to these streams. There will also be opportunities for study groups to meet independently.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007:** Deadline for abstracts to reach the BSA Office.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008:** Last date for presenters to register.

Further information: <http://www.britisoc.co.uk/events/Conference.htm>

# The Postgraduate Section

To kick off our new **postgraduate section**, we are focusing on an issue that brings the difficulties of balancing life and work into sharp relief: having a baby while study for a PhD. **Jack Chen** talks to two people – one who become a mother (Mee), another who became a father (Nam) – in such circumstances. For both, there was the added issue that they were studying outside of their home country and away from their family during this life changing moment.

## Mee

**Policy World: Was it a difficult decision to make to have a child when you were doing your PhD?**

**Mee:** Well, my case is...we did not make this decision, it just happened. After my husband and I had three months holiday at home in China, we came back to the UK and realized I was pregnant! That was a panic, because we did not expect to have a child, our plan was always to have children after both of us completed our PhDs. But it just happened, we didn't have any chance to make any decision.

**PW: You were already quite some way through your PhD by the time you got pregnant?**

**M:** Yes. I had a conversation with my supervisor, she was very supportive and allowed me to suspend my programme for eight months.

**PW: Your supervisor is a mother of two young children. Do you think that made her more considerate and helpful?**

**M:** That may be a factor as she had children when she was young too. I told her that I was worried that this might not be a good time to have children. She said not to worry and was very encouraging. I still remember what she said. She said: 'there isn't a better timing, the best timing is when it happens.' I happily and thoroughly accepted her opinion and encouragement.

**PW: After you became pregnant, you quickly made up your mind to carry on with your studies and got full support from your supervisor. I am interested, as you were an overseas student, if and how questions like which country will I give birth to my child in, what kind of education she or he will receive, languages, culture etc would affect you?**

**M:** That's a tricky question. I discussed with my husband if we should go back to China for the birth but he was reluctant to do so as he would have miss too much. We finally decided to give birth to my baby in Britain. Actually I had more

practical things to worry about at that time. Since my husband was then a PhD student as well, and I had suspended my studies, I would have to change my visa status to become a dependent rather than remaining as a student as the University did not agree to grant me student status during that period.

**PW: How did you prepare for the new life in the next couple of months. Had you been working on your thesis at the same time?**

**M:** No, I tried to concentrate on my child, because we reckoned it would be better for both the child and myself. To be a healthy mother one must not live under stress. I could be relaxed and not thinking about the research and PhD programme at all. Fortunately, my fieldwork was done and data were being collected, I just needed to make sure they came to me on time. So the workload was relatively light. I didn't bother to do anything else.

**PW: So it was a period after your PhD fieldwork but well before entering the writing up stage?**

**M:** Most PhD students want to complete their PhD as soon as possible. But I had to hold on for a while for my pregnancy. But think about the benefit of having a child, which is for life long, and a PhD is only for a short period of time of my life. That's a dilemma but sorted!

**PW: After you gave birth to your child, did life become more difficult for you?**

**M:** Yes, definitely.

**PW: You resumed your PhD programme, but needed to balance your new duty as a mother and that as PhD student, what was the life like?**

**M:** That's life, Jack, that's life. I decided to breastfeed my child. He woke up several times a night. I did not have much sleep in the first three month. Fortunately my mother-in-law offered help and applied for a visa to come to Britain. She stayed with us for six months and her support was vital. I resumed my PhD two months after his birth. The funny thing was I was quite productive at that time.

When I was woken up by him and fed him I could manage to work on my thesis! I had just entered the writing up stage by then.

**PW: You were very productive at that time? How come?**

**M:** Yes I was very productive as I realized that my mother-in-law's visa would expire soon and if I didn't make good use of this few months when she was around and took over many responsibilities, life would become even more difficult after she left. My husband was entering the final stage of his PhD at the same time. Pressure drove us to be productive. By the time my mother-in-law returned to China, my first draft was completed.

**PW: What was your feeling after you submitted your PhD thesis?**

**M:** I was enormously released. My supervisor played a key role on this. Her feedback was always quick and that speeds up my progress. Only a few days after I gave her my first draft I received a long list of comments on how to improve it. After the submission, I kept reading the thesis while looking after my child and I always thought that I should add a bit here, a bit there and would have done had it not been submitted. I was little bit nervous at that time I guess.

