

Injustice

A year on.

1. The five original arguments of the book (the views of many of those in power).
2. What has occurred in each area in the 12 months since final proofs checked.
3. What appear likely to occur in the near future in Britain if left unchecked.

First a note on what inspired the book – which was changed greatly due to reading a draft of Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson’s “Spirit Level” (2009)

Danny Dorling, University of Sheffield

Given at the London School of Economics, 17th November, 2010



Elitism is efficient

**New social evil 1:
“Just a few
children are able
enough to be
fully educated;
the rest must be
led”.**

What 18-21 year-olds are most likely to be doing

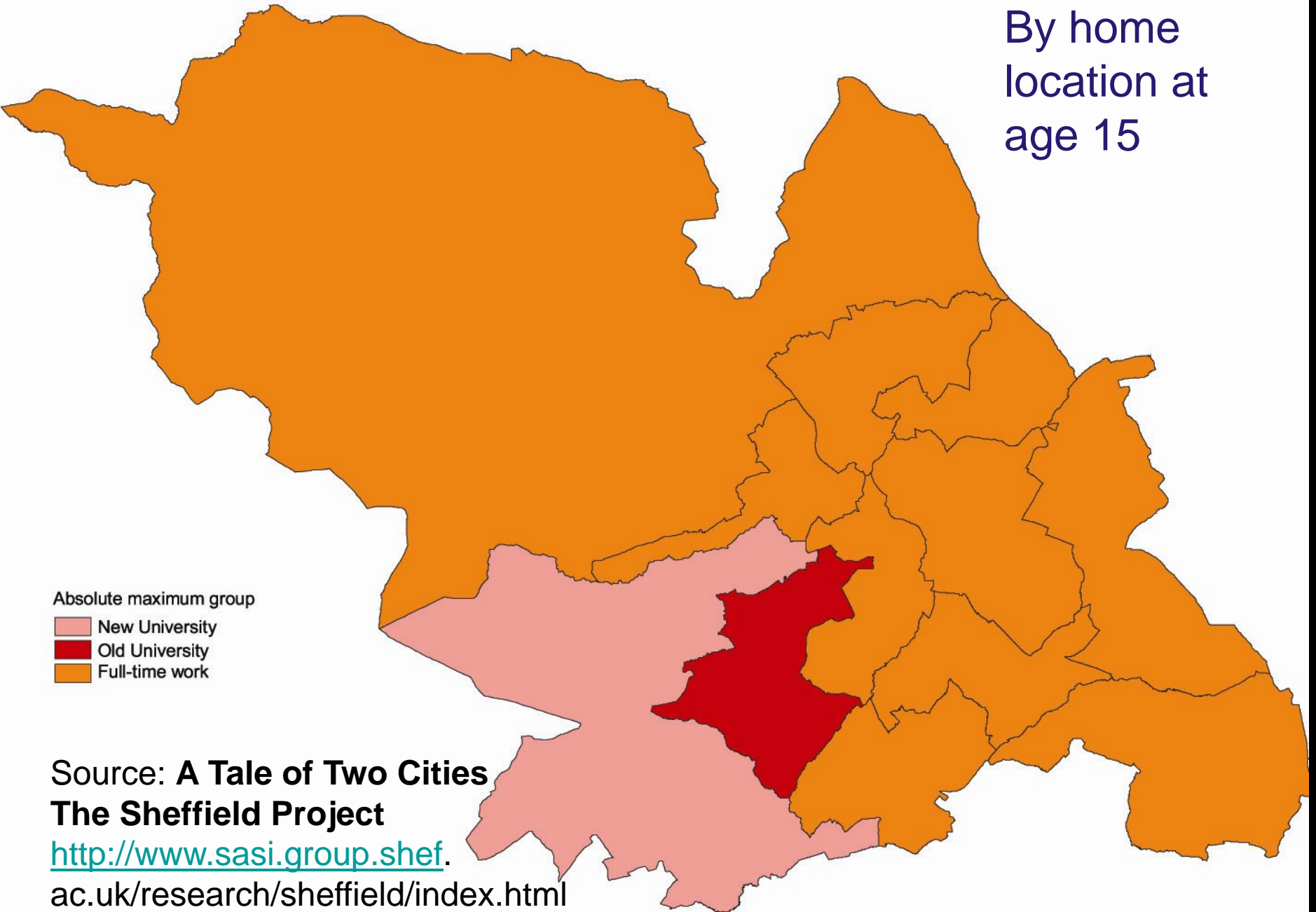
By home location at age 15

Absolute maximum group

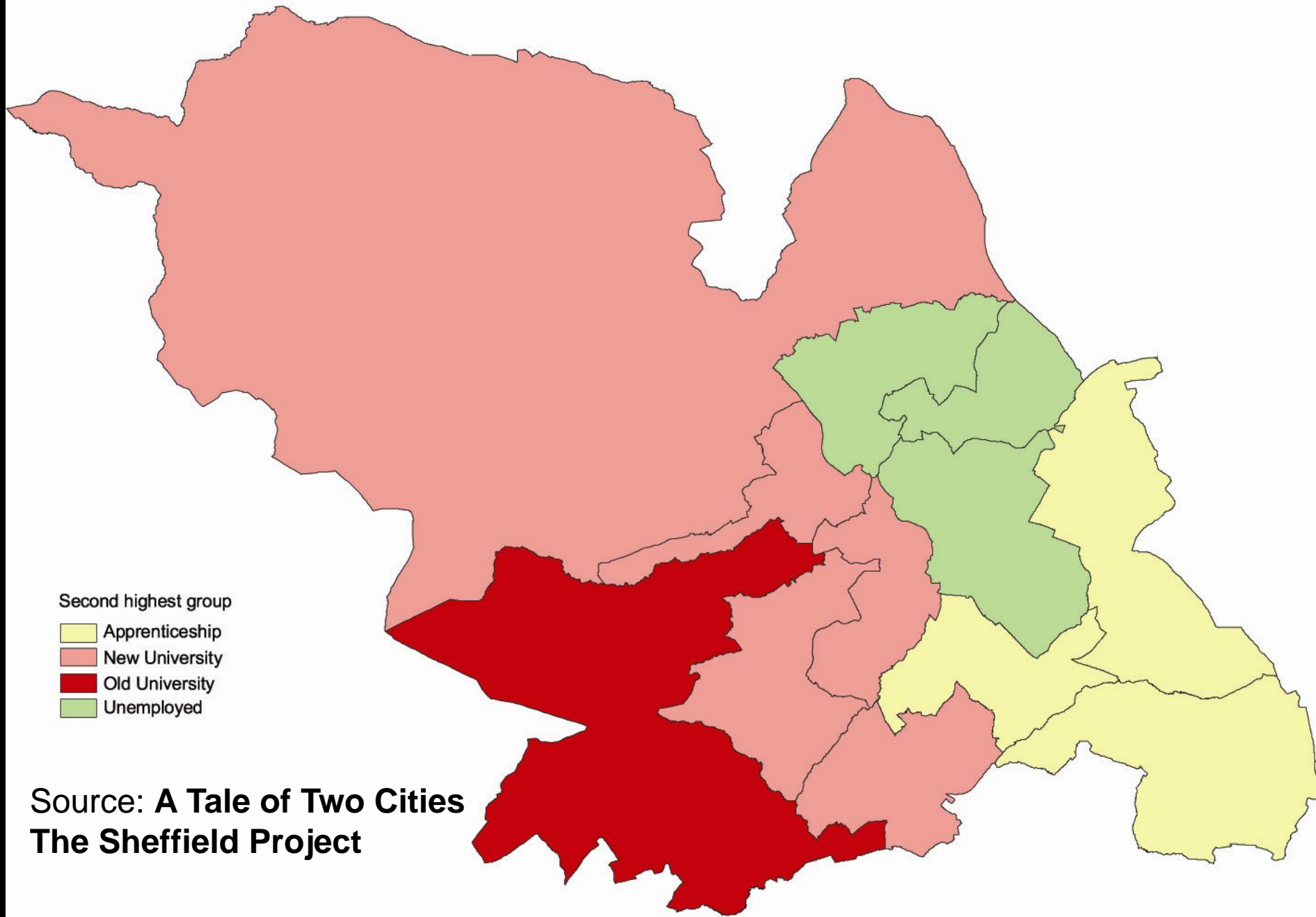
-  New University
-  Old University
-  Full-time work

