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

CASE was established in October 1997 with funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). That research programme was successfully completed at the end of 2007. The Centre is now supported by STICERD, LSE and funding from a range of organisations, including the Nuffield Foundation, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, ESRC, the European Union, and the Department for Communities and Local Government. CASE includes the research and consultancy group, LSE Housing and Communities. The Centre is also associated with the School’s Department of Social Policy and houses a number of postgraduate students working on topics related to its core areas of interest.

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

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

This report presents some of the main findings from our research and activities during 2010. More detail on specific publications can be found at the end of this report.

For more information about the Centre and its work, including the seminar series and our publications, please visit our website: http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/
As the ‘Year at a Glance’ that follows shows, members of CASE were very busy throughout 2010, with a series of publications resulting from our work in earlier years and a very active programme of events, including book launches and seminars for a wide variety of audiences.

These included the launch of Jane Waldfogel’s book which she wrote while visiting CASE, Britain’s War on Poverty (see page 12). The book had an immediate effect in reappraising the impact of anti-poverty policies over the last decade, which look much more successful from a trans-Atlantic perspective than they sometimes appear at home.

We launched one of the main outputs from our long-term programme looking at seven European cities that have been recovering from industrial decline, Anne Power, Jorg Ploger and Astrid Winkler’s Phoenix Cities (see page 17). The programme continues, with support from the German and French Governments and Belfast City Council, now looking at how resilient or otherwise the cities prove to be through the recession in the wake of the financial crisis.

Our work on the National Equality Panel, commissioned by the last government, came to an end with the publication of its report in January, with its launch introduced by the then Equalities Minister, Rt Hon Harriet Harman (see page 16). The report attracted extensive media coverage, laying out in detail the state of economic inequalities in the UK, particularly how they relate to people’s characteristics and circumstances, and how they develop across the life cycle.

We finished some parts of our work commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Government Equalities Office of aspects of the ‘Equality Measurement Framework’ pioneered by Tania Burchardt and Polly Vizard, including that on measuring autonomy (see page 15). Related work on measuring the position of children and a framework for measuring human rights will be completed in the first part of 2011. We are also nearing the end of our research programme on the changing distribution of wealth in the UK for the Nuffield Foundation (see page 6).

During the year Simon Watmough joined the centre to work with Rebecca Tunstall and Ruth Lupton (and Anne Green at the University of Warwick) on a new project for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, investigating whether there is ‘postcode discrimination’ when people from stigmatised neighbourhoods apply for jobs. Frank Cowell, Eleni Karagiannaki and Abigail McKnight are partners in a new European research programme on ‘Growing Inequalities’ ‘Impacts’ (GINI), which had its launch conference at LSE in March (see page 7).

The year was also a very successful one for CASE’s group of doctoral students, with four submitting their theses. Yuka Uzuki (see page 13) and Aaron Grech (see page 10) write about some of their findings later in this report. Stephen Wang won the Titmuss prize for the best thesis in the LSE’s Social Policy Department awarded in 2009-10, while Catalina Turcu has taken up a post at University College London. Kenia Parsons completed her fieldwork in Brazil during the year, but has now moved to Sydney, Australia, where she will complete her thesis.

A growing theme in CASE’s work has been the links between social policy and policies associated with climate change. This is the focus of Ian Gough’s work, which he continued during the year, but also of several projects carried out by the LSE Housing and Communities group within CASE. These included projects on energy saving for the Federation of Master Builders and on German initiatives for the Brookings Institution, Washington DC. We organised a series of events on energy and sustainability supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) at the National Communities Resource Centre at Trafford Hall, near Chester (see page 22). Several parts of this work will feed into an independent review of fuel poverty which John Hills has been asked by the Department for Energy and Climate Change to lead during 2011.

The impact of the dramatic changes in the economy and in social policy following the recession and 2010 election will undoubtedly be a focus of work in CASE in the next few years, and we are currently seeking funding for a programme to monitor and analyse these changes as they occur. We have also made proposals ourselves or with partners to funders to investigate intergenerational justice, poverty in Europe, the position of child carers, and multiple dimensional indicators of inequality in the receipt of care services. We were recently delighted to be awarded funding by the Nuffield Foundation for a study of differences in personal consumption patterns between countries with similar incomes, but different levels of social spending and hence taxation: what is it that people in lower tax countries spend their higher take-home income on? With this and other potential projects, we are therefore looking forward to the prospect of a very active research programme in the next few years.

John Hills
Director, CASE
March 2011
The year at a glance (highlights of the year)

January 2010
The year started with the launch of: *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK* - Report of the National Equality Panel. The Panel was chaired by John Hills and his reflections one year on can be found on page 16.

March
March was a busy month at CASE: We hosted a major international conference ‘Changing Inequalities: How do they affect societies’, marking the start of the FP7 funded GINI project.

We hosted a debate and high profile book launch: *Phoenix Cities* – surviving financial, social and environmental turmoil in Europe and the US? (LSE Housing, LSE Cities and Joseph Rowntree Foundation Lecture).

May
We held three seminars in May ‘The state of happiness: Can public policy shape people’s well-being and resilience?’, ‘Social exclusion among families with children: Evidence from the Families and Children Study’ and ‘Making Markets in Employment Services: Lessons from other countries’. LSE Housing and Communities held a special workshop at Trafford Hall on ‘Community Energy Saving’.

June
June was marked by the UK launch of Jane Waldfogel’s new book: *Britain’s War on Poverty* (see page 12 for more details).

September
In September we published two CASEpapers ‘Assessing the sustainability of pension reforms in Europe’, ‘Are there neighbourhood effects on teenage parenthood in the UK, and does it matter for policy? A review of theory and evidence’ and a CASEreport ‘Housing Futures: our homes and communities. A report for the Federation of Master Builders’.

October

Lucas Pedace from HM Treasury gave a seminar on ‘Employing the capability approach to compare pensioners’ well-being across UK countries’ in our Welfare and Policy Analysis seminar series.

November
A number of seminars and special events were held in CASE in November ‘Injustice: ‘The Big Society: What Does it Mean for Neighbourhood Governance?’’, ‘Employers’ role in the low pay-no pay cycle’ and ‘Assessing the sustainability of pension reforms in Europe’.

December
We held two seminars in December ‘Climate mitigation programmes: some implications for social policies’ and ‘Working neighbourhoods? The role and meaning of work in six areas of high worklessness’.

We held two seminars in our Welfare Policy and Analysis seminar series: ‘Mothers’ employment in a child’s first year and subsequent child development: Analysis of cohort study evidence from US and GB’ and ‘The impact of the Pathways to Work programme on incapacity benefits customers: An analysis of administrative and survey data.’
The impact of inheritance on the distribution of wealth in the UK

Eleni Karagiannaki

Inheritances and other types of parental transfers have been suggested as a major source of wealth inequality and one of the most important mechanisms by which advantage is transmitted across generations. Over the last twenty years (or so) the issue of inheritance has come to the forefront in the public policy arenas in the UK, because the growth of home ownership has increased the number of people who, potentially, have assets to transfer via inheritance.

In this research, funded by the Nuffield Foundation - as part of a broader project which examines the drivers of the changing distribution of wealth in the UK - we examine the evolution of the annual flow of inheritances in the UK during the period 1985-2005 and we explore the contribution of inheritance on wealth accumulation and wealth inequality. Our research was based on analysis of statistics from HMRC Inheritance Tax records as well as on data from three major UK micro surveys i) the British Household Panel Survey (waves 1-16) ii) the Attitudes to Inheritance Survey and iii) the 1995/96 General Household Survey. As shown in the figure below according to HMRC Inheritance Tax statistics during the period under consideration the value of inherited wealth more than doubled reaching from £23 billion in 1985 to about £56 billion in 2005 (at real 2005 prices). The main driver behind this increase was the rise in house prices and to a lesser extent the increase in the proportion of inheritances which included housing assets. Analysis of data from the three micro-surveys that we used in our analysis revealed similar patterns with respect to the size of the annual flow of inheritance and the contribution of housing inheritance on the observed trends.

Analysis of the distribution of inheritances showed that inherited wealth is characterized by a high degree of concentration and that there is a strong gradient both in the probability and the amount of inheritances between more and less advantaged groups (defined in terms of income, educational attainment and wealth). Prima facie these results seem to suggest that inheritance reinforce advantage. An obvious question is then whether inheritance is one of the drivers of wealth inequality as well as a significant contributor of wealth accumulation. To investigate these issues in the second part of our research we examine how the distribution of wealth has been changing in UK during the ten years period from 1995 to 2005 accounting for some of the main driving forces behind the observed changes. Particular emphasis was put on identifying the role played by inheritances.

Given the structure of the inheritance data included in British Household Panel Survey (note that British Household Panel Survey is the only dataset currently in the UK that contains data both on wealth and inheritance) we examine the extent to which the observed inequality of wealth in 2005 would be smaller or larger in the absence of inheritances received between 1996 and 2005.

Our findings indicate that the period 1995-2005 was a period of substantial growth in total net worth and of a substantial decrease in wealth inequality. The main driving force behind both trends was the rise in house prices and the resulting increase in net housing equity (which resulted in a substantial increase in the share of wealth of the middle wealth households). Inheritance received during the period 1996-2005 had a small quantitative effect on the observed changes in wealth accumulation. Depending on the assumptions about the rate of return, the estimated contribution of inheritance to total wealth change that occurred during the period 1995-2005 ranges from 10 to 15 percent. The respective estimates for inheriting households range between 26 to 30 percent. Examining the impact of inheritance on wealth inequality we found that despite the substantial degree of inequality in the distribution of inherited wealth the overall impact of inheritance to total wealth inequality is relatively small. The main reason for the small quantitative impact of inheritance on total wealth inequality is its relatively small size relative to other types of wealth but also its small correlation with other types of wealth. Overall, our results indicate that inheritance can be seen as maintaining wealth inequalities rather than either narrowing or widening them.

The impact of inheritance on the distribution of wealth: Evidence from the UK Eleni Karagiannaki (Forthcoming CASEpaper)

Figure 1: Total value of estates, billion £, 2005 prices

Source: Own analysis based on HMRC Inheritance tax statistics; Inland Revenue statistics (various issues). Inheritance statistics for 2003 and 2005 were kindly provided on request by HMRC.
The role of demography in shaping wealth inequality: A cross-country analysis

Frank Cowell, Eleni Karagiannaki and Abigail McKnight

As part of a major Framework Programme 7 research project ‘Growing Inequalities’ Impacts’ (GINI) we have been looking at the cross-country variation in the distribution of household wealth. While household income and individual earnings provide information on the current standard of living enjoyed by individuals/households, household wealth provides information on past financial well-being (to the extent that savings represents the excess of income over expenditure) and an indication of future financial health. We are interested in looking at wealth because it represents the accumulative effect (impact) of historical inequalities (earnings, income, inheritance) and its role in driving future inequalities (through the ability to invest in education and skills, housing, business enterprise, retirement income, bequests).