**PW: Was there a moment you thought of giving it all up?**

**M:** No. My programme was suspended for a while and I could concentrate on my child, that was very important. I love my child.

**PW: What would you conclude from your experience? Have you any advice for those who have a child while doing their PhD?**

**M:** I am not sure my advice will be useful as every case is different. People around you being supportive is vital. There were three people who were very important: my supervisor, my mother-in-law and, of course, my husband. And I feel that I become more confident. My mentality built up, or you may say I grew up after that year.



# Nam

**Policy World: Was it a difficult decision to make that having a baby while doing your PhD?**

**NAM:** No, I was actually quite happy to have my first child here. There are two reasons. Firstly, the public medical service in Korea is expensive and the quality of it is not as good as that in the UK. To some extent, financially it might be much better to give birth to my daughter here in the UK. Yes, I do think the NHS is very good, although some British people might have lots of complaints about it but one has to admit that NHS is in general better than most of its counterparts around the world in terms of its technologies, and in financial terms as well.

**PW: Can you give me some examples?**

**N:** For example, in my country some doctors might advise pregnant women to take many unnecessary tests and body-checks. Some of them just take advantage of the 'asymmetric information' between doctors and patients. Young couples would end up spending much more than what they have to. But the NHS is very different, we are quite well informed and there are some regular body checks, which are free and of good quality.

**PW: What is the second reason?**

**N:** Secondly, it is also our plan to have a baby. You know we are not young and a PhD programme takes time. I have an agreement with my wife, that she will take the primary responsibility in looking after our daughter in the first year and allow me to concentrate on my thesis and then in the second year, I will take my turn and she can do a master's

degree. Hopefully we can go back to Korea together with two degrees and a baby, and I am glad that we are half way to this now.

**PW: You are very organized! Can you tell me who are the people that helped you most during that period of time?**

**N:** Not that organized though! But to the point who is most helpful, I think we owed quite a lot to my mother-in-law who came to the UK and organized many things for us since we have absolutely no experience on this at all. She was being very helpful. Not only because she cooked for us, shared our housework burden but also because of her experience.

**PW: Can you tell us a little bit more about this?**

**N:** Sure, my mother-in-law's experience played a very important role in helping us to overcome many difficult moments. She was like a mentor to us, could predict what situations are likely to happen and tell us how to tackle them. She was the 'MVP' when my wife laboured. My wife was very emotional at that time and because her English was a little limited, the only person who could calm her down and provide psychological support and encourage her was her mother. If she were not there, I would not know how to deal with the situation. Because of her, both my wife and myself felt confident and comfortable in all circumstances. You know feeling good is important at that time.

**PW: You mentioned 'not that organized though', do you mean it affected the progress of your research?**

**N:** Well, it affects a lot. I can say that it affects much more than I could have ever expected. Although I was not the

one who was pregnant and was to go into labour, my presence is always required. For example, I have to be there whenever my wife goes to see her doctor. After she gave birth to our daughter I had to look after our baby when she needed to have some breaks. She tried very hard not to affect my studies but I just can't escape from my responsibility. And when she is looking after our daughter at home I need to make sure everything else is ok, for example to do shopping and pay bills etc especially after my mother-in-law left, I have to do all these things. My research was interrupted, no doubt, and have had to extend my PhD now, but I am still confident that I can catch up as our daughter grows up and things are getting better and better.

**PW: Didn't you ask for a gap year or suspension?**

**N:** A gap year or suspension? Can I? I did not know. But I have overcome the most difficult moment anyway, so that's all right.

**PW: You mentioned that it affects you to an extent you would have never expected. So if now I could send you back to two years ago, will you still make the same decision?**

**N:** Yes I would make the same decision. The suffering was unexpected, but the happiness I have from having a baby is unexpected too. More importantly, the happiness outweighs the suffering. When one day you become a father you will know how meaningful life could be and how wonderful a new life is. It is just amazing. I have no regret to have my daughter, she deserves everything we have done. When I come home everyday and see my daughter smiling to me, I am more convinced that I made a right decision two years ago.