Source: **A Tale of Two Cities**
The Sheffield Project

<http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/research/sheffield/index.html>



What 18-21 year-olds are second-most likely to be doing



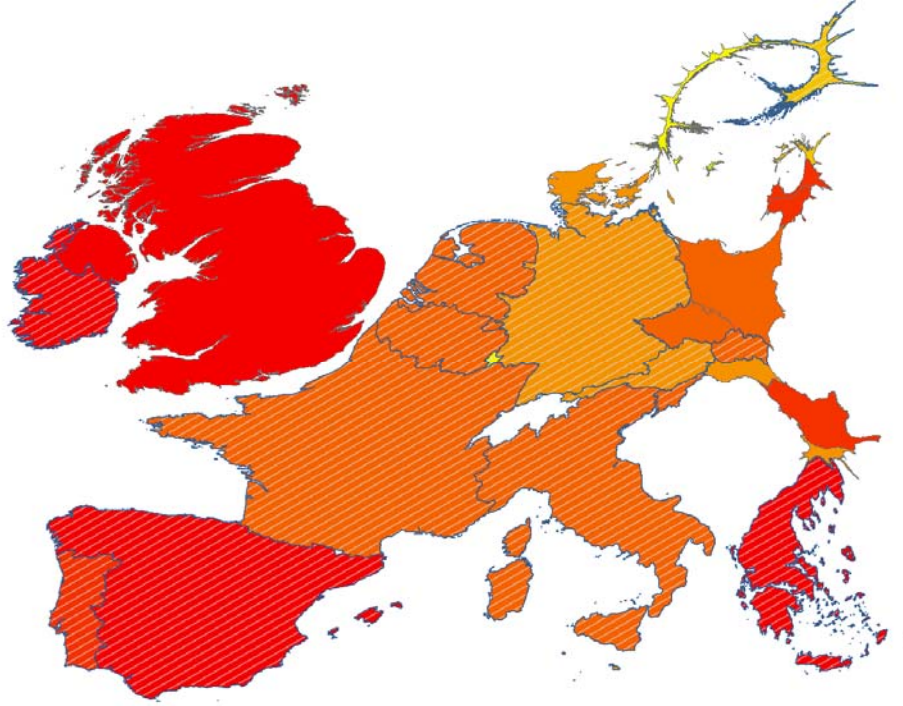
Source: **A Tale of Two Cities**
The Sheffield Project



Exclusion is necessary

**New social evil 2:
“The poor will
always be with
us, no matter
how rich we are;
we need to teach
them to be better
poor parents”.**

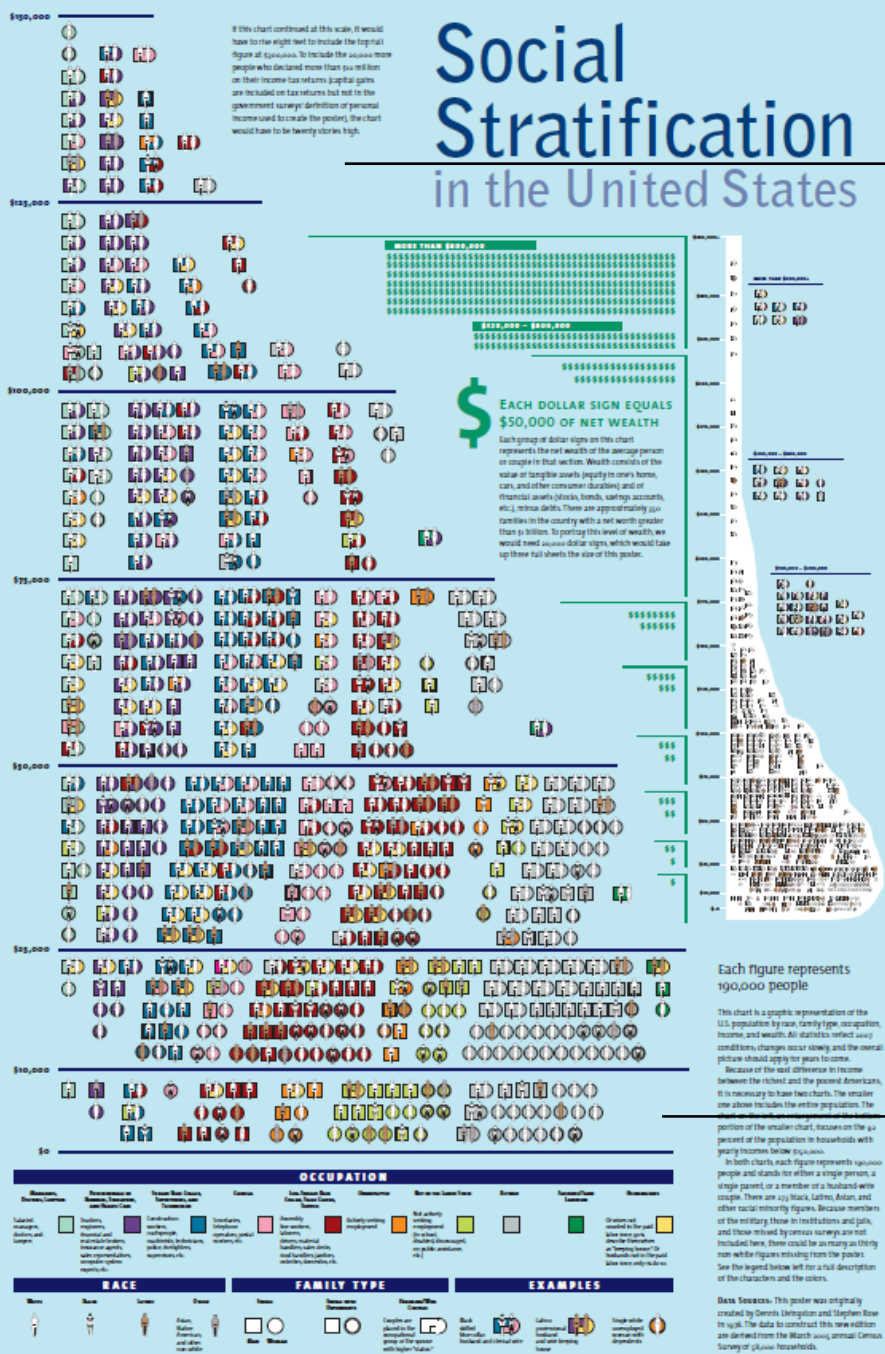
Graph: Personal short term debt (credit card) as % of assets (OECD)
 Map: Government net borrowing/lending deficit - national debt (EU)



NATIONAL DEBT

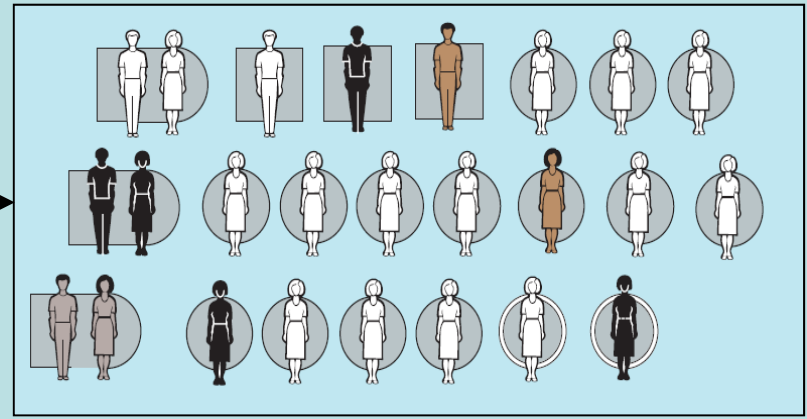
Source 2008/9
 OECD and Eurostat

Social Stratification in the United States



If this chart continued at this scale, it would have to rise eight feet to include the top full figure at \$300,000. To include the 20,000 more people who declared more than \$10 million on their income tax returns (capital gains are included on tax returns but not in the government surveys' definition of personal income used to create the poster), the chart would have to be twenty stories high.

