

# Education Policy, Equity and Social Mobility

Thursday 23rd January 2014, The London School of Economics, Room OLD 3.21

 **#EduSocMob**

Welcome to the seminar. This event will present findings from three important research studies by leading education economists and sociologists, followed by comments from policy-makers and practitioners and a debate from the floor.

All major political parties are now committed to reducing educational inequalities. What can they really hope to achieve, and how? To what extent will closing educational attainment gaps in schools contribute to greater social mobility in the future?

## Programme

- 2.00 Chair's introduction from Ruth Lupton
- 2.10 Geoff Whitty and Jake Anders (Institute of Education)  
**(How) did New Labour narrow the achievement and participation gap?**
- 2.35 Claire Crawford (University of Warwick and Institute for Fiscal Studies)  
**Socio-economic gaps in HE participation**
- 3.00 Jo Blanden (University of Surrey) and Lindsey Macmillan (Institute of Education)  
**Education and Intergenerational Mobility: Help or Hindrance?**
- 3.30 Coffee Break
- 3.50 Contributions from Respondents
  - Tessa Stone The Brightside Trust
  - Sir Alan Steer Retired secondary head and government adviser 2004-10
  - Graeme Cooke IPPR
- 4.10 Questions from floor, and replies from panel of speakers and respondents
- 4.45 Any last words from speakers and respondents
- 4.55 Chair's closing remarks

**We will be making an audio recording of the full event, including contributions from the audience.** If you wish your contribution to be edited please contact [c.j.conner@lse.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.conner@lse.ac.uk)

There is a four page summary (by David Utting) and all papers, presentations and the audio recording will be available at:

[http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/\\_new/research/Social\\_Policy\\_in\\_a\\_Cold\\_Climate/Social\\_mobility/education.asp](http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/_new/research/Social_Policy_in_a_Cold_Climate/Social_mobility/education.asp)

## Speaker biographies

**Jake Anders** is currently a PhD student in the Department of Quantitative Social Science at the Institute of Education, University of London. Before that, he completed his undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at New College, University of Oxford. His research interests include evaluating the effect of policy on

educational inequality, concentrating particularly in his doctoral work on fair access to Higher Education. He has previously worked as a Committee Specialist for the influential House of Commons Education Select Committee.

**Jo Blanden** is a senior lecturer in economics at the University of Surrey. She is a Visiting Fellow at LSE where she is working with CEP as part of the wellbeing group and CASE on the Social Policy in a Cold Climate project. Jo's research interests lie broadly in the fields of labour, family economics and intergenerational income mobility. Her current projects continue to explore the topic of social mobility in the UK (with Lindsey Macmillan) and also explore the extent to which wellbeing is transmitted intergenerationally (with the Wellbeing research group at CEP). She has a research grant to look at the impact of nursery attendance on children's outcomes (with Sandra McNally and Kirstine Hansen).

**Graeme Cooke's** areas of expertise include Centre-left political thinking and ideas, shifts in political sociology, welfare reform, labour market, poverty and family policy. Before re-joining IPPR in October 2010, Graeme was Head of the Open Left project at Demos and previously worked as Expert Adviser to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions between 2008 and 2009. Prior to that he was a Research Fellow at IPPR and has worked for the Local Government Association and 4Children. He also worked as a policy adviser to David Miliband during the Labour leadership campaign. Graeme has debated policy and politics on BBC Breakfast, GMTV, Sky News, Channel 4 News, BBC News 24, Working Lunch and the Westminster Hour. He has published articles in the *Guardian*, *Progress* magazine and the *Fabian Review*, and blogged for the *New Statesman*, Left Foot Forward and Labour List.

**Claire Crawford** is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick and a Research Fellow of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. She was previously Programme Director of the Skills sector at IFS. Her research interests focus on the determinants of educational attainment and HE participation, including the roles of socio-economic status, expectations and aspirations, month of birth and parents' marital status. She is particularly interested in how education policy can be used to improve the outcomes of children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and has played a leading role in the evaluations of a number of education programmes aiming to do just that, including on behalf of the Department for Education and the Education Endowment Foundation. She is also managing editor of Fiscal Studies.

**Ruth Lupton** joined Manchester University from LSE in 2013 as a Professor of Education. She continues to be associated with CASE and is leading the Social Policy in a Cold Climate Research Programme. Ruth's research is concerned with educational inequalities, poverty and place. Recent publications include analyses of Labour's record on education and on neighbourhood renewal, and a literature review for Ofsted on the effects of aspects of school organisation on raising the achievement of children in poverty.

**Lindsey Macmillan** is a Lecturer in Economics in the Department of Quantitative Social Science, Institute of Education, University of London. Her research interests include intergenerational worklessness, intergenerational income mobility, educational inequality and youth unemployment. Alongside her academic publications, Lindsey works closely with government and third sector organisations including the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. She is currently working on a number of projects including the measurement of intergenerational income mobility, international comparisons of intergenerational mobility, recent trends in educational inequality, educational trajectories by family background and examining the recent improvement in London schools.

**Sir Alan Steer** was head of a large secondary comprehensive school for 23 years. He was a government adviser 2004-10 and was responsible for a series of reports, mainly concerned with behaviour issues. He has been a pro director at the Institute of Education and is currently a non-executive board member of Ofsted.

**Dr Tessa Stone** is the Chief Executive of Brightside, the education charity which uses online technology to connect, inform and inspire more young people to achieve their potential through education. Brightside's online mentoring service connects disadvantaged young people with volunteer mentors from universities or professional backgrounds who can support them into further and higher education and employment. Tessa joined Brightside in 2009 after 6 years as Director of the Sutton Trust. Before working in the Third Sector she was a historian and an Admissions Tutor at the University of Cambridge.

**Geoff Whitty** is a former Director of the Institute of Education, University of London and currently a research professor at Bath Spa University. He has published extensively in the sociology of education and education policy studies and has led evaluations of major education reforms. He is a member of the Board of Ofsted.

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