## SPA Postgraduate Workshop Series

As part of its ongoing commitment to its postgraduate members the SPA is pleased to announce the launch of its new **Postgraduate Workshop Series** to complement its successful annual Postgraduate Conference. The Workshop Series was introduced to sit alongside the Postgraduate Conference and to allow greater time for more focussed discussion on single topics, involving a small number of postgraduates (6-10), researchers, lobby group and charity representatives and an academic chair over one day.

In Autumn 2007, the SPA would like to run a Postgraduate Workshop in Autumn 2007 and is looking for themes for this event, and for the 2008 calendar of Postgraduate Workshops. If you have ideas for a Workshop theme, or feel an SPA Postgraduate Workshop would help bring together a network of postgraduates interested in a shared topic, please contact [adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk](mailto:adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk)

# Workshop Report

## 1st SPA Postgraduate Workshop: March 2007, University of Oxford

March 2007 saw the launch of the SPA's new Postgraduate Workshop series, held at Oxford University and chaired by Professor Karen Rowlingson. This first workshop explored issues relating to lone parenthood and participants included postgraduate students as well as speakers from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and One Parent Families (OPF). The day took place at the University of Oxford and a full timetable involving six related presentations and plenty of discussion took place. Presentations, though related, came from a range of academic perspectives and ranged in terms both of focus and methodology. All though, were of an excellent standard and raised a range of thought-provoking issues both for policy and for discussion throughout the day.



Some of those who took part in the first workshop

Tina Haux (Bath University) explored the concept of 'distance to work' and sought to enhance the accuracy of how research and policy categorise different lone mothers within this discourse, focussing particularly on teasing out heterogeneity within the large group described as 'postponing' paid work. This was followed by Dr Eileen Spencer (Manchester University) who used the notion of 'role strain' as a lens through which to consider working lone mothers' pressures, options, and strategies. Tamsin Hinton-Smith (Sussex University) presented a more methodologically orientated paper which described the pros and cons of her innovative 'email interviews' within her PhD thesis. Alex Skew (Southampton University) conclude the day with a presentation of her thesis' quantitative approach to investigating the factors which affect lone parent repartnering. These were complemented by 'on the ground' experience and policy insights from speakers from the DWP and OPF, and from contributions by postgraduates who enhanced lively discussions but who did not present themselves.

Even lunch couldn't interrupt the discussion!



The Postgraduate Workshop series emerged in response to discussions between the Postgraduate Representative of the SPA and postgraduates themselves who felt that they would find this kind of more focussed event useful alongside the annual Postgraduate Conference. This first event was very much something of a 'test' and proved to be extremely successful and enjoyable for the twelve participants. The interest in participating was high and the quality of research and of discussions made for an extremely stimulating workshop. Perhaps more importantly, feedback from participants was incredibly positive who said that they really enjoyed building links with postgraduates working on similar issues, discussing themes of relevance to their own research throughout the day, and having the time and space to discuss their own work. This first Postgraduate Workshop suggests that this is an excellent addition to the expanding SPA calendar of events for postgraduates and we look forward to hosting the next workshop in Autumn 2007. If you have ideas for a theme which you would like to see at this next workshop, or are part of a wide research network that would benefit from a focussed event for postgraduates, get in touch with [adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk](mailto:adam.whitworth@socres.ox.ac.uk)

**There are, of course, various people to thank:** the SPA Executive for providing financial support to cover participants' travel costs; George Smith at the Department for Social Policy and Social Work at the University of Oxford for allowing us use of the department's superb facilities without charge; Lindsey Smith for all of her hard work and support on the day, without which the day would not have been able to function; and, finally, Professor Karen Rowlingson for chairing the event.

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND RURAL AREAS – GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG, SLEAT,  
ISLE OF SKYE, UK  
THURSDAY 11 OCT 2007 - FRIDAY 12 OCT 2007

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### THE CONFERENCE AIMS:

- To analyse through a cross-national approach the impact of rural localities of settlement on immigrants' engagement with social, economic, political, cultural and familial processes.
- To examine the causes, nature and consequences of immigration to rural communities.
- To establish those factors in rural localities which attract international migrants, and which support them in integration processes, and those factors which present challenges to migrants.
- To develop a conceptual framework, which can capture rural immigration experiences.
- To develop policy and practice implications.