A poster drawn by Stephen Rose using 2005 income and wealth data. Inset below is of poorest pensioners

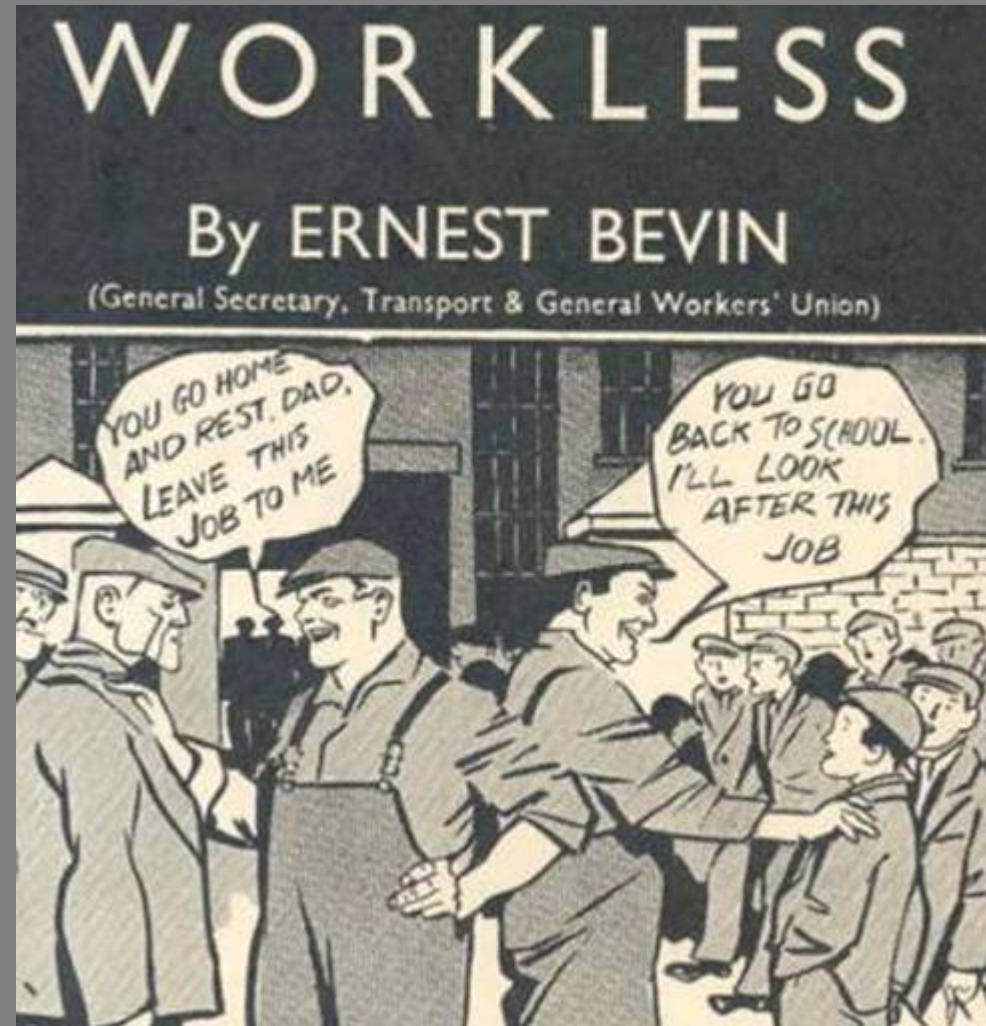
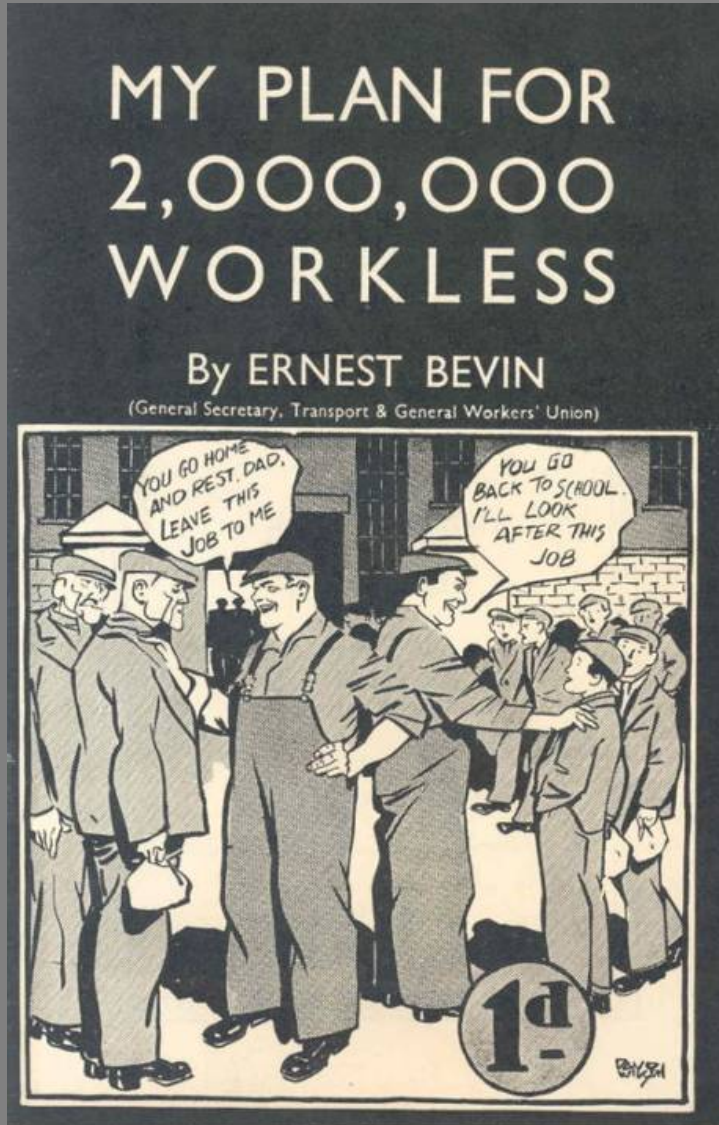


Prejudice is natural



New social evil 3:
“Other people are naturally, perhaps genetically inferior to those who have done best; many young people are not worth a wage (while a few others are worth millions)”.