Comparisons between countries have been greatly enhanced through the availability of harmonized data in the Luxembourg Wealth Study and we use micro data from this series to compare the distribution of household wealth in the United Kingdom, United States, Italy and Finland. It is known from previous studies that wealth inequality varies quite substantially between these four countries and we are interested in understanding these differences in more detail. The countries were chosen because we are not only interested in understanding how the distribution of wealth varies between countries with different structures of public wealth holdings but also in understanding the role of demographic differences in explaining cross-country variation.

Wealth holdings are known to be greatly influenced by the lifecycle. The lifecycle model predicts that individuals/households will borrow during the early years of adult life to fund investments, for example in human capital, then gradually accumulate wealth until retirement from when wealth will be drawn down to fund retirement income. This influence of the lifecycle on wealth holdings means that average wealth and inequality in wealth is likely to vary across countries depending on the age profile of households, for example, between countries with ageing populations and those with relatively youthful populations.

The following set of charts show the distribution of net worth\(^1\) by age and at different points of the wealth distribution within age groups and over time (where available). The influence of the lifecycle is clearly illustrated in all four countries. However, there are distinct cross country differences. Net worth holdings in Finland are much lower than in the other three countries; a country where the state effectively holds assets on behalf of individuals. Wealth peaks around 55-64 years but the extent to which wealth declines post retirement is much greater in the UK. In the UK there is a clear upward trend over time in wealth holding. The much greater inequality in wealth in the US is clearly evident with a greater concentration of wealth at the top of the distribution. For the US we consider information from two data sources. The Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF)

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\(^1\) Note: Net worth is equal to the sum of net financial assets (total financial assets minus financial debt) and housing equity (equals to the sum of own principal residence, investment real estate minus mortgage debt). All monetary values are expressed in 2005 000’s Euro (Euro 16 ppp).
has better coverage of wealthier households but the Panel Study of Income Dynamics’ (PSID) coverage is more comparable with the other data sources.

We employ a number of approaches to assess the role of cross-country differences in household demographics in explaining differences in the distribution of wealth. One approach is to simulate the distribution of wealth in Finland, Italy and the US that would exist if the distribution of household characteristics was similar to the UK. The characteristics we consider are age, household type (single, cohabiting and the presence of children), education and work status. This allows us to compare the complete distributions to see where in the distribution demographic differences lead to different patterns of wealth holdings between countries. It is also possible to compute summary statistics. Table 1 shows inequality in net worth, as measured by the GINI coefficient, that exists in these four countries and how much of these differences can be explained by demographics. The much higher inequality in wealth in the US is very evident and although the difference between the UK and the US is narrower
when demographic differences have been taken into account wealth inequality in the US remains at a much higher level than the UK, Finland or Italy. Although Finland has much lower typical wealth holding, inequality is relatively high and above the UK and Italy in the actual distribution. Interestingly demographic differences between households in the UK and Finland mean that using data from the simulated distribution in Finland wealth inequality would be lower in Finland than in the UK if the distribution of household characteristics in Finland was similar to that observed in the UK. Italy has the lowest inequality in wealth out of these four countries and although the simulated distribution leads to an increase in comparative wealth inequality it remains the lowest.

The findings show that while demographic differences do explain some of the differences in the distribution of wealth between the UK, Finland, Italy and the US there remains significant cross-country variation which is likely to be due to cultural differences in wealth holding, differences in the role of the state in holding assets on behalf of individuals and in the provision of services which assets are often accumulated for (health, education, unemployment assistance).

### Table 1: Inequality measures for actual and simulated wealth distributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Actual Gini</th>
<th>Simulated Gini</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK 2000</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.665</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland 1998</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.683</td>
<td>0.645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy 2002</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.602</td>
<td>0.622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 2000 (PSID)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.806</td>
<td>0.775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net worth is equal to the sum of net financial assets (total financial assets minus financial debt and housing equity (equals to the sum of own principal residence, investment real estate minus mortgage debt)). The simulated wealth distribution in each of the three countries (Finland, Italy and US) is the distribution that would have prevailed if the distribution of characteristics was similar to the UK.

Source: Own calculations based on LWS database.

The research project ‘Growing Inequalities’ Impacts’ (GINI) receives EU research support under the European Commission’s 7th Framework Programme. CASE is the UK partner and hosted the opening conference in April 2010. For further information visit http://www.gini-research.org/articles/home

The research reported here draws on two papers, ‘Measuring and mapping the distribution of wealth: A lifecycle perspective’ and ‘The demography of changing wealth inequality: a cross-country analysis’ which will be published shortly as GINI discussion papers and available in the CASEpaper series.
PhD Spotlight: Assessing the sustainability of pension reforms in Europe

Aaron Grech

Spurred by the ageing transition, many governments have made wide-ranging reforms, dramatically changing Europe's pensions landscape. Nevertheless, there remain concerns about future costs, while unease about adequacy is growing. This study develops a comprehensive framework to assess pension system sustainability. It captures the effects of reforms on the ability of systems to alleviate poverty and maintain living standards, while setting out how reforms change future costs and relative entitlements for different generations.

Most pension reforms have been driven by a rather limited concept of sustainability, conceived as reducing projected levels of future spending on state pensions, through cuts in generosity. The notion that sustainability is achieved solely by cutting future spending is, however, far too simplistic. Fiscal sustainability and pension system adequacy are not conflicting aims, but rather two sides of the same coin. Real fiscal sustainability cannot be achieved without ensuring pension system adequacy. If pension systems fall short, there could be strong political pressure for higher government spending on other support.

There appear to be four elements underpinning the social sustainability of pension systems. From a political economy perspective, if a system is not seen as beneficial by the electoral majority, namely by not helping them maintain pre-retirement living standards, it could be voted out. Similarly, if a system is not seen as able to alleviate poverty, the political pressures that led to the setting up of social assistance to elderly people during the early part of the twentieth century might re-emerge. In the process of achieving these two goals, policymakers need, however, to take into consideration the balance of transfers between different generations, especially in light of increasing longevity. Political pressures for reform can arise either because systems are not achieving the goals that individuals expect of them or because individuals are unhappy about the deal they are getting compared to previous generations. Individuals can be concerned about the level of their pensions, how much it might be reduced as they grow older, and also the level of their pension transfers compared to previous generations. Social sustainability can only be achieved if policymakers understand these tradeoffs and optimise pension systems in this light.

Evaluations of pension reform, by contrast, have either focused on pension spending projections or on the effect on theoretical replacement rates for full-career individuals on average earnings. The latter have been widely used as measures of adequacy. However, they suffer from a number of important deficiencies, such as being limited to single point-in-time comparisons and failing to capture the impact of changes in longevity. Similarly, the full impact of longevity cannot be discerned by looking at single-year projections of pension spending.

We contend that a better approach to evaluate reforms is to estimate pre- and post-reform pension wealth. The latter is the discounted stream of future pension payments during retirement, weighted by the probability that the individual will still be alive at that particular age. This measure captures the total pension transfer to an individual and thus captures the effects of benefit indexation post-retirement and of longevity. Pension wealth can be used to assess whether these transfers would result in individuals, on average, having an annual income that keeps them out of relative poverty during retirement, and also to calculate more accurately the degree of income smoothing that pension systems allow. By comparing the pension wealth of two successive generations, one can also arrive at an intuitive measure of intergenerational balance. Moreover, in conjunction with demographic and labour market data, pension wealth can be used to assess the long-term contribution rate needed to keep the pension system in financial balance across generations.

As an empirical application of this framework, we estimate measures of pension wealth in 2005 and 2050 for hypothetical individuals under pre- and post-reform systems using the OECD’s APEX cross-country pension entitlement model. In contrast with most studies which just look at average male earners, we create aggregate indicators composed of pension wealth estimates for nine hypothetical full-time workers at different wage distribution deciles, a hypothetical part-time worker and someone on minimum pension provision for each gender. The study covers ten countries, namely Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and the UK, covering 70% of the EU’s population and including examples of very different systems and reforms. The reforms modelled were introduced between the early 1990s and 2008.

Figures 1 and 2 compare how the achievement of the twin goals of pension systems and the pressure on system constraints could change by 2050. This approach allows us to understand whether one aim is being sacrificed for better results on the other, and provides an indication of how the role and scope of state pension systems will evolve. The fact that this comparison is done on a cross-country basis also allows us to understand how different policymakers reacted to similar challenges. There are some striking similarities. For instance, only countries which faced a very substantial fiscal challenge due to ageing put in place reformed systems that cut the relative size of total pension transfers to future generations. In most countries, the reforms offset only part of the effect on pension wealth of the projected rise in longevity, and accommodate the projected change in the relative size of the pensioner population by a rising implied contribution rate.

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1 This model codes detailed eligibility and benefit rules for mandatory pension schemes based on available public information that has been verified by country contacts.

2 The reforms do not consider later legislated or proposed pension reforms. These, such as changes carried out in Hungary in the wake of the financial crisis, could result in much lower generosity than envisaged here. More recently some countries, such as UK and France, are looking at raising pension ages.
Figure 1 shows how most countries will converge towards providing pension wealth which keeps individuals above a 60% poverty threshold throughout retirement. The only exceptions appear to be Poland and Slovakia. Despite these radical cuts, these countries will still experience large increases in their financing costs (see Figure 2), on account of steeply declining support ratios. Improving employment rates could help stem these developments. In a similar vein, in France the system seems to face significant fiscal challenges, which could be partially addressed by increasing employment at older ages and raising the pension age.

While reforms have reduced the poverty alleviation and income smoothing impacts of state pensions in nearly all countries, generosity remains high in most. Reforms have tended to follow existing system goals, but with an eye to reduce cost. Our analysis suggests that when pressed, policymakers, particularly in Western Europe, were more willing to sacrifice the income smoothing function of pensions rather than poverty alleviation. This is a decision that makes sense as middle- to high-income individuals are possibly in a better position to accommodate the effect of state pension reforms by increasing their private saving. However there have been some reforms, mostly in Eastern Europe, which may have raised issues about the future adequacy of pension systems for women and those on lower incomes. Moreover with only some exceptions, the reforms appear to leave pension systems relatively unprepared for the financial impact of ageing. Policymakers in countries with the most severe pressures may need to consider increases in pension ages, complemented with labour market policies to extend working lives. By maintaining the proportion of life spent in retirement unchanged across generations, policymakers would be better able to achieve similar system aims as under current systems.

If tackled in a socially sustainable way, pension reform need not be as tortuous a process as it has been over the last decades. If policymakers focus better on the interaction between pension system aims and constraints, they will be able to set in place reforms that stand the test of time.
Britain’s war on poverty

Jane Waldfogel

In March 1999, Prime Minister Tony Blair made a remarkable pledge – to end child poverty in a generation. Gordon Brown, then Chancellor and later Prime Minister, set a target of cutting child poverty by half in ten years and committed considerable resources to attaining this goal. In her recent book, Britain’s War on Poverty, Jane Waldfogel describe the steps New Labour took to fulfil this pledge and analyzes how successful they were in reducing child poverty.

The anti-poverty reforms consisted of three strands: measures to promote work and ‘make work pay’; increased financial support for families; and investments in children.