### PLENARY SPEAKERS:

- **Dr Irina Ivakhnyuk**, Senior Researcher and Deputy-Director, Population Department, Moscow State Lomonosov University, Russia.
- **Prof Leif Jensen**, Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography, The College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, USA.
- **Dr Charalambos Kasimis**, Professor of Rural Sociology, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece.
- **Piarras Mac Éinri**, Director, Irish Centre for Migration Studies and Lecturer, Department of Geography, University College Cork, Ireland.
- **Prof Myriam Simard**, *Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique*, Université du Québec, Canada.
- **Prof Claire Wallace**, Professor of Sociology, School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen, Scotland (tbc).
- **Dr Birgit Jentsch**, Senior Researcher, Ionad Nàiseanta na h-Imrich, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye, Scotland.

**PAPERS FOR PARALLEL SESSIONS:** Papers which address the conference aims are invited for presentation in parallel sessions. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted to Annette Kerr by 27 July 2007. E-mail: [sm00ak@groupwise.smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:sm00ak@groupwise.smo.uhi.ac.uk)

**WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?** Social scientists, policy makers, voluntary organisations and practitioners with an interest in immigration and rural areas.

**COST AND FURTHER INFORMATION:** The full registration fee is £50, concessions £25 for bookings up to 31 August 2007. For further information, including conference programme, registration forms, and accommodation options, please visit [www.ini.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.ini.smo.uhi.ac.uk), or contact Annette Kerr (E-mail: [sm00ak@groupwise.smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:sm00ak@groupwise.smo.uhi.ac.uk); tel. ++44 (0)1471 888559)





## How do I join the SPA

Subscriptions are charged on a sliding scale according to income. UK taxpayers can claim tax relief at the standard rate on their subscriptions. Subscriptions are renewable each January and can be paid by cheque drawn on UK banks, credit card, eurosterling cheques drawn on banks elsewhere, or by standing order. (If you join during the calendar year, you will still receive Journal of Social Policy and other benefits for the whole calendar year)

### Subscription rates (2007):

Annual income	Annual subscription
Less than £15,000 (Less than €22,000)	<b>£18</b>
£15,000–£29,999 (€22,000 – 43,999)	<b>£34</b>
£30,000–£49,999 (€44,000 – 72,999)	<b>£62</b>
£50,000 or more (€73,000 or more)	<b>£90</b>

**To join the SPA, simply complete this form and the adjacent membership directory form:**

I wish to become a member of the Social Policy Association for the year 2007.

(Tick one as appropriate)    £18 ☐    £34 ☐    £62 ☐    £90 ☐

Please tick here if you are a post-graduate student    ☐

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(please send me a standing order mandate)

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**2007**

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## Members Directory

The SPA is launching a publicly accessible on-line members directory that will provide details of members' name, organisation, email address and areas of interest. It will not include telephone numbers or addresses for members. When you join the SPA you will be sent an email by Lavenham giving you a password that will allow you to login to the site and amend the information displayed on your interests and in a 'further information' section.

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## Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding membership, please contact:



**Karen Clarke**  
**Membership Secretary**  
[karen.clarke@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:karen.clarke@manchester.ac.uk)



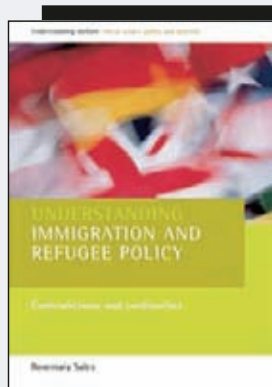
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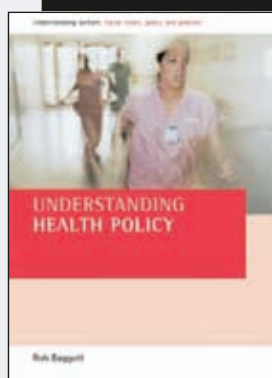
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