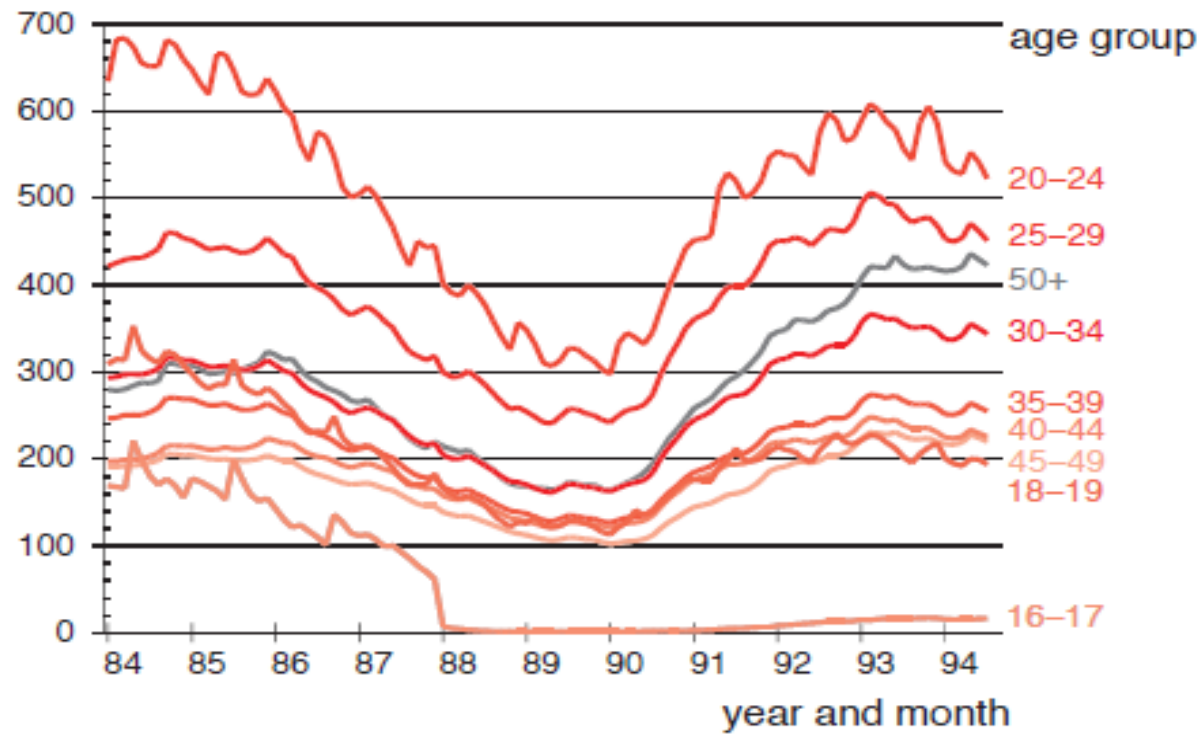
We used to have different ideas



The last time a million people aged under 25 were unemployed was 1984

3.26: Numbers of People Registered as Unemployed by Age in Britain 1984–1994

'000s of people registered in each age group



Source:

New Social Atlas

http://www.sasi.groupp.shef.ac.uk/publications/new_social_atlas/chapter3.pdf

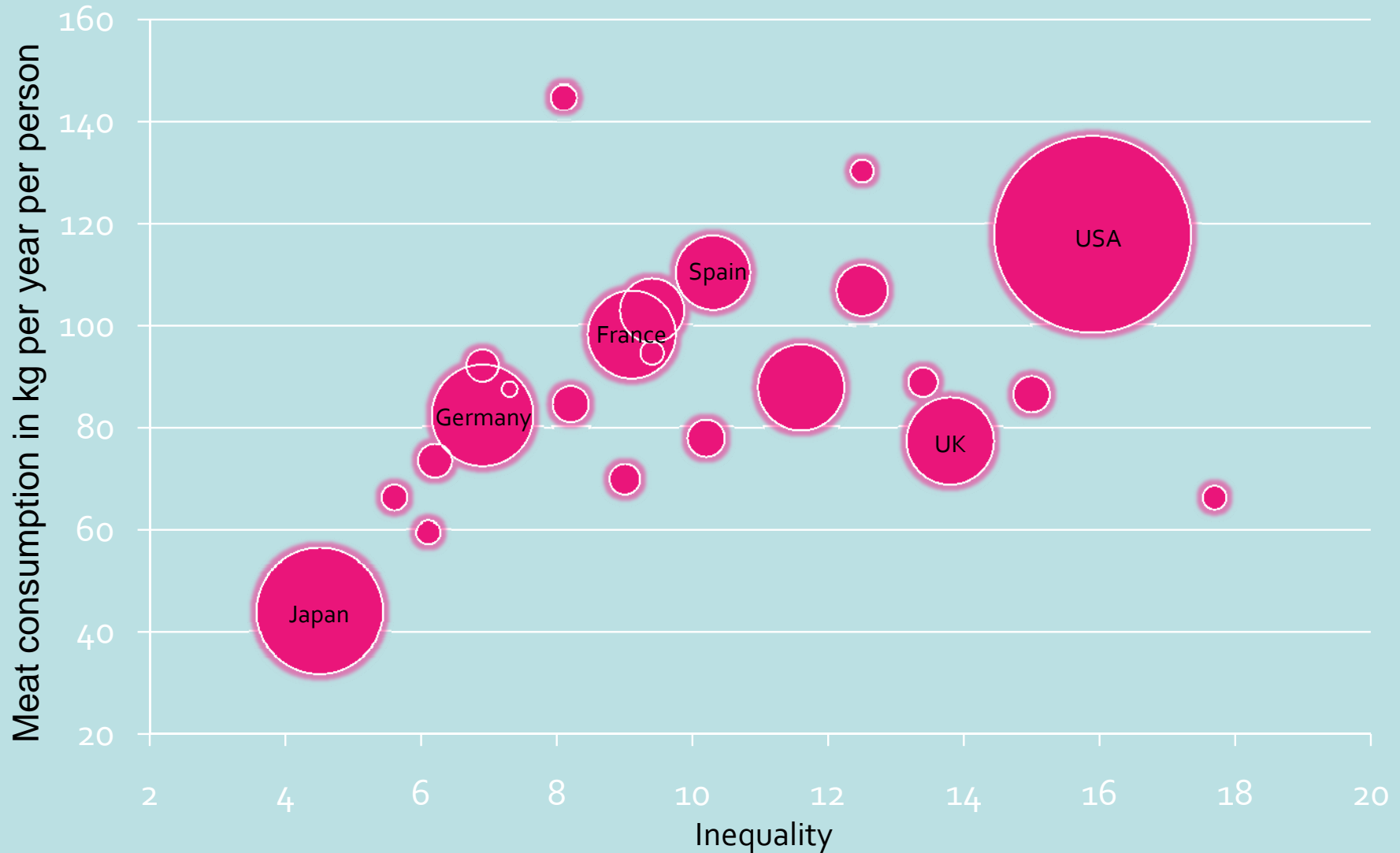
Source: NOMIS 1994, Ward Based Unemployment - Computerised Claims by Age and Duration (WBUCCAD) Series

New social evil 4:
“The greed of the rich is helping
humanity as much
as it can be helped;
we need that greed”.

A photograph of two men in business suits. The man on the right is older, with grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue striped shirt, and a dark tie. The man on the left is younger, with dark hair, wearing a grey suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. They are both looking directly at the camera with serious expressions. The background is dark and out of focus.