The first strand included the New Deal for Lone Parents, a primarily voluntary welfare-to-work scheme launched in 1997 (it was not until 2008 that some lone parents – those whose youngest child had reached the age of 12 – were required to work or look for work). This strand also included measures to make work pay, including the national minimum wage introduced in 1999, tax reductions for low-income workers and their employers, and a new tax credit, the Working Families Tax Credit, later replaced by the more generous working tax credit. Together, these reforms were successful in promoting work. Lone-parent employment increased by 12 percentage points – from 45 per cent to 57 per cent – between 1997 and 2008, with at least half of this increase attributable to the reforms. In addition, the incomes families could expect from work also increased.

The second strand was a set of measures to raise incomes for families with children, whether or not parents were in work. Child benefit levels were raised substantially starting in 1999, with particularly large increases for families with young children. Income support benefits for families with young children were also raised. The government also introduced a new children’s tax credit for low- and middle-income families with children (later replaced by the integrated child tax credit).

Investments in children were the third strand. These were seen as essential to reduce the risk of poverty being passed on from one generation to the next. An extensive set of reforms focused on the early years: the period of paid maternity leave was doubled to nine months; two weeks of paid paternity leave were introduced; universal pre-school for three and four year olds was introduced; childcare assistance for working families was expanded, and legislation was enacted placing a duty on local authorities to provide adequate childcare; parents with young children were given the right to request part-time or flexible working hours; and the Sure Start programme was rolled out for infants and toddlers in the poorest areas. For school-age children and adolescents, there was a series of measures to improve education. Class sizes were reduced in primary schools, and national literacy and numeracy strategies directed teachers to spend at least an hour a day on reading and an hour on maths. Later efforts focused on improvements in secondary schools and measures to persuade more young people to stay on at school (including raising the minimum school-leaving age). Test score data showed progress in terms of overall levels of achievement and also narrowing gaps.

Together, these anti-poverty initiatives reflected a very sizeable investment in children, with the additional benefits disproportionately going to the lowest income children. By April 2010, the average family with children was £2,000 a year better off, while families in the bottom fifth of the income distribution were £4,500 a year better off.

The impact on child poverty

When Tony Blair declared war on poverty in 1999, 3.4 million children – one in four – were in poverty, using both the absolute and relative measures of poverty. But trends after 1999 depend on which measure is used.

Relative poverty (using the official government measure of the poverty line as 60 per cent of average income) fell by 15 per cent (600,000 children) by 2008/09, while absolute poverty (using the official government measure tied to living standards in 1998/99, updated only for inflation) fell by more than 50 per cent (1.8 million) over the same time period. The two measures tell a different story because the relative measure is affected by changes in the income of the average family. The fact that absolute poverty plummeted, while relative poverty fell less sharply, means that the incomes of families at the bottom rose, but so too did the incomes of families in the middle. Statistics on the third official measure – material deprivation – confirm that there were sharp and sustained decreases in material hardship and financial stress for the most vulnerable families.

Analysis of poverty data for Europe and the United States confirms that these reductions in child poverty were not inevitable but rather the result of government policy. With overall levels of inequality increasing over the period, relative child poverty rates would have risen had the child poverty initiative not been undertaken. Seen from this perspective, the poverty reductions, even on the relative measure, are impressive. There is also evidence that the reforms increased family expenditure on items for children and led to improvements in their wellbeing.

Poverty measurement

The experience of the past decade also offers a clear lesson about poverty measurement. As described above, the government uses three official measures of poverty, and each one has provided useful information. The relative measure tracks trends in inequality, while the absolute measure and material deprivation measure shed light on changing living standards for low-income families. Although using the three measures increases complexity, it also increases understanding of poverty and the role that policies play. So Waldfogel recommends that all three measures should be maintained.

The New Labour legacy

Waldfogel concludes that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown not only achieved a dramatic reduction in child poverty, they also put child poverty on the national agenda. She notes that even while making deep cuts, the new coalition government has emphasised its commitment to protect benefits for the poor. Although it remains to be seen to what extent this commitment will be maintained, it is nevertheless striking that it is being articulated.

Jane Waldfogel is professor of social work and public affairs at Columbia University, visiting professor at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics, and author of Britain’s War on Poverty (Russell Sage Foundation).
Intergenerational persistence of poverty in the UK

Yuka Uzuki

In purely financial terms income redistribution is an obvious way of alleviating child poverty. However, whether this effectively improves life chances of children growing up in relative disadvantage is debated, and there might be less expensive ways of doing so. Aiming to contribute to the debates, this study investigates some of the links between childhood poverty and later outcomes – such as earnings and employment outcomes. The use of longitudinal data from three different birth cohorts (1958, 1970 and the 1980s) also makes it possible to examine continuities and changes over time in these links and mechanisms that create them.

Broadly three competing models have been discussed in previous research in order to understand mechanisms underlying intergenerational persistence of poverty.

- **The economic model:** parental low income leads to low investment in children’s human capital via formal education or other material resources, thereby affecting the children’s earnings power. Income constraints affect parental stress that can also diminish the development of children’s human capital.

- **The socio-demographic model:** the role of non-material parental resources such as parental education levels, attitudes and behaviour including parenting styles is more important than that of parental income.

- **The welfare-dependency model:** generous out-of-work benefits disincentivise and demotivate poor parents from working, which have negative impacts on their children’s development of work attitudes and motivation.

The evolution of child poverty policies under New Labour built on a volume of empirical evidence relating to the first two models, in terms of reducing child poverty and improving children’s life chances. However, the welfare-dependency model has become very influential in the UK in the 2000s even though many academics have criticised it due to the lack of supporting empirical evidence.

The analysis of work history data from men and women born in 1970 in the British Cohort Study, conducted in this study, found that childhood poverty increases the later risk of unemployment not only during young people’s transitions from education to work, but also after they have started their working lives. This continuing and repeated effect of childhood poverty put those affected at a greater risk of experiencing poverty again in adulthood, even after controlling for their educational attainment and other individual and family characteristics. The evidence suggests that breaking the link between childhood poverty and youth employment is indeed crucial.

Is it, then, appropriate to allow policy changes to be delivered in line with the welfare-dependency model? The answer from this study is no. As the table below (in the second and fourth columns) shows, those men who experienced poverty at age 16 and those women who experienced poverty at age 10 are 0.7 to 0.8 times less likely to exit unemployment than those with no experience of poverty at each age. However, this may be due to the effect of local labour market conditions in which both parents and their grown-up children struggle to find jobs.

On the other hand, those men and women who experienced poverty at either age 10 or age 16 are 1.2 to 1.4 times more likely to become unemployed even while they are working (the third column in the table). This evidence makes it difficult to conclude that they have the dependency attitude that triggers long-term unemployment. Although one may argue that a dependency attitude could lead these individuals not to make efforts to stay in employment, it is unlikely that such an attitude, if any, is the main reason for their becoming unemployed. Previous studies have found that there are people who remain trapped in a no-pay/low-pay cycle due to the poor quality of low-wage jobs, even after controlling for their observed and unobserved initial characteristics.

The study further examined whether employment outcomes are better for young people from working poor families than for those from workless families, by using data from those born in the 1980s in the British Household Panel Survey. It found that in-work poverty is just as detrimental as out-of-work poverty, in terms of the effect on the onset of unemployment after having started work. Out-of-work poverty appears to have a greater negative effect than in-work poverty at the time of leaving full-time education, although this again may indicate local labour market effects. Because of the small sample size, it was impossible to provide robust evidence on the relationship between out-of-work poverty and the duration of youth unemployment. Taken together, more evidence suggests the relationship between childhood poverty and the later risk of remaining in a no-pay/low-pay cycle than the intergenerational transmission of welfare dependency.

In other sections of the study, analysis revealed that the negative impact of childhood poverty on these individuals’ hourly earnings in their early thirties has increased between those born in 1958 and those born in 1970. For the younger cohort who grew up against the background of increasing income inequality (although not for the older cohort), the effect of childhood poverty remains, even after considering the effects of educational attainment, in particular, and other observed variables such as ability, parental social class and education. The residual effect of poverty was not explained by teenage occupational aspirations, either.

The results suggest that there are mechanisms of intergenerational persistence of poverty that could be alleviated by youth employment policy as well as education policy. Youth employment policy should be targeted at those in precarious employment as well as the unemployed. Public services which help to make a smooth transition from education or training to employment would also be beneficial particularly for those from workless families. However, income redistribution also remains a reasonable approach to adopt in order to improve the future life chances of children growing up in poverty, unless evidence to explain the residual effect of childhood poverty becomes available that
shows a mechanism that can be more cost effectively corrected.

The Coalition Government proposes to make work pay. While this is possible either by raising in-work benefits or by cutting out-of-work benefits, the Government that is interested in reducing its size might rather be inclined to choose the latter option. Both working and workless families may then become poorer. The study suggests that it is not sufficient simply to make work pay and to get parents to work, without ensuring sufficient levels of in-work and out-of-work family incomes relative to the contemporary median.

It is also noteworthy that poverty in late childhood has an independent negative impact on later outcomes, against the context in which early investment is increasingly stressed and prioritised.

### Hazards (odds) ratios of the onset of and exit from unemployment between those with and without experience of poverty at each age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Following the time of leaving full-time education</th>
<th>After having started work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Onset</td>
<td>Exit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Males</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty at age 10</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty at age 16</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Females</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty at age 10</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty at age 16</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Own analysis of data from the British Cohort Study.

**Notes:** The bold numbers are significantly different from 1 at the 5% level, controlling for educational attainment, other individual and family characteristics, and contemporaneous unemployment rates. The first column reports the results estimated using the logit model, and the other columns report the results estimated using the Cox proportional hazards models. For women, the last two columns report the results for non-employment rather than unemployment.

Measuring ‘autonomy’ as part of the Equality Measurement Framework

Tania Burchardt, Martin Evans, Holly Holder, Tiffany Tsang and Polly Vizard

‘My life has shaped itself without me making choices’

‘Sometimes I feel that I am being pushed around in life’

‘I feel like I am free to decide for myself how to live my life’

This project aims to develop and test a suite of survey questions on ‘autonomy’ that is theoretically grounded and empirically robust. ‘Autonomy’ is used by psychologists and philosophers to capture the extent to which an individual has been able to choose, reflect on, act upon and achieve a plan or purpose, and the extent to which these processes have been constrained or influenced by other people or circumstances.

The context for the project is the development of the Equality Measurement Framework (EMF) (see EHRC Triennial Review 2010). The EMF is based on the capability approach and characterises equality as having three aspects: equality of outcome, equality of treatment and equality of autonomy. Indicators of unequal outcomes and unequal treatment (including issues of discrimination and not being treated with dignity and respect) have been selected as part of previous projects.

The purpose of this project, then, is to provide the third piece of the jigsaw by developing a way to measure unequal autonomy.

Our conceptual scheme, based on an extensive literature review, identified three components of autonomy: (i) self-reflection, (ii) active or delegated decision-making, and (iii) having a wide range of high quality options (perceived and actual). There were three corresponding types of constraint on autonomy: (i) conditioned expectations, (ii) passivity and coercion, and (iii) structural constraints or a lack of advice and support.

We trawled existing surveys to identify potentially relevant question formulations and generated some of our own. These were then cognitively tested through 34 in-depth interviews, a process which resulted in significant revision of question wording, contents and ordering. A sub-set of the questions which ‘passed’ cognitive testing were then piloted as a module of the ONS Opinions Survey (a nationally representative survey, with a sample size for one month of 1071).

