

CASE's 25th Birthday

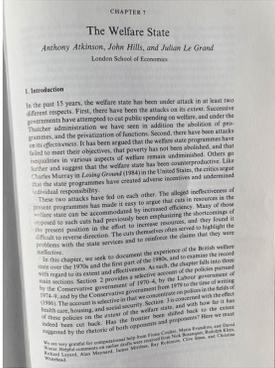
Celebrating John Hills's contributions

Cross cutting welfare state analysis

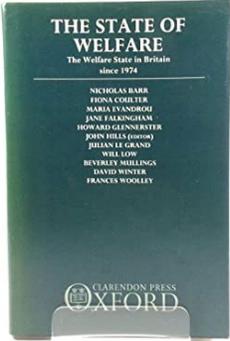
John's cross-cutting framework for welfare state analysis

- **Analytical framework for welfare state analysis**
- **Latest findings using the framework (SPDO)**
 - **Uses of the framework going forward**

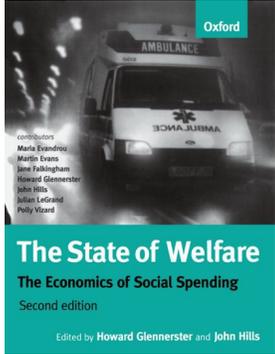
John's assessments of the social policy record of governments (1974-eve of the COVID-19 pandemic)



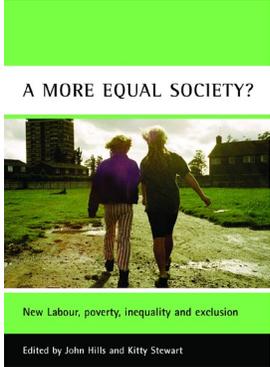
1987



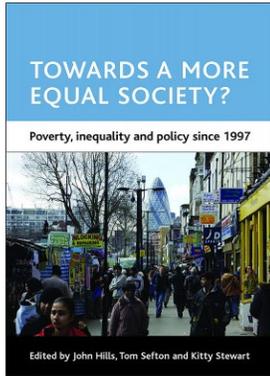
1990



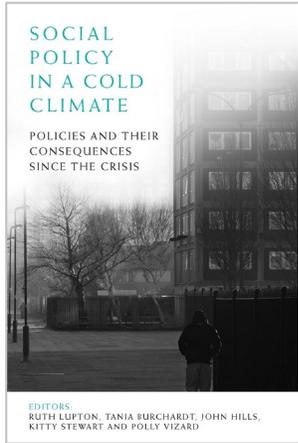
1998



2005



2009



2016

The Conservative Governments' Record on Social Policy from May 2015 to pre-COVID 2020: Policies, Spending and Outcomes

An assessment of social policies and social inequalities on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic

Edited by Polly Vizard and John Hills

Research team	Tania Burchardt	Kerris Cooper
Glen Bramley	John Hills	Jarrod Hughes
Suzanne Fitzpatrick	Ruth Lupton	Lindsey Macmillan
Nicola Lacey	Polina Obolenskaya	Mary Reader
Abigail McKnight	Kitty Stewart	Kritika Treebhohun
Mark Stephens	Iona Wainwright	
Polly Vizard		

2021

- Collectively, this body of work provides assessments of the social policy record of governments from 1974 to the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic
- John at the centre of a large network of colleagues, subject specialists and researchers producing this work over several generations

USP: cross-cutting framework for assessing the social policy record of governments

Comprehensive assessment of the state of welfare in any period of time requires cross-cutting analysis of:

3 aspects of the welfare state

Policies

Public expenditure

Outcomes