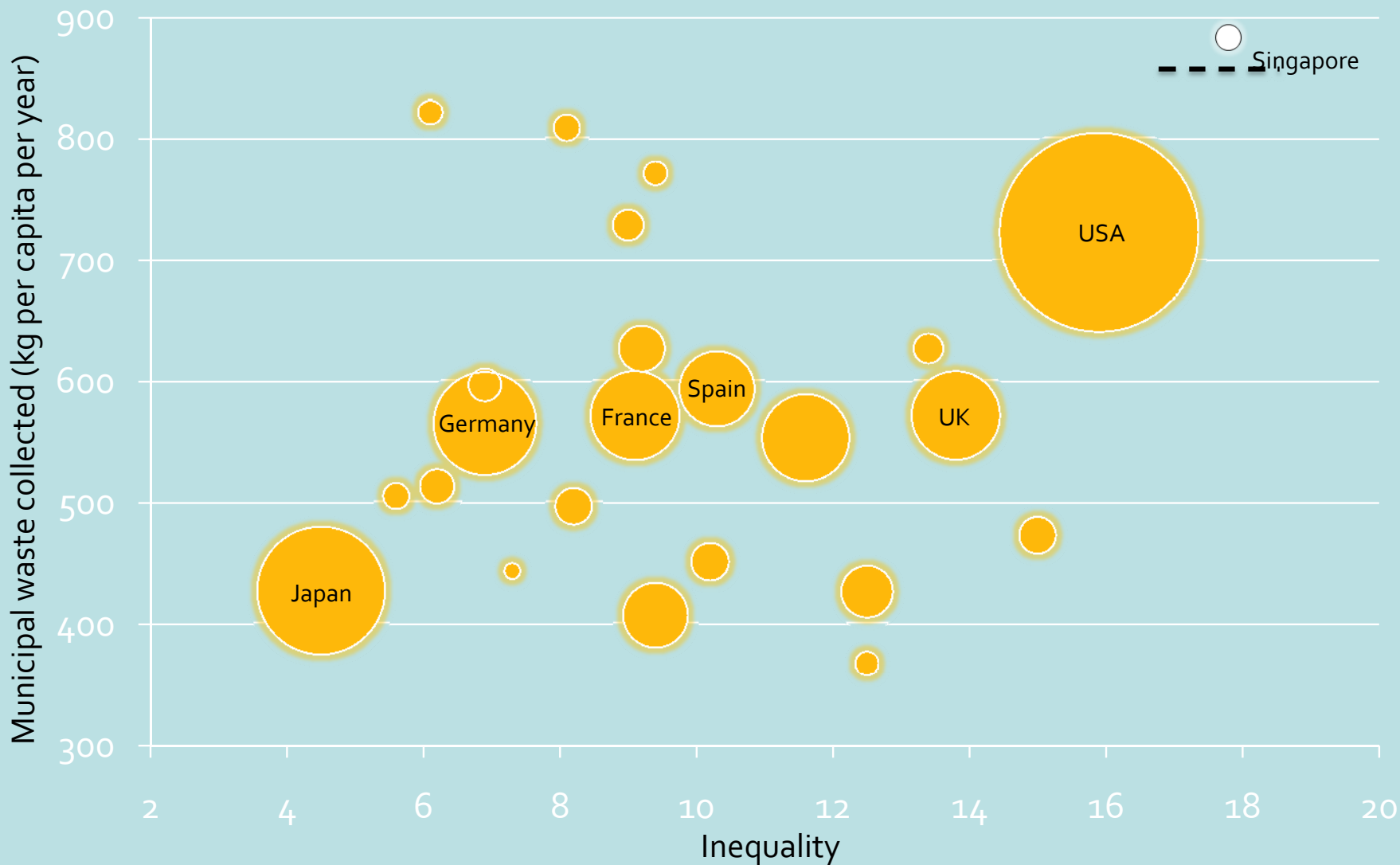
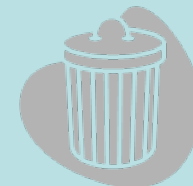
**Greed is
good**

Inequality and meat



Source: www.shef.ac.uk/sasi - see presentations: is more equal more green

Inequality and waste



Source: www.shef.ac.uk/sasi - see presentations: is more equal more green

Despair is inevitable

New social evil 5:
“To argue against mass marketisation is foolhardy; there is no alternative; mass poor mental health is unfortunate but inevitable”. *Offer palliative therapy...*

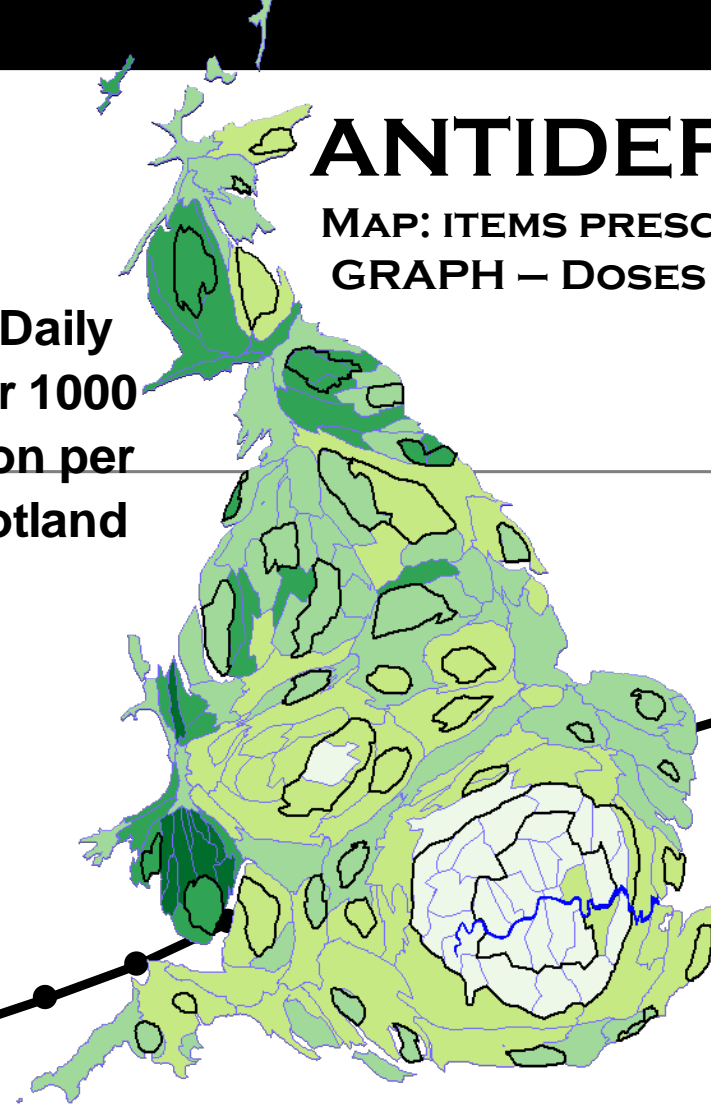
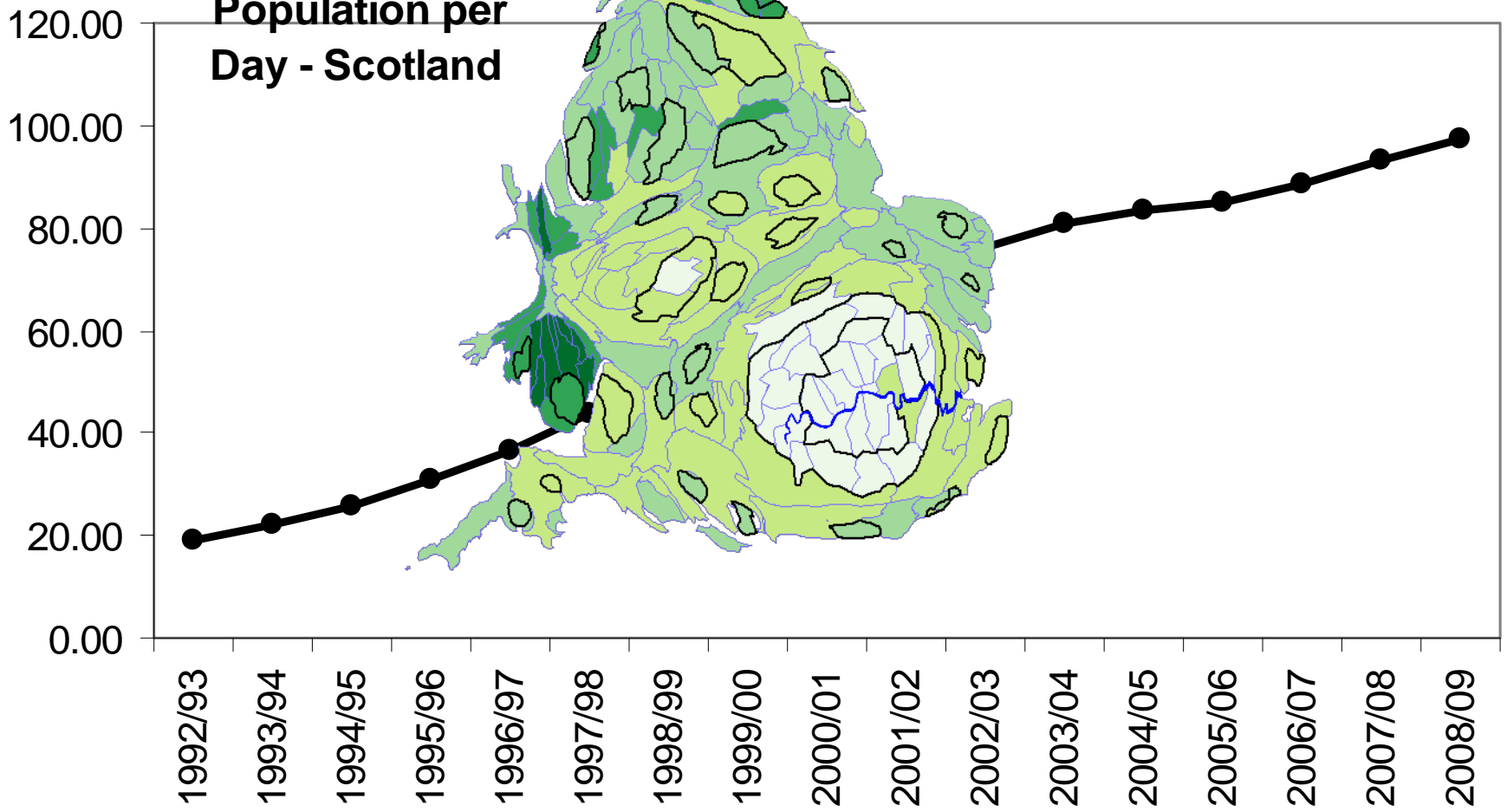