Initial analysis of the pilot survey produced many interesting results. For example, as one of our overall measures of autonomy, interviewees were invited to rank on a scale of 1 to 10 the degree of ‘choice and control’ they have over various aspects of their lives. The responses were strongly associated with social class, as shown in the figure below.

There are many other inequalities of autonomy evident in the pilot survey data which we hope to explore over the coming months. For now, we are able to conclude from our analysis that it is possible to identify those who are potentially lacking autonomy using a combination of survey questions about ‘choice and control’ overall, and in relation to specific areas of life. In addition, asking about different components of autonomy, and constraints on autonomy, enables a more nuanced picture to emerge.

We are very grateful to the Government Equalities Office, who funded this research, and to Sabina Alkire and Emma Samman at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative who provided invaluable advice and comments, especially in the early conceptual stages of the project. The full report is published by the Government Equalities Office at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/research/measuring-inequality/measuring-autonomy

This project is part of a wider suite of work the authors are currently completing for the Equality Measurement Framework, which is based on the capability approach to equality and includes measures of inequality of outcome, inequality of treatment and inequality of autonomy.

This report is freely available from the Government Equalities Office website. The authors are grateful to Tania Burchardt, Martin Evans, Holly Holder, Tiffany Tsang and Polly Vizard for their contributions to this project.
The National Equality Panel Report one year on

John Hills

In the Autumn of 2008 CASE was asked by the then Minister for Women and Equalities, Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, to convene and co-ordinate an independent panel to examine the relationships between economic outcomes (including educational qualifications, employment, hourly and weekly earnings, individual and household income, and wealth) and people’s characteristics and circumstances (gender, age, disability status, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, transgender, social class, housing tenure, nation or region, and neighbourhood deprivation).

The Panel was chaired by myself and its ten members included Ruth Lupton (also from CASE) and Stephen Jenkins (then at Essex, now in the LSE social policy department). Our report was published at the end of January 2010.

We identified sixteen “challenges for policy” raised by our findings. These looked in particular at the ways in which advantage and disadvantage tend to be reinforced at each stage of the life cycle. One year on, it is a good moment to see what has happened in each of these areas.

It is, to say the least, a mixed picture. The most positive areas are probably those concerned with each end of the life cycle. The new government has put great emphasis on what it now calls the ‘foundation years’ and services for children before primary school, especially for those from disadvantaged families. However, that has not stopped some Sure Start programmes being the victims of local authority spending cuts. There have been some improvements in Child Tax Credits and some families with small numbers of hours of work will gain in the long run from the proposed Universal Credit reforms, but the overall prospects for child poverty look gloomier as the cuts to Housing Benefit and linking of benefits in general to the Consumer Prices Index take effect.

At the other end of life, the Coalition is pressing ahead with previously planned reforms that link the basic state pension to earnings rather than prices – and may push this further in further reforms to the second state pension – and is introducing automatic enrolment of employees into employer pension schemes or the new low-cost National Employment Savings Trust. These will somewhat moderate the way in which labour market inequalities are amplified into huge differences in household resources available for retirement shown by the Panel’s analysis of new official data on wealth distribution.

But many of the other areas identified as crucial parts of the ways in which inequalities are amplified across the life cycle appear unaddressed by policy, and the impact of spending cuts looks likely to exacerbate some, for instance those resulting from inequalities between neighbourhoods. The Panel concluded by arguing that how public finances are rebalanced will be most important immediate influence on economic inequalities, and asking whether the costs of recovery would be borne by those who gained least before the crisis or by those in the strongest position to do so. Here the initial independent modelling of the impact of the combination of spending cuts and tax increases being implemented to eliminate the deficit is disturbing, although, of course, how things will work out in practice is yet to be seen.

The Deputy Prime Minister has stated that, “the over-riding priority for our social policy is improving social mobility’ (9 September 2010). Going further he has argued that, ‘Social mobility is what characterises a fair society, rather than a particular level of income equality. Inequalities become injustices when they are fixed; passed on, generation to generation’ (Nick Clegg, Guardian, 23 Nov 2010, emphasis added). This contrasts with the conclusion the National Equality Panel drew from our research, which is that it is hard to separate intergenerational and current inequalities:

“A fundamental aim of those people with differing political perspectives is to achieve ‘equality of opportunity’, but it is very hard to do so when there are such wide differences in the resources which people and their families have to help them develop their talents and fulfil their diverse potentials.”

The NEP report, summaries and background data are available at: http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/_new/publications/NEP.asp

A presentation looking at the issues discussed here in more detail and a podcast of the LSE event where it was presented is available to download at: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/newsAndMedia/videoAndAudio/channels/publicLecturesAndEvents/player.aspx?id=929
Phoenix Cities: Hotbeds of social, economic and environmental transformation

Anne Power

A defining characteristic of the core cities that later became weak market cities is the sheer scale of devastation wreaked by the explosion of industrial invention, unprecedented growth in production, destructive exploitation of natural assets and total transformation of social structures. Each of these four aspects of the breakthrough into modern economic, social and environmental conditions simultaneously underpinned unprecedented wealth creation and caused havoc with established patterns of development. As we look back into the history of industrial cities, we find majestic achievements built on the back of dire poverty, filth and degradation, reaching far into their still rural hinterland. They were all too soon to run out of the wealth-creating energy and labour they so readily fed on as they raced for growth.

LSE Housing and Communities in CASE tracked seven European ex-industrial cities closely for three years, leading to the publication of Phoenix Cities: The fall and rise of great industrial cities. The cities are: Belfast, Sheffield, Leipzig, Bremen, Torino, St. Etienne and Bilbao. The fascination of this study is that old industrial cities, wrecked by closures and loss of purpose, over a short generation, began to reinvent themselves. In city after city, new ideas were tried and new ways forward were found. Our perspective on the prospects for recovery of former industrial cities is driven both by lessons from the past and by the dual global financial and environmental crises they now face. Only by seeing these twin crises as linked will we understand the new environmental imperatives underpinning our future prosperity. Three interacting elements will allow these cities to recover: their economies, on which jobs and population retention depends; their social conditions, which require a level of stability and security that vanished with their failing industries; and their physical environments, which were deeply scarred by the growth in wealth but which nonetheless contain invaluable recoverable assets. We ignore these interactions at our peril, as the leadership in the US and China are now realising, and the United Nations (UN) first accepted at the environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1999.

The long-term prospects for the cities are tempered by caution about the frightening uncertainties, particularly around their economies, jobs, resource limits and climate change impacts. Nonetheless, through traumatic economic shocks, city leaders and innovators have pieced together new ways of doing things that have put weak market cities back on the map as asset-rich engines of a new and different kind of growth. Burgeoning cities around the globe can learn from their harsh and hard-won experience.

Phoenix Cities by Anne Power, Jörg Plöger and Astrid Winkler was published by Policy Press, 2010

The research is grounded in the lived experience of the cities, seen at close quarters in sharply contrasting settings, therefore each city’s own story offers unique insight into the lessons that could be drawn, based not only on statistical evidence but also on the fine-grained realities, often missed in higher level figures. Our US evidence is similarly grounded in visits to the actual cities and the research carried out in the cities by the Brookings Metropolitan team.

Phoenix Cities: The fall and rise of great industrial cities

Anne Power, Jörg Plöger and Astrid Winkler
Typologies of place and their use for policy purposes

Ruth Lupton

Understanding how socio-economic conditions and the performance of public sector organisations vary from one place to another is a familiar element of contemporary public policy and debate. Why are health and education outcomes, for example, so different from one place to another? To what extent is this due to the performance of public sector organisations? When and where does policy have to be tailored to suit specific local circumstances?

Dealing with these questions requires the capacity to identify groups of places that are similar to one another. Many tools and techniques exist for classifying or ‘typologising’ places, but it is not always clear which ones are the most appropriate to use, and what difference the choice may make. Early in 2010, Ruth Lupton, Alex Fenton and Rebecca Tunstall from CASE and Rich Harris from Bristol University carried out a project for the Department of Communities and Local Government to produce guidance for analysts and policy-makers on place typologies. We interviewed analysts and policy users in government departments to learn about their use of existing classifications, and also undertook two new pieces of empirical work to exemplify typology applications in relation to real policy issues identified by DCLG.

We found four main kinds of place typology in widespread use in government departments: univariate indices/rankings; multivariate indices/rankings; classifications, in which cluster techniques are used to identify classes of places with distinct combinations of characteristics; and nearest neighbour models, which identify for any given place the other places which most closely share its characteristics.

Nearest neighbour models had usually been developed as bespoke tools, and were most often used to aid comparison of the performance of institutions through a better understanding of their contexts. For example, the Department for Children, Schools and Families had developed a nearest neighbour model to examine children’s services’ outcomes and the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) has one for local authority financial benchmarking. We found that analysts in one department did not always know about tools developed by others, nor whether a model developed for one purpose would be transferable to another. Considerable time can be invested in the development of highly specified tailored models for different kinds of outcomes. Is this necessary?

In our first piece of empirical work, we compared the results obtained from different models in relation to two domains in the local authority performance framework: ‘strong communities’ and ‘local economies’. We first developed a bespoke nearest neighbour model based on theoretical considerations: selecting variables that we would expect to influence the outcomes measured. We then compared our model with the CIPFA and DCSF models and tested which model most accurately predicted variation in outcomes between local authorities and matched similarly performing districts. This showed only slight statistical gains from the bespoke model, suggesting perhaps that broad contextual factors influence outcomes across the spectrum of policy areas, rather than very specific contextual factors affecting very specific outcomes. Bespoke nearest neighbour models clearly have political value in being transparent, specific and up-to-date but they may not add much analytical value.

By contrast with nearest neighbour models, place classifications did not tend to be developed from scratch. Government users were more likely to use already-existing classifications – often commercial products such as MOSAIC, and ACORN. These were principally used to understand the spatial patterning of underlying social and economic issues, rather than for performance monitoring. Again there was a concern that classifications might be ‘too general’ and not refined enough to produce specific insights. In our second piece of work, we experimented with developing a classification not of all neighbourhoods but only of the 20% most work-deprived neighbourhoods, defined using the Employment Domain of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. We wanted to explore whether there were distinct groups of characteristics and dynamics that might lead to different interventions and expected outcomes. For example, in strong labour markets, employment deprivation can be caused by high living costs discouraging working in low-paid jobs, whereas in weak labour markets it may be caused by low labour demand. To develop the model, we first conducted multi-level regression modelling to identify which of over 100 variables at different spatial levels were most important in predicting different kinds of worklessness (e.g. Jobseeker’s Allowance claims, Incapacity Benefit claims). We then performed cluster analysis to produce both a 4-way and a 10-way classification, producing cluster names like “Stable neighbourhoods with older workers, steady employment” and “Neighbourhoods with private housing in weaker self contained labour markets”. We compared this with an existing classification (the ONS output area classification), and ‘road-tested’ it with policy users. Finally, we gave the classification a practical test by seeing if it was related to the kinds of health condition by which recipients of Incapacity Benefit are made unable to work (Figures 1 and 2). We found that musculoskeletal conditions are found in greatest number in types iii and iv – particularly associated with coalfield areas and manufacturing towns, whereas mental health conditions are prevalent in coastal towns (vii) and inner London (x). These findings not only tell us more about the particular dynamics of these areas but suggest the kinds of interventions that might be prioritised.