ANTIDEPRESSENTS

MAP: ITEMS PRESCRIBED / PERSON 2008/9

GRAPH – DOSES OF COMPARABLE ITEMS

Defined Daily
Doses per 1000
Population per
Day - Scotland



“When I’m worried about something I can talk to my mum or dad”

“When I’m worried about something I can talk to my friends”

“When I’m worried about something I can talk to an adult other than my mum or dad”. **Children who answered ‘yes’ to at least 2 of these 3:**

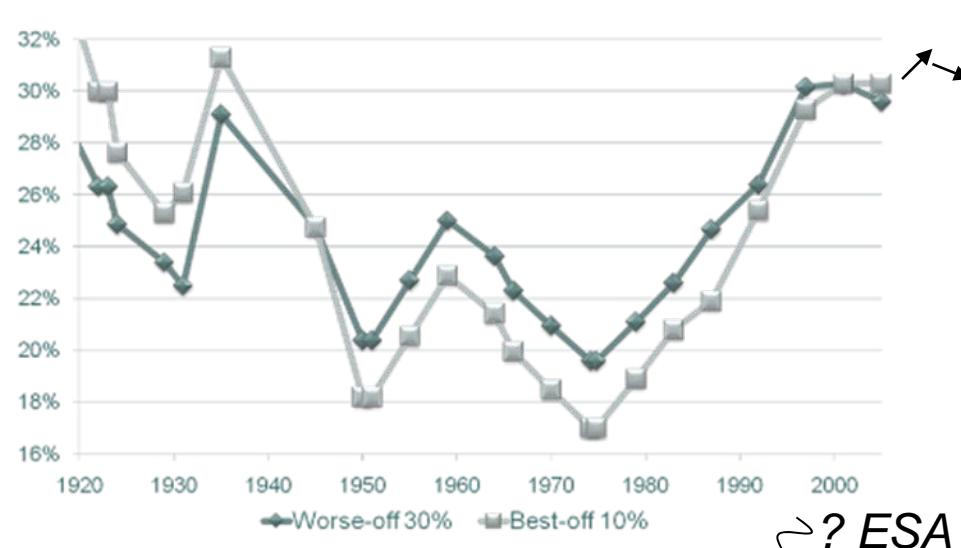
	Emotional health of children 2008/09	Emotional health of children 2009/10	change
GOR			
North East	63.6	56.7	-6.9
North West	65.0	58.6	-6.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	64.3	57.3	-7.0
Sheffield	60.4	56.5	-3.8
East Midlands	61.9	54.2	-7.7
West Midlands	63.6	57.8	-5.8
East of England	61.6	56.0	-5.6
London	60.2	53.2	-7.0
South East	61.6	54.8	-6.8
South West	62.7	56.2	-6.5
England	62.6	56.0	-6.6

Source: “Tell
US” Survey –
cancelled
2010

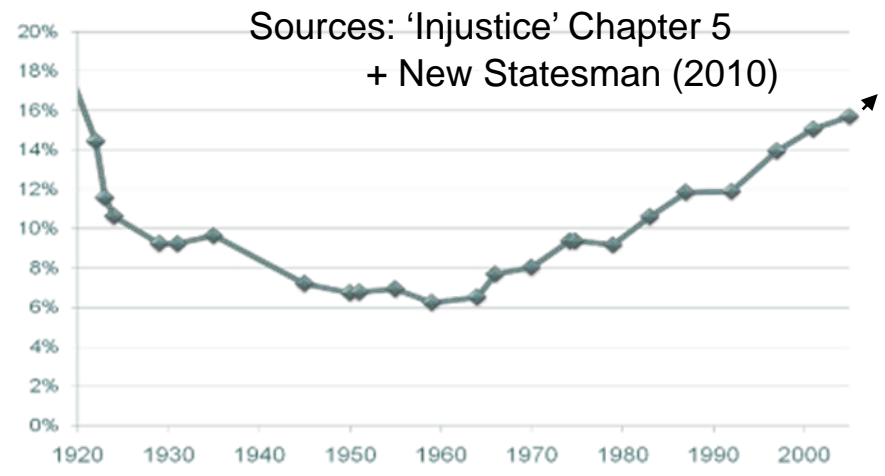
Income Inequality, share held by richest 1%, 1918-2005+