The overall conclusion from this exercise was that it helped policy colleagues to distinguish within the overall group of poor neighbourhoods those that were subject to different kinds of pressures both at the local and regional level, and that it was a more useful way of categorising places for welfare-to-work policy analysis than a generic classification. In other words, it was worth the effort!
Figure 1: Average number of Incapacity Benefit claimants with mental health conditions in different groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group label</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Social housing neighbourhoods with extreme multiple deprivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>Multiply deprived social housing neighbourhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>Dormitory, declining neighbourhoods in very weak economies; much ill-health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv</td>
<td>Stable neighbourhoods with older workers, steady employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>Neighbourhoods with private housing in weaker self-contained labour markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi</td>
<td>Neighbourhoods with young population in vulnerable employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii</td>
<td>High turnover, socially mixed neighbourhoods in self-contained labour markets; much hospitality work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viii</td>
<td>Mixed social housing neighbourhoods in buoyant cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix</td>
<td>Young, socially and ethnically mixed neighbourhoods in buoyant cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>Inner London(^1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) This name was used because the type was only found in Inner London, and values varied substantially from those found elsewhere. To indicate the difference between this category and the rest, we used a different kind of name.

Visiting fellow spotlight: Housing Benefit reform

Alex Fenton

Housing Benefit is the main means by which low-income tenants in Britain are helped to pay their rent. In June 2010, the new coalition government set out major changes to the way Housing Benefit would be calculated. The changes mean reductions in financial support to over one million low-income private tenants.

Alex Fenton, a CASE associate at the Centre for Housing and Planning Research at the University of Cambridge, has been undertaking research on the effects of the changes. Using government survey data, the study estimated the number of tenants who might find themselves in severe financial difficulty after the changes are implemented. It also investigated how reducing maximum payments might contribute to the spatial segregation of low-income households in London between 2011 and 2016.

Welfare support for housing costs has traditionally been separated from general benefits because the price of housing varies so greatly across the country. The current system of Housing Benefit (HB) dates back to the early 1980s, and assists tenants of both private and social landlords. It is means-tested and is claimed by low-income working households, pensioners, as well as people on unemployment and disability benefits. Around 1.5 million private tenants claim HB; this is around 35% of all private tenants in Britain. In recent years, the numbers claiming have risen, as the private rented sector has played an increasingly important role in housing low-income families. As the numbers have grown, so have the associated costs: the government spent £7.5bn on HB for private tenants in 2009/10.

Successive governments have sought to curtail expenditure, but the proposals of the incoming administration in June 2010 were considerably more drastic than those that had gone before. The measure with the greatest immediate impact is setting the maximum HB in each local area to the price of the cheapest 30% of rented properties there; claimants were previously entitled to up to the median (cheapest 50%) of local rents. Other proposals included absolute caps on HB in high rent areas, such as central London, abolishing rates for large families needing 5-bedroom accommodation, deducting 10% of benefits from the long-term unemployed, and, from 2013, removing the link between HB rates and actual market rents. The research, which was supported by Shelter, looked firstly at the effects of cuts in payments to current claimants. Data from the Survey of English Housing provided a sample of private tenants on HB with details about their eligibility and overall household finances. We carried out a simulation of the policy changes which worked out each household’s entitlement under the current and incoming regimes, and from this, their residual income.

Reflecting the fact that these are cuts to a means-tested benefit, the simulation showed that the changes will leave 84,000 more private tenant households in England below the most basic poverty line. These households included 54,000 dependent children. We then looked at how tenants might deal with the cuts in their support, by combining the simulation with findings from previous evaluation research. We estimated that 269,000 private tenants on HB would end up in severe financial difficulty, finding it very hard or impossible to keep up with the rent and other costs.

The research suggests that around half of these, or 136,000 households, will end up being evicted or moving involuntarily. Those most at risk include up to 21,000 elderly households and 72,000 families with children. The study also found that there may be considerable costs to public finance if some of these households seek the assistance they are entitled to. The central estimate of the additional costs of long-term temporary accommodation was £120m.

The study also looked at the longer-term implications of the measures for the future supply of private rented accommodation affordable to HB claimants. De-linking maximum HB from actual rents, and increasing it instead by CPI inflation is important here. Between 1997/98 and 2007/08, cumulative CPI inflation was less than 20%, whereas median market rents rose by 70%. If a similar trend applied in the future, it would mean the real buying power of HB would fall from the 30% of the local market at which it is to be set. Policies that set maximum housing payments relative to local prices are implicitly statements about where claimants should and should not live. London provides an interesting case study because of its large and mixed rental market, and the variance in prices between areas. We created a model that estimated the average and range of private rents for over 5,000 neighbourhoods in London. We then compared these to the maximum HB levels in each area to identify those which have a reasonable range of property affordable to tenants reliant on HB. The current system in 2010 was compared to the position in 2011, after the initial changes are introduced, and in 2016, after they have been in effect for five years.

Our main finding was that the proportion of London neighbourhoods affordable to low-income private tenants will fall from 75% to 36%. Almost all of the inner London boroughs north of the Thames are likely to become largely unaffordable (see map). The areas that will remain affordable are clustered in the more disadvantaged boroughs of outer London. Our findings suggest that the changes will mean a gradual concentration of low-income tenants into areas of outer London which already have high rates of multiple deprivation and unemployment.

Whilst the government decided not to take forward some of its initial proposals, such as the cuts in HB for the long-term unemployed, most are coming into effect from April 2011. Our research pointed to the need for careful evaluation and monitoring of the changes’ effects on existing tenants and on the supply of rental accommodation. It suggests that the housing options of low-income households may be constrained in coming years, whilst also underlining the difficult decisions policy-makers face in this area.

Fenton, A (2010). How will changes to Local Housing Allowance affect low-income tenants in private rented housing? Cambridge: CCHPR.

Both these working papers can be downloaded from: http://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/projects/detail.asp?ProjectID=169.
Getting CASE’s message out to vulnerable groups

Anne Power

In 2009 the UK government set an ambitious target of reducing our carbon output by 80 per cent by 2050, followed by the announcement of an ambitious programme to upgrade all our existing stock of 25 million homes by 2030, cutting at least 60% off our energy bills. In the current economic climate fuel poverty is a growing problem, particularly among families in deprived areas.

Many policies are already coming into play, but delivery is proving incredibly difficult. Therefore the Government is relying on local authorities, housing associations and community based organisations to deliver new energy saving programmes. Community energy saving dominates this agenda for many reasons:

- It means lots of new, easy access jobs for young people offering training, new skills and a boost, to local economies.
- It will put local authorities and housing associations at the forefront of the shift to more localised energy supply, use and saving.
- It involves communities directly, because of the imperative to tackle fuel poverty, to upgrade the existing stock and to help energy saving. The steep rise in energy prices has a major impact on low income communities, and on the whole population.
- A follow-through to Decent Homes is in the offing. This reinvestment programme will not involve large amounts of money per property, since the costs of upgrading are much lower than any new-build or regeneration scheme. Applied over the very large stock of rented housing and low income owner-occupied housing in deprived areas, it is a massive injection of money. It will create many jobs on the ground through small repairs and building firms, and through suppliers of materials and equipment to training and accreditation bodies.

LSE Housing and Communities, a research and consultancy group within CASE, with funding from the Higher Education Innovation Fund 4 ran a series of interactive workshops on energy saving and sustainability at the National Communities Resource Centre at Trafford Hall near Chester (www.traffordhall.com) to examine in depth the subject of energy efficiency in existing buildings and how we might remedy the negative impact of these homes on climate change, air pollution, overall energy costs and fuel poverty. This subject affects an extremely wide-range of actors – government, policy makers, housing providers and home owners, tenants and landlords. The main impact of these seminars was to trigger a whole government response across departments leading to high level consultation with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the Office for Climate Change (OCC), the Department For Energy and Climate Change, the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) in particular.

Trafford Hall is an ideal host for these events, with over 15 years experience, providing training and support to all those living and working in low-income areas throughout the United Kingdom to develop their skills, confidence and capacity to tackle problems and reverse poor conditions. It enables community groups to develop practical and positive steps within their local community, after they have been to Trafford Hall, and bridges the gap between the technical and theoretical policy proposals that are emerging from government proposals, and the application of these ideas on the ground, particularly in difficult areas. The NCRC are expert in hosting hands-on events of this kind to the audiences we target – community leaders, residents and frontline staff working in disadvantaged areas. They have invaluable networks in terms of being able to disseminate the knowledge we gain from the workshops, and are able to connect with sections of the community often considered hard to reach.

With further HEIF4 funding we are now running 3 additional workshops on cities and families at Trafford Hall. These events cover health inequalities in the built environment, community infrastructure reinvestment and the obstacles and opportunities faced in bringing up children in poor areas. Throughout our workshops we have an underlying theme of how policy and environmental conditions impact on people living and working in the poorest areas of the UK. We bring together ground level experts from low income areas, policy makers in public health, primary care, housing association, local authorities, and government to work out how neighbourhood approaches to area and health problems together can create healthier, more sustainable communities, involving communities directly in making places better.

The workshops are not about high cost transformation, unlike major regeneration schemes that run over 10-20 years. They focus much more on how we organise and manage our existing assets and resources, how we deploy effort at the front line and how we unleash community-oriented initiatives that can help disadvantaged communities. For sustainable places depend as much on people as on place, and healthy, green communities, are a shared responsibility. We all pay the price if we fail.
I nearly didn’t become a researcher at all. In fact, as a sixteen-year-old I nearly didn’t even stay at school. I was tempted to have a go at being a professional golfer, but in the end I decided I probably wouldn’t be good enough, and the prospect of becoming a club pro, mending clubs and working in the shop just wasn’t appealing enough. So I did ‘A’ levels instead!

The moment I became hooked on research was in my undergraduate thesis, drawing maps and checking archives to investigate the decline of the Liberal Party in South Lancashire 1918-1924. That doesn’t sound much like what I do now, but it was the start of my interest in tracking the spatial patterning of social phenomena over time. I also just loved the process of research: the gathering of the data, the making of patterns within it.

Still, it was a long and tortuous path to CASE from there. My first job after university was as a Geography/PE teacher – and cricket coach – in a private school. I loved this job, but I really wanted to do research so I started out as an analyst with the Croydon Crime Prevention Initiative. One of my main jobs was to map ‘journeys to crime’ for young people, using youth court data. This was the platform for a number of research roles over the next 10 years, – at the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge, in local government, and as an independent research consultant.

But what set me on the road to CASE itself was Anne Power’s pivotal book ‘Estates on the Edge’. In 1998 I had been working in a number of low-income neighbourhoods doing crime audits and helping local groups develop action plans. I was starting to realise the limitations of seeing ‘crime prevention’ in isolation from wider approaches to neighbourhood management and deeper economic and social problems. Anne’s work was truly inspirational. It made me understand the underlying causes of neighbourhood-level problems and the importance of painting this bigger picture. Just at this time Anne advertised for a job at CASE and I just thought “I’ve got to go there!” While I didn’t get this job, I was appointed a researcher in CASE shortly afterwards on the ESRC-funded project on neighbourhood dynamics: my ideal job. And after a stint at the Institute of Education, I’m back at CASE today.

What I still like most about research is finding answers to questions – the feeling of finally being able to see the wood for the trees. And drawing maps of course! But the realities of research mean that I can’t spend all of my time on this – it feels like a lot of time is spent on raising money and the endless process of getting things published, tidying up references, checking proofs and the like. And I wish there was more time for ‘scholarship’, getting beyond a single project and dwelling on the wider issues.

Outside work, I’ve gone back to golf, taking up the game again when I got too old to play cricket. There can be few better places to escape to than the driving range or the course itself – where mobile phones are banned, and the distractions of emails, deadlines and paperwork simply drift away...

Ruth Lupton was speaking to Ben Baumberg. Her further thoughts on the role of inequalities research can be found on the blog Inequalities, http://inequalitiesblog.wordpress.com
Looking forward to 2011

We have already made a good start to 2011

January
We hosted a seminar looking at ‘The Distributional Impacts of the 2010 Spending Review’ and published a CASE report on ‘Teenage Housing Tenure and Neighbourhoods and the Links with Adult Outcomes: Evidence from the 1970 Cohort Study’.

We welcomed Professor Stephen Jenkins as an associate of CASE as he joined the LSE Social Policy Department.

February
LSE Housing and Communities hosted an event at Trafford hall ‘Communities, Community Survival and Infrastructure’ and in CASE we hosted a seminar on ‘Housing and Planning Policy: Increasing Housing Supply?’ (A joint event with LSE London and the Greater London Authority), and published a CASE report ‘Place Typologies and their Policy Application’. In our WPAS seminar series we welcomed Lindsey MacMillan (University of Bristol) who presented her findings on ‘The intergenerational transmission of worklessness’.

We held a joint event at DCLG on ‘Neighbourhoods and Localism’ with an audience from across DCLG as well as Big Society leads in several other government departments. We drew together evidence from CASE’s work on community organising in the UK and abroad, tenant management organisations, and trends in the poorest neighbourhoods to help government colleagues think through the opportunities and challenges of the government’s localism agenda.

March
Another busy month! We held two seminars: ‘The low-pay, no-pay cycle: Understanding recurrent poverty’ (Tracy Sheldrick and Robert MacDonald) and Mike Brewer from the IFS talked about ‘Poverty Projections 2010-2013 and the longer term impact of Universal Credit’. We also held a joint event with LSE London and the Greater London Authority ‘How will the Coalition’s Social Policies affect London?’


In October we shall be launching a report on Cutting Carbon Costs covering research we conducted on the relevance of the German Energy Conservation Programme to the United Kingdom and United States in 2010 on behalf of the Brookings Institute.

We will be hosting a GINI workshop in November covering research under the theme of Social Impacts and Rising Inequalities.

In December Iain Duncan Smith – Secretary of State for Work and Pensions - will be giving a public lecture on Families and Poverty.

Our website provides more information on upcoming events http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/
Current research and research staff

Francesca Bastagli continued work on the design and effects of targeting and conditionality in public cash transfers, finalizing papers from her PhD thesis. Using several large scale household surveys for the UK she measured the inequality indicators for the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission with the team led by Tania Burchardt and Polly Vizard, leading to the report on ‘Developing the Equality Measurement Framework: Selecting the indicators’. Together with Kitty Stewart, she studied the employment and wage trajectories of low-skilled mothers using the UK’s longitudinal Families and Children Study. She is currently analysing changes in the composition and distribution of wealth in the UK with John Hills and Abigail McKnight. Francesca also continued to deliver lectures and training, including a five-day lecture series on social protection and policy evaluation at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Damascus in the context of Syria’s national social protection system reform.

Ben Baumberg’s work in 2010-11 has primarily been on his PhD subject of fitness-for-work, health, and the changing nature of paid work, which will be examined in September 2011. The research consists of three strands: qualitative research among people with health problems in several areas of London (to look at how people judge their fitness-for-work); and two pieces of quantitative research, one using the Whitehall II study and the other using an unusual approach to BHPS data. Ben has also continued his interests in alcohol/addictions policy, and in 2011-12 will be looking at (i) the value of the pleasure from drinking (with an MRC project); and (ii) the role of the ‘addictive industries’ in both increasing addiction and reducing harm (within an EU FP7 project).

In September 2011 he starts his role as a Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Kent.

Francesca Borgonovi resumed work at CASE after a period of leave at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). She completed work on a project examining the political returns to education in Europe using data from the first four rounds of the European Social Survey and another on the effect of education on alcohol use and abuse among young adults in Britain using British Cohort Study data. She also continued her work examining the relationship between social capital and wellbeing in England and the determinants of giving and volunteering in the United States. In June, Francesca took up an appointment at the Education Directorate at the OECD where her primary responsibility will be to write the Initial Report of the 2009 round of the PISA study. Francesca was nominated a Visiting Research Fellow at CASE and will remain an active member of the Centre by contributing to research examining the evolution of social inequalities in the health and well-being of children.

Tania Burchardt worked with Polly Vizard and others on a programme of research on equality, capability and human rights. This included a project to develop and test survey measures of autonomy (or choice and control) in various aspects of people’s lives, published in early 2011 by the Government Equalities Office and in Social Indicators Research. She also worked with others on a number of research proposals, including on the impact of the recession and spending cuts on welfare outcomes, and on measuring inequalities in receipt of care services using the new longitudinal Life Opportunities Survey run by Department for Work and Pensions.

Robert Cassen is continuing his research on education, using the LSYPE and associated data-sets to look at the destinations of pupils post-16. He is working with Prof Anna Vignoles and Dr Elena Meschi of the Institute of Education.

This project should be complete in the first half of 2011, after which Prof Cassen will be working on a new book on education.

Andrea Colantonio worked on the Weak Market Cities programme with Anne Power, looking specifically at Bilbao and Turin. He also led the Next Urban Economy project at LSE Cities. The project was conducted in cooperation with the Brookings Institution (USA) to investigate how the recent recession has affected the trajectory of economic and social prosperity of EU and US cities and their regions. The project examined key sectors and industries offering potential solutions to the economic, social and environmental challenges of today’s urban areas, with special focus on the role of the “green economy” and effective local government policy frameworks for economic recovery. The findings of the project were presented at the Global Metro Summit in Chicago in December 2010. Andrea published with Wiley-Blackwell the book entitled ‘Urban Regeneration and Social Sustainability. Best Practice from EU European Cities’ (the book was co-authored with Tim Dixon).

Frank Cowell and Abigail McKnight became the UK partners in the new FP7 network GINI (Growing Inequalities’ Impacts). They organised the Kickoff Conference at STICERD in March 2010. Frank continued collaboration with Luxembourg Wealth Study team using the database to provide comparisons with changes in wealth distribution in the UK as part of a project funded by the Nuffield foundation. He also continued research activity on attitudes towards inequality of...
opportunity and income mobility as part of an international collaboration funded by the Belgian Science Foundation.

Jack Cunliffe joined CASE as an MPhil/PhD part time student in October 2010 whilst simultaneously working for the Ministry of Justice as a statistician. His work focuses on the interaction between area and criminal behaviour. This is essentially a quantitative study using existing governmental and survey data and is highly dependent on the pragmatics of what can be achieved with a sound theoretical structure, paying particular attention to the methodological issues of area effect. The identification of a clear research strategy, appropriate data and a robust framework shall be developed over the coming year.

Daniel Edmiston has compiled a dataset that captures pupil, school and local area-level characteristics of all primary and secondary schools in England. He is using this dataset to explore the relationship and drivers of quality and performance in schools across England. Employing a methodology, developed by Tania Burchardt, Daniel undertook a study exploring the current levels of private and public welfare activity in social security, health, education, personal social services and housing from 1979 to 2008. He has also been investigating the trends in capital limits regulations from 1948 to 2011.

Martin Evans’ work in 2010 has focused on two main activities. Synthesizing the findings of the Child Poverty Pilots for the Child Poverty Unit and on the new research for the Nuffield Foundation on the mental health of lone parents in and out of employment. His work for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on a systematic review of the effects of benefit sanctions was published in December 2010 and was accompanied by a high profile policy seminar on the subject for Her Majesty’s Treasury. Martin’s work in developing countries continued with completion of the UNDP project on ‘single mothers’ in Malaysia, and further policy work on social protection for children in Timor Leste.

Much of Alex Fenton’s work this year has been assessing the implications of some of the affordable housing policies introduced by the new coalition government. A project for Shelter estimated the effects of cuts to Housing Benefit for low-income private tenants. It looked both at the short-term effects on existing claimants, such as increases in income poverty and housing insecurity, and, specifically for London, at the longer-term implications for spatial segregation and the exclusion of low-income tenants from inner London. This work was widely reported and used extensively by the Work & Pensions Select Committee in its report on the measures. He has also been working with Ruth Lupton and Becky Tunstall on a project exploring the use of spatial typologies in policy analysis. He developed a number of demonstration classifications, such as a cluster analysis of high-unemployment neighbourhoods derived from multi-level modelling of neighbourhood and regional predictors of local unemployment rates.

Ludovica Gambaro’s work in 2009-2010 has focused primarily on her PhD thesis, which looks at the working conditions and pay of childcare workers in England from 1994 to 2008. In the past year she has examined two sets of issues: childcare workers’ motivations and their effect on pay, and the financial returns to qualifications in the childcare sector. The results from the work on motivations call into question the often-made claim that low wages serve to attract the most motivated workers. Better-paid workers are more likely to show commitment to their job, and workers’ motivations are better understood when their alternative employment opportunities are also taken into account. The analysis of qualifications in childcare was carried out while Ludovica was a visiting fellow at the WZB (Berlin, Germany), and results show that childcare increasingly attracts better-qualified workers than do occupations with similar level of pay. However, returns to qualifications in childcare remain much lower than in other sectors, with higher qualifications associated with only slightly higher earnings.

Howard Glennerster completed a study of the history of attempts to introduce a wealth tax in the United Kingdom using material from the National Archives, the Kaldor papers and other sources. This will contribute to the Nuffield Foundation funded study of wealth distribution that CASE is conducting. He completed a project on the comparative history of health policy in the US and UK and the unlikely interactions between the two traditions that are to be found. He also completed several papers on the impact of the fiscal deficit on social policy.

Olga Gora continued into her second part-time year of the ESRC +3 PhD Studentship but with a new topic: “Pakistani Lone Mothers, Welfare to Work and the Labour Market”. The change was due to the dearth of available data on Social Security in Egypt which had been her original focus. She has been working on a literature review and on accessing relevant data sets. She is now searching for relevant organisations that will enable her to access Pakistani lone mothers for in-depth interviews around the relevance of Welfare to Work in their lives and their relationship with the labour market.