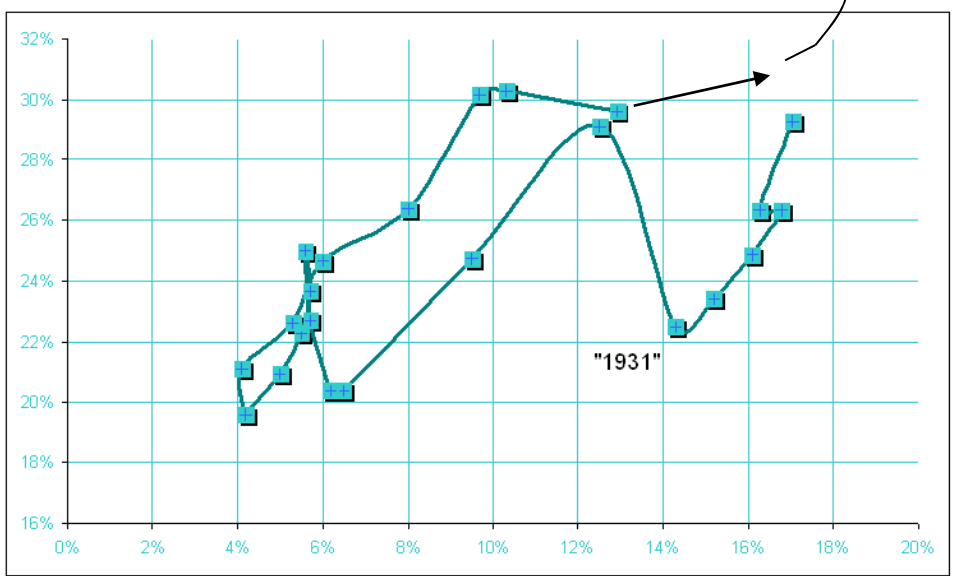
Inequality, in survival chances to age 65 in Britain, 1918-2005+ [BMJ]



Electoral Inequality, Segregation Index of Tory voters, 1918-2005+



Income inequality (X axis) versus Health inequalities (Y axis) in Britain, 1918-2005



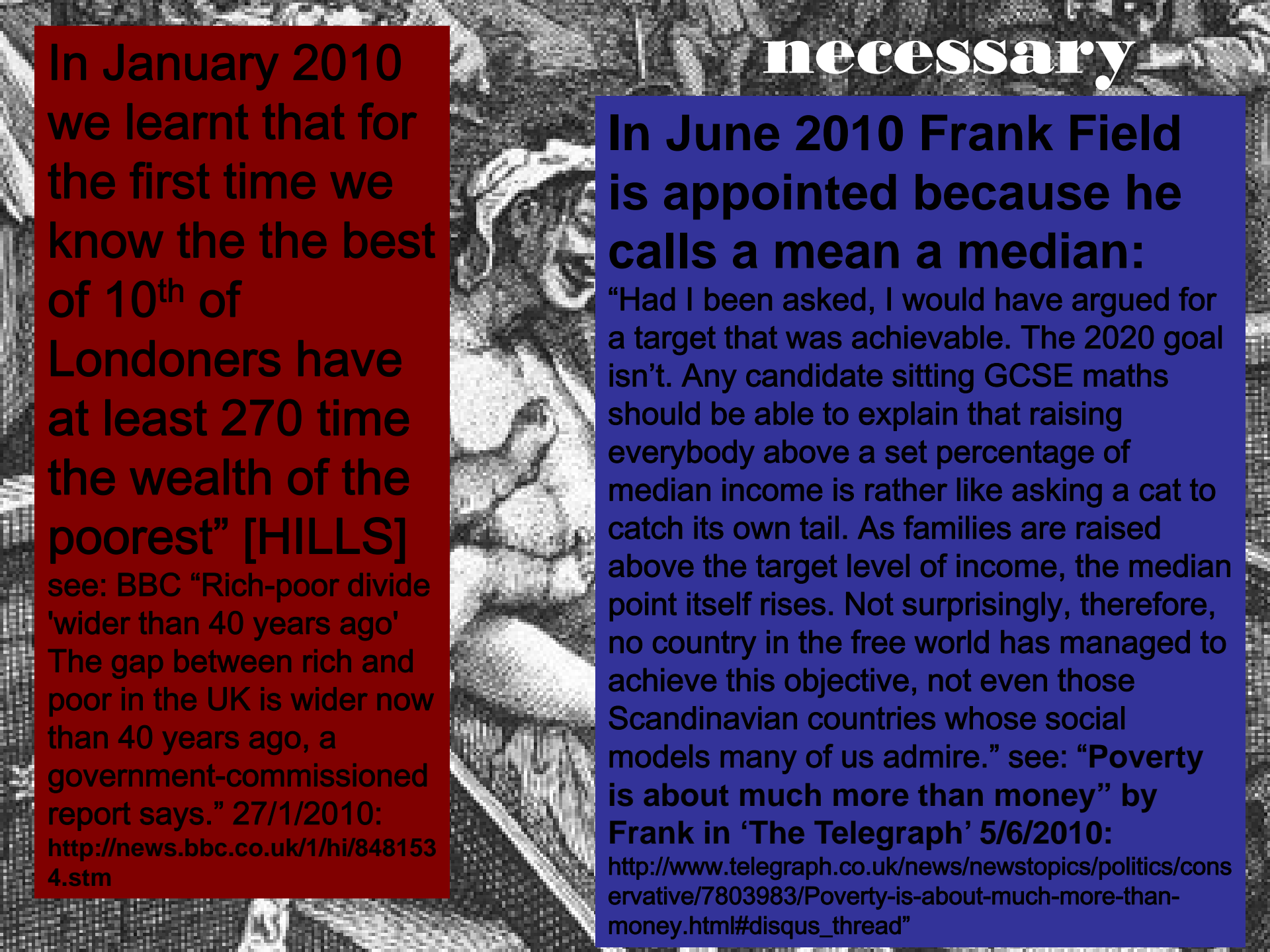
In January 2010 we learnt that for the first time a majority of *extra* university places had gone to children from “working class areas” [HEFCE]

see: Expert view: one of Labour’s great successes, The Guardian Newspaper, 28/1/2010, page 10.
http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/publications/commentary/dorling_2010-01_guardian.pdf

Elitism is efficient

In October 2010 we learn that 75% of Higher Education teaching budget is to be cut, all of social science (even economics?) and that universities are to be, in all but name, privatised - “The only social value the report seems able to think of is economic: these subjects contribute directly to the economy, it is alleged, and so we must have them. The Comprehensive Spending Review has reinforced this emphasis on science and technology by maintaining the science budget (which supports research, not teaching) at its present level.”

see: Browne’s Gamble, Stefan Collini, London Review of Books, 32, 21, 23-25 <http://www.lrb.co.uk/v32/n21/stefan-collini/brownes-gamble>



In January 2010 we learnt that for the first time we know the the best of 10th of Londoners have at least 270 time the wealth of the poorest” [HILLS]

see: BBC “Rich-poor divide 'wider than 40 years ago' The gap between rich and poor in the UK is wider now than 40 years ago, a government-commissioned report says.” 27/1/2010: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8481534.stm>

necessary

In June 2010 Frank Field is appointed because he calls a mean a median:

“Had I been asked, I would have argued for a target that was achievable. The 2020 goal isn't. Any candidate sitting GCSE maths should be able to explain that raising everybody above a set percentage of median income is rather like asking a cat to catch its own tail. As families are raised above the target level of income, the median point itself rises. Not surprisingly, therefore, no country in the free world has managed to achieve this objective, not even those Scandinavian countries whose social models many of us admire.” see: “Poverty is about much more than money” by Frank in ‘The Telegraph’ 5/6/2010: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/conservative/7803983/Poverty-is-about-much-more-than-money.html#disqus_thread

In September 2010 we learn that “Bob Diamond collected a 'mere' £42 million last year” in income, and bankers are still loathed

[DAILY MAIL] see: “Rambler with an interest in Bible studies is the City's highest earner on £60m a year” 27/9/2010:
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1315366/David-Harding-Citys-highest-earner-60m-year.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Prejudice is natural

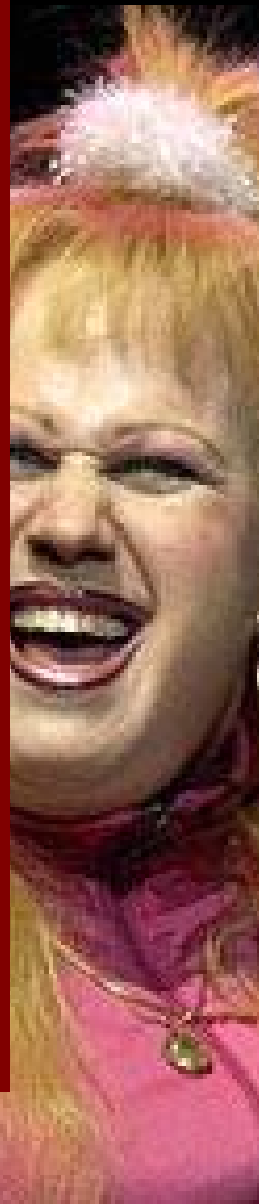
In November 2010: “Barclays £2.2bn of bonuses on track to beat 2009”

[TELEGRAPH]

See:<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/banksandfinance/8120848/Barclays-2.2bn-of-bonuses-on-track-to-beat-2009.html>

While poor to be made to do “Community Service” for the dole...

See: “Sinister government policy is treating jobless like criminals”, The Inverness Courier,
http://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/13831/Sinister_government_policy_is_treating_jobless_like_criminals.html



In April 2010 we learn that – Gordon wanted to “help people”:

“ Duffy: – *but all these eastern Europeans coming in, where are they flocking from?*

Brown: *A million people come in from Europe, but a million British people have gone into Europe, you do know there’s a lot of British people staying in Europe as well. So education, health and helping people, that’s what I’m about.*”

The Times, 28/4/2010.

In June 2010 we learn the councils to be cut the (%) most are:

Doncaster
Redcar & Cleveland
Liverpool
Knowsley
Middlesbrough
St Helens
Blackpool
South Tyneside
North East
Lincolnshire
Blackburn with
Darwen

(and Sheffield – singled out for cruel and unusual cuts)

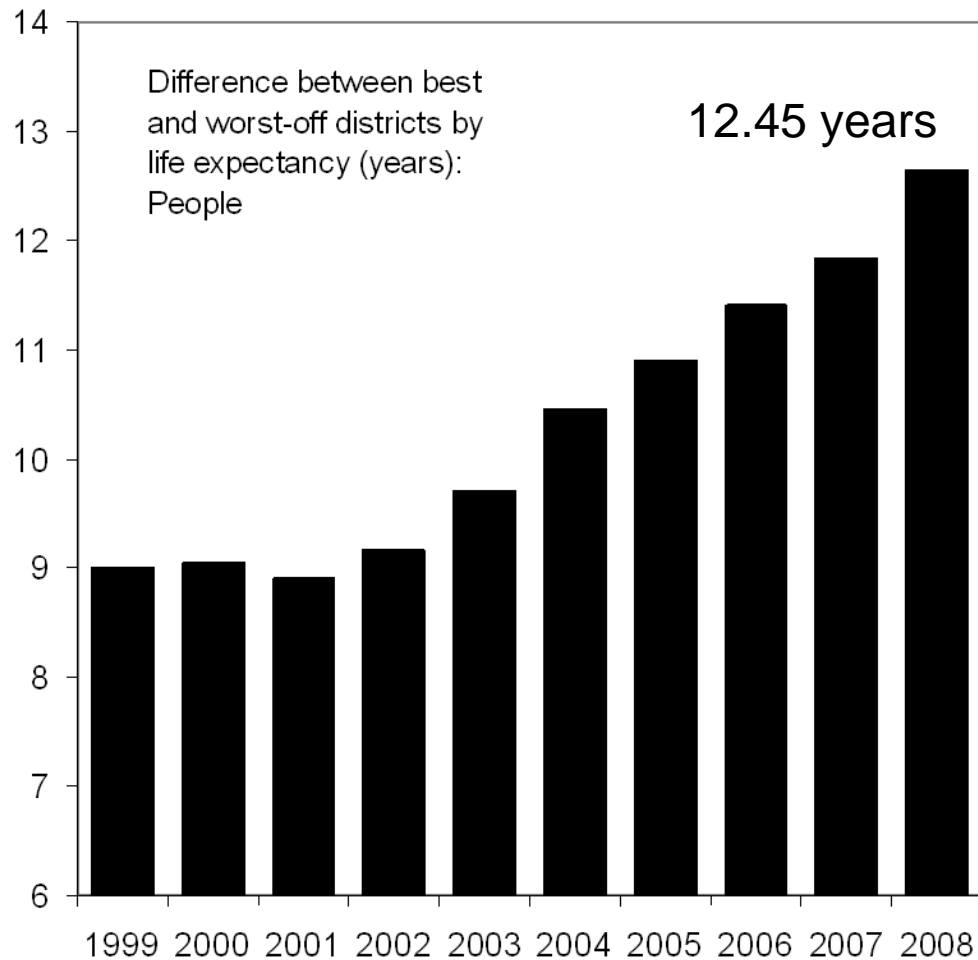
**Greed
is
good**

And:

The ten councils to be cut the least are:

City of London
Ealing
Redbridge
Dudley (*the only error?*)
Barnet
Harrow
Brent
Havering
Wandsworth
Bexley

In October 2010 nobody notices that: The extreme inequality gap falls to 12.40 years when 2009 data is released (analysis of ONS data release and revisions of 19/10/2010, LE by district) *Remember: "So education, health and helping people, that's what I'm about."* ?



By November it is clear: The Health White Paper is privatisation by stealth. If the multibillion pound NHS budget is handed over to General Practitioners then many of them will subcontract for-profit health care companies.

Despair is inevitable

What appear likely to occur in the near future in Britain if current trends left unchecked?

When it comes to fortune-telling History looks back searching for certainties, Geography looks across at alternatives:

Look to **Portugal** if you want to see what Britain might look like if we became a little bit more impoverished and to see what happens where an aristocracy of the rich gains greater power. Or look to **Israel** to see a country with similar inequality to the UK now (even less!).

If you want to see what the newly privatised UK higher education system will look like, turn to the **USA**. If you want to know what our health system will look like if we allow those determined to privatise it to get their way, then take another glance west at 'for-profit'.

A race to the bottom? Consider the great states of **Indonesia**, **Brazil**, **India** and **China**.

Or could we become like **Singapore**, where to buy non-medicinal chewing gum remains a criminal offence. A British Singapore would be a place of repressive laws which welcomed in millionaires and other 'high tier' migrants but gave other immigrants only guest-worker status at best. If those other immigrants became pregnant they would be required to leave (guest-workers). There would be increased ethnic division, much less inter-marrying. Menial jobs would be reserved for those from 'lower' racial or religious orders.

Or – be positive:

We reduce regional divides as **Germany** has;

We reverse decline in poorer areas using immigration policy like **Spain**;

We fund health care most where it is most needed, as in **Italy**;

We enact policies to reduce divides as in **Greece, or Austria, or Sweden**;

We design our urban areas better, as is done in the **Netherlands or Japan**;

We consider how housing is allocated better, as in **Finland and Denmark**;

We study different models of planning such as in **France, Belgium and Luxembourg**;

We begin to recognise that people live longer also in all these countries and **NZ, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Norway and Ireland...**

Unscrupulous private landlords are a minority, usually older and rich. Tenants are a very large majority of the young and an even larger majority of the poor. We stop being duped into borrowing money from the rich via gilts to lend to the young as student loans and instead use the £9tn national wealth more to balance the £1.5tn national debt, not to recreate it.

We do what we did, in fits and starts, from 1918 to 1978, but in a different way. We do what they do in all these other affluent countries. We do what the vast majority of people aspire to do – to see their children live longer, happier, better educated and rewarding lives than them.

Injustice

A year on,

Conclusion