Ian Gough began his ESRC-funded research on Climate Change and Social Policy in October 2009. One early output was a co-authored paper ‘Decarbonising the welfare state’, which sketched out some major areas of conflict and overlap with traditional social policy. He presented on this at a side meeting at the COP 14 climate summit in Copenhagen, in a plenary at the European Social Policy Research Network conference in Budapest, and at the XVII World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg. His subsequent research concentrated on two questions, with the assistance of two temporary research
assistants: do UK climate mitigation programmes pose fiscal competition with the social programmes of the welfare state? What are the distributive consequences of carbon pricing? The latter entailed collaborative research with the New Economics Foundation, analysing the distribution of all embodied emissions in the UK using input-output data. He also continued writing and presenting on other areas of research: on the fiscal implications of the 2008 financial crisis; on the global futures of the welfare state; on welfare regimes in developing countries; and on state revenue structures in the developing world.

Aaron Grech was awarded his PhD on “Assessing the sustainability of pension reforms in Europe” in May 2010. In his dissertation, he developed a framework to evaluate the effects of reforms on the ability of pension systems to alleviate poverty and maintain living standards, while setting out how reforms could change future costs and relative entitlements for different generations. This framework differs from others as rather than focusing on generosity at the point of retirement, it looks at the value of all transfers during retirement. Moreover, rather than focusing on average earners with full careers, this framework examines the impact on individuals at different wage levels, taking account of actual labour market participation. Aaron is now a visiting fellow at CASE, continuing his research in comparative pension policy.

John Hills was chair of the National Equality Panel which reported in January 2010. He has also contributed to the forthcoming latest edition of The Students Companion to Social Policy, a chapter on the distribution of welfare. Along with other colleagues in CASE (including Frank Cowell, Howard Glennerster, Abigail McKnight, Eleni Karagiannaki and Francesca Bastagli) continued working on a project funded by The Nuffield Foundation on the drivers of the changing distribution of wealth in the UK. He has also been working on various aspects of social policy and its impacts across the lifecycle for ESRC. This has included work with Holly Holder on attitudes to taxation, spending and redistribution in different European countries, and with Dan Edmiston on changing boundaries between public and private sectors. John has also been involved in developing potential long-term research programmes on intergenerational justice, the impacts of changing social policy between 2007 and 2014 and poverty in Europe.

Rod Hick continued his work exploring the potential of Amartya Sen’s capability approach as a framework for conceptualising and measuring poverty and deprivation, in addition to furthering his empirical work examining the relationship between low income and multiple deprivation in the UK, drawing on data from the British Household Panel Survey between 1991-2007. He presented empirical findings from his PhD at the Social Policy Association conference in Lincoln in July 2010, and will be seeking to complete his PhD research during 2011.

Eleni Karagiannaki along with other colleagues in CASE (including John Hills, Frank Cowell, Howard Glennerster, Abigail McKnight and Francesca Bastagli) continued working on a project for The Nuffield Foundation on the drivers of the changing distribution of wealth in the UK. As part of this project Eleni examined trends in the annual inheritance flow over the period 1985-2004, the distribution of inheritance by recipients’ characteristics and the impact of inheritance on wealth inequality. She has also explored the various channels through which parents make inter-vivos transfers towards their children (including monetary transfers from parents to their children, parental investments in their children education and co-residence) and she examined the correlation between each type of transfer and various recipient characteristics. Also as part of the same project Eleni examined the impact of parental wealth on young adults’ outcomes - as measured by respondent’s outcomes by age 25 (such as educational attainment, labour force participation, earnings and homeownership status). Her work draws mainly on three data sources: the British Household Panel Survey, the Attitudes to Inheritance Survey and the 1995/96 General Household Survey.

Suyoung Kim’s research has been focused on the Korean welfare-to-work programme (Self-Sufficiency Programme), run by the state-community organisations partnership. In particular she has been looking into the power relationship between the state and community organisations. The research also has relevance to the international trend for welfare partnership and the introduction of workfare. The focus of her research up to date has been to examine how community organizations deal with the dilemma between their original role as grass-roots advocates for the poor and the newly imposed role as street level administrator of the punitive workfare programme. She is currently working as a commentator for the Korean Centre of Self-Sufficiency Programme. Also, having interests in street-level resistance of poor people, she is translating a book of James C. Scott, Domination and the Arts of Resistance.

Laura Lane has continued working within LSE Housing and Communities alongside Anne Power and Nicola Serle. Her work this year featured the launch in June 2010 of “Housing Futures: Our Homes and Communities, A report for the Federation of Master Builders”, jointly authored with Anne Power, on the major pressures driving the future of housing policy in the UK: supply and affordability of homes; environmental limits; social cohesion; and economic change. Laura is currently working on the Weak Market Cities project focusing on the cities of Sheffield and Belfast and their responses to the challenges of current economic, environmental and social pressures. Laura has also continued to work with Liz Richardson (University of Manchester and CASE Visiting Fellow) on an evaluation of the Lottery funded Playing 2 Learn Family Learning Breaks at Trafford Hall.

Ruth Lupton has continued to work both on housing and neighbourhood dynamics and on educational inequalities. With Rebecca Tunstall, Wendy Sigle-Rushton and colleagues at the Institute of Education, she produced Growing Up in Social Housing, an analysis of social housing and life chances using the four British Birth Cohort studies,
funded by the Tenant Services Authority, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Scottish Government. She and Rebecca Tunstall, with Andrew Jenkins and Dylan Kneale, are now doing some follow-up work for the Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority, looking specifically at the influence of neighbourhood. Ruth and Dylan Kneale have also been examining neighbourhood influences on teenage parenthood, using the BCS70. Other neighbourhood-related work includes a project for Communities and Local Government (CLG) looking at the uses and development of place typologies, with Alex Fenton and Rebecca Tunstall, completing the mixed communities evaluation for CLG, and starting a new project for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on ‘postcode discrimination’ in employment, with Rebecca Tunstall, Simon Watmough and Anne Green from Warwick University. Work on education has included a chapter for A More Equal Society, and several papers on the implications of school context, arising from an earlier ESRC project. Ruth was also a member of the National Equality Panel.

Sarah Mohaupt has been continuing her PhD research on the intergenerational links of children’s health and education outcomes in Indonesia. Her research investigates how a range of parental socio-economic resources (e.g. education, consumption, assets and height) influences children’s health outcomes (height-for-age) at different stages of their life-course (early childhood, school-age and young adulthood). Data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS), a rich panel data set consisting of four waves of data which spans over a period of 14 years, is used. A cohort of children who were less than five years old in the first wave of the IFLS is studied. The research investigates to what extent the prevalence, the severity and dynamics of stunting of children are stratified by parental socio-economic resources and how this relates to children’s cognitive and schooling outcomes. Sarah will present her work at the International Society For Child Indicators and the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) conferences. Sarah continues to organise the PhD student meetings within CASE. A recent meeting was on the writing-up stage of a PhD with Sarah Salway (Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the TLC) and Francesca Bastagli. The next event addresses how PhD students can prepare for academic and non-academic careers with Tracy Bussoli (LSE Career service), Kitty Stewart and Jason Streitlz (former policy analyst for Save the Children, now with the NHS).

Abigail McKnight began work on a major international 3-year research programme (GINI) which is examining the wider impact of rising inequality. What are the social, cultural and political impacts that increasing inequalities in income, wealth and education may have? For the answers, GINI combines interdisciplinary analysis that draws on economics, sociology, political science and health studies, with improved methodologies, uniform measurement, wide country coverage (29 countries), a clear policy dimension and broad dissemination. The project is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme and involves researchers across 26 countries. Abigail is the UK research partner and joint coordinator of the social impacts work package. She is working alongside Frank Cowell and Eleni Karagiannaki who will contribute a country report for the UK and a number of research papers mainly focusing on international comparisons in wealth inequality and trends over time, the demographics of wealth inequality and the intergenerational transmission of wealth. In March 2010 a 2-day inaugural conference was hosted by CASE at the LSE (http://www.gini-research.org/articles/past_meetings_2) which was opened by László Tunstall with Andrew Jenkins and Dylan Kneale. Abigail is the UK research partner and joint coordinator of the social impacts work package. She is working alongside Frank Cowell and Eleni Karagiannaki who will contribute a country report for the UK and a number of research papers mainly focusing on international comparisons in wealth inequality and trends over time, the demographics of wealth inequality and the intergenerational transmission of wealth. In March 2010 a 2-day inaugural conference was hosted by CASE at the LSE (http://www.gini-research.org/articles/past_meetings_2) which was opened by László Tunstall with Andrew Jenkins and Dylan Kneale. Abigail is the UK research partner and joint coordinator of the social impacts work package. She is working alongside Frank Cowell and Eleni Karagiannaki who will contribute a country report for the UK and a number of research papers mainly focusing on international comparisons in wealth inequality and trends over time, the demographics of wealth inequality and the intergenerational transmission of wealth. In March 2010 a 2-day inaugural conference was hosted by CASE at the LSE (http://www.gini-research.org/articles/past_meetings_2) which was opened by László Tunstall with Andrew Jenkins and Dylan Kneale.

Kok Hoe Ng has been studying pension reforms and the family in Singapore and Hong Kong as part of his PhD research. The dissertation is concerned with three sets of changes that may impact on retirement income security – demographic ageing, changes to family structure, and pension policy reform. His work in the past year has focused on analysing the income and living arrangements of the elderly population, using data from two rounds of the Hong Kong census and a national survey of seniors in Singapore conducted in the mid-1990s and mid-2000s. In the next phase of research, he will extend earlier work on the projected outcomes of recent reforms to the public pension systems, taking into consideration emerging family types and incorporating intergenerational transfers within the household.

Kënia Parsons continued her doctoral research on conditional cash transfers and rural poverty in Brazil. Her thesis focuses on the impacts of the Bolsa Família Programme in reaching the rural poor, who are generally in isolated areas, with less information and fewer services. Since this transfer is conditional on school attendance and health clinics checkups she is interested in analysing how the rural poor are coping with these requirements. This research will utilise a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate the targeting of the programme, the impacts on education, health and income, and the supply of services in rural areas. Kenia conducted a pilot study in Brazil in September 2009 financed by the Abbey/Grupo Santander Travel Research Fund. She was also a visiting scholar at the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), a global research and training facility based in Brasilia. IPC-IG is a partnership between the Bureau for Development Policy, Poverty Practice from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Institute of Applied Economic Research,
Secretariat of Strategic Affairs from the Government of Brazil.

David Piachaud spent time in India and China studying the growth in social spending. He prepared a paper on forms of social protection and their potential contribution to economic growth. He is engaged on a comparison of New Labour and Coalition policies towards child poverty in Britain.

Anne Power coordinates the Weak Market Cities programme, which will run until January 2012. Our three main research questions are: What is the impact of the financial crisis, recession and current economic troubles on weak market cities? What is driving ‘green’ innovations and ‘green new deal’ programmes in former industrial cities? How are social programmes being sustained following public spending cuts? We aim to produce an international handbook of lessons from struggling and recovering cities in Europe and the USA by early 2012. We continue to host our annual city reformers meetings with leaders from across Europe. The book, Phoenix Cities: the fall and rise of great industrial cities, was published in March 2010 (co-authored by Jörg Plöger and Astrid Winkler). Family Futures, which provides an overview of the CASE families study, will be published in July 2011.

LSE Housing and Communities has continued its energy-saving work. Anne has produced a report on the German energy saving programme in buildings to be published by Brookings (USA), Cutting Carbon Costs (Anne Power and Monika Zulauf). LSE Housing and Communities is currently undertaking research on the Edward Woods Estate, Hammersmith, on the social impact of energy saving and renewable ‘green’ technology measures in a low income community. Laura Lane is the lead researcher. We are running a series of workshops, organized by Nicola Serle, on ‘Area Inequality and Health’, ‘Community Survival and Community Infrastructure’, ‘Family Futures’, ‘The Big Society’ and ‘Our Housing Futures’.

Ben Richards joined CASE as a MPhil/PhD student in October 2009. His research will examine the relationships between social identity and social cohesion in Britain. In particular, he will investigate the hypothesis that the creation of ‘thin’ collective identities spanning ethnic and cultural groups can help to produce a variety of positive social outcomes, including increased social cohesion. His research will consist of two strands: a qualitative study looking in detail at how people from minority ethnic groups perceive their ethnic and national identity in Britain; and an analysis of data from the Citizenship Survey to investigate whether the strength of ethnic or national identity is associated with levels of social cohesion on several different dimensions.

Liz Richardson was nominated as a CASE Visiting Fellow in February 2010. She is currently working with Laura Lane and Anne Power to explore the impacts on low income and vulnerable households of going on family learning weekends. The ‘Playing to Learn’ programme is being run by Trafford Hall, home of the National Communities Resource Centre. Liz is also collaborating with Ruth Lupton to produce fresh insights on neighbourhood governance, using comparative case study material from across Europe.

Wendy Sigle-Rushton continued her work using the British birth cohort studies to examine the links between childhood experiences and adult outcomes. She contributed to a report examining the association between social housing in childhood and adult outcomes. As a member of the non-marital childbearing network coordinated at the Max Planck Demographic Research Institute, she worked on three comparative papers on cohabitation and fertility. She has also co-authored a paper examining the effects of recent family policy innovations in Sweden.

Kitty Stewart completed work with Francesca Bastagli on a Nuffield Foundation funded project on the employment and wage trajectories of mothers returning to low skilled work after birth. With Jane Waldfoelg, Ludovica Gambaro and colleagues at the Daycare Trust she is beginning a new project (also funded by the Nuffield Foundation) which will first examine the quality and cost of childcare accessed by low income families in the recession on children’s outcomes.
Tiffany Tsang worked with Polly Vizard, Holly Holder and others on the Programme for Research on Equality, Capability and Human Rights (PRECHR). Her time is split between continuing work on the Children’s Measurement Framework (CMF) and the Human Rights Measurement Framework (HRMF). Both projects are commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The CMF takes forward the development of the Equality Measurement Framework for children and young people. Work on the HRMF included conducting consultations with non-profit organisations and government departments on preliminary drafts of the framework, as well as research work to populate the framework with indicators, measurements and data.

Becky Tunstall continued the collaboration with Ruth Lupton and colleagues at the Centre for Longitudinal Studies using the British cohort studies to investigate the relationship between childhood housing and adult life chances. This work has been extended with a further grant of £50,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority to investigate what neighbourhoods are best for children and the extent to which apparent ‘tenure effects’ are really explained by neighbourhood conditions. She investigated the impact of past and recent recessions on unemployment and other conditions in British neighbourhoods for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, with Alex Fenton of the University of Cambridge. She was also awarded a grant of £99,000 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for an 18-month project working with Anne Green of the University of Warwick, Ruth Lupton and Simon Watmough to investigate the existence of discrimination amongst job applicants on grounds of place of residence.

Catalina Turcu completed her doctoral research at the end of March 2010. The research focused on the impact of housing refurbishment-led regeneration on community sustainability by looking at three Housing Market Renewal areas in England. She has also continued teaching in the Department of Social Policy for the course on Poverty, Social Exclusion and Social Change.

Yuka Uzuki has continued her PhD research into intergenerational persistence of poverty in the UK. Her work this year has been focused on the investigation of relationships between childhood poverty and youth unemployment for the 1970 and 1980s birth cohorts, by using work history data from the British Cohort Study and British Household Panel Survey. The use of the latter data has also enabled her to examine the relative strength of the relationships of parental worklessness and low income to youth unemployment. The findings have implications to the relative effectiveness of further income redistribution and policy interventions into education and parental employment, in order to improve the life chances of children growing up in poverty.

Stephen Wang finalised the write-up of his PhD thesis on the policy and practice of urban housing renewal in Shanghai since 1990 – a period corresponding to profound market reforms and political decentralisation. The work, now successfully defended in the viva, provides an up to date review of the evolving policies, practices and impacts of housing renewal in this fast-changing Chinese city. It also advances our understanding of the ‘Chinese’ urban growth coalition. Stephen is currently working on publishing the key findings of this research in journal articles, and as a book.

Simon Watmough continued working with Rebecca Tunstall, Ruth Lupton and Anne Green from the University of Warwick on a project for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation investigating employers’ recruitment practices for certain occupations not requiring higher level qualifications in a number of UK labour markets. The research explores potential areas of discrimination on grounds of place of residence – postcode discrimination – in employers’ recruitment and selection practices. This work draws on a distinctive and innovative fieldwork methodology, with findings from the study due to be published towards the end of 2011.

Polly Vizard continued her research on equality, capability and human rights. ESRC funded research on public attitudes on human rights using a general population survey was completed. A research project for EHRC on the development of a Children’s Measurement Framework was taken forward, and a further project on the development of a Human Rights Measurement Framework was also ongoing (with LSE Centre for the Study on Human Rights, LSE Human Rights Futures – who are unpaid partners on the project – and the British Institute of Human Rights). A paper was completed for the 2020 Public Services Commission on the application of capability approach and human rights as regulatory frameworks for public services, and editorial work was undertaken for a Special Issue of the Journal of Human Development and Capabilities on the Capability Approach and Human Rights.
Books and reports

Buchhardt, T. Evans, M and Holder, H (2010) Measuring Inequality: autonomy, or the degree of empowerment in decisions about one’s own life. Project Report for GEO.


Zaidi, A (2010) Poverty among Older People and Pensions Policy in the EU, Farnham (UK): Ashgate. (*)

Forthcoming


Book Chapters


Li, B and Peng, H (2010) “State funded reemployment training and participation of informal employment in Tianjin”, in F Wu and C Webster (eds.) Marginalization in Urban China: Comparative Perspectives, Palgrave Macmillan. (*)


Forthcoming


Lupton, R (forthcoming) ‘Local context, social relations and school organisation’ in The International Handbook on School and Teacher Development. Taylor and Francis.


Refereed journal articles


Forthcoming


Other journal articles


CASE publications, seminars and events

CASE Papers

**CASE/140**  
Aaron Grech  
Assessing the sustainability of pension reforms in Europe

**CASE/141**  
Ruth Lupton and Dylan Kneale  
Are there neighbourhood effects on teenage parenthood in the UK and does it matter for policy?: A review of theory and evidence.

**CASE/142**  
Polly Vizard  
Developing and agreeing a capability list in the British context: What can be learnt from social survey data on ‘rights’?

Other CASE publications

**CASEreport 60**  
John Hills (chair) and others  
An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK - Report of the National Equality Panel

**CASEreport 61**  
Polly Vizard  
What do the public think about economic and social rights? Research Report to Inform the Debate about a Bill of Rights and a Written Constitution

**CASEreport 62**  
CASE Annual Report 2009

**CASEreport 63**  
Laura Lane and Anne Power  
Housing Futures: our homes and communities. A report for the Federation of Master Builders

**CASEreport 64**  
Andrew Jenkins, Dylan Kneale, Ruth Lupton, Rebecca Tunstall  
Teenage Housing Tenure and Neighbourhoods and the Links with Adult Outcomes: Evidence from the 1970 Cohort Study

**CASEreport 65**  
Alex Fenton, Rich Harris, Ruth Lupton, Rebecca Tunstall  
Place Typologies and their Policy Applications

**CASEbrief 28**  
Polly Vizard  
What do the public think about economic and social rights?

CASE events

**Social Exclusion Seminars**

12th May  
The state of happiness: Can public policy shape people’s well-being and resilience?  
Geoff Mulgan, The Young Foundation

26th May  
Social exclusion among families with children: Evidence from the Families and Children Study  
Paul Oroyemi, Social Exclusion Task Force, Cabinet Office, joint with Tim Crosier, Social Exclusion Task Force and Matt Barnes, National Centre for Social Research

27th October  
Where to go? Restricting low income households’ access to the private rented sector  
Steve Wilcox, University of York

17th November  
Injustice  
Danny Dorling, The University of Sheffield

24th November  
The Big Society: What Does it Mean for Neighbourhood Governance?  
Liz Richardson, University of Manchester

8th December  
Climate mitigation programmes: some implications for social policies  
Ian Gough, London School of Economics
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>3rd March</td>
<td>Mothers’ employment in a child’s first year and subsequent child development: Analysis of cohort study evidence from US and GB</td>
<td>Heather Joshi, Institute of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th March</td>
<td>The impact of the Pathways to Work programme on incapacity benefits customers: An analysis of administrative and survey data</td>
<td>Helen Bewley, National Institute of Economic and Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th May</td>
<td>Making Markets in Employment Services: Lessons from other countries</td>
<td>Dan Finn, University of Portsmouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th October</td>
<td>Employing the capability approach to compare pensioners’ well-being across UK countries</td>
<td>Lucas Pedace, HM Treasury</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd November</td>
<td>Assessing the sustainability of pension reforms in Europe</td>
<td>Aaron Grech, Department for Work and Pensions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th November</td>
<td>Employers’ role in the low pay-no pay cycle</td>
<td>Hilary Metcalf, National Institute of Economic and Social Research</td>
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<td>1st December</td>
<td>Working neighbourhoods? The role and meaning of work in six areas of high worklessness</td>
<td>Richard Crisp, Sheffield Hallam University</td>
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**Special events**

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<tr>
<td>19th-20th March</td>
<td>GINI inaugural Conference ‘Changing Inequalities: How Do They Affect Societies?’</td>
<td>LSE Research Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd March</td>
<td>Special Seminar for civil servants and others, briefing on Jane Waldfogel’s book, ‘Britain’s War on Poverty’</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th May</td>
<td>LSE Housing &amp; Communities Community Energy Saving Workshop</td>
<td>National Communities Resource Centre, Trafford Hall, Chester</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd June</td>
<td>CASE Special Event: UK launch of Jane Waldfogel’s new book, ‘Britain’s War on Poverty’</td>
<td>Jane Waldfogel, Columbia University</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th-5th October</td>
<td>Weak Market Cities: International Workshop Leipzig</td>
<td>New City Hall Leipzig</td>
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<td>24th November</td>
<td>LSE Housing and Communities, Poor Areas poor Health: Health inequalities and the built environment</td>
<td>National Communities Resource Centre, Trafford Hall, Chester</td>
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How to find us

The information in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats, on request. Please contact: CASE, +44 (0)20 7955 6679

The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances. Freedom of thought and expression is essential to the pursuit, advancement and dissemination of knowledge. LSE seeks to ensure that intellectual freedom and freedom of expression within the law is secured for all our members and those we invite to the School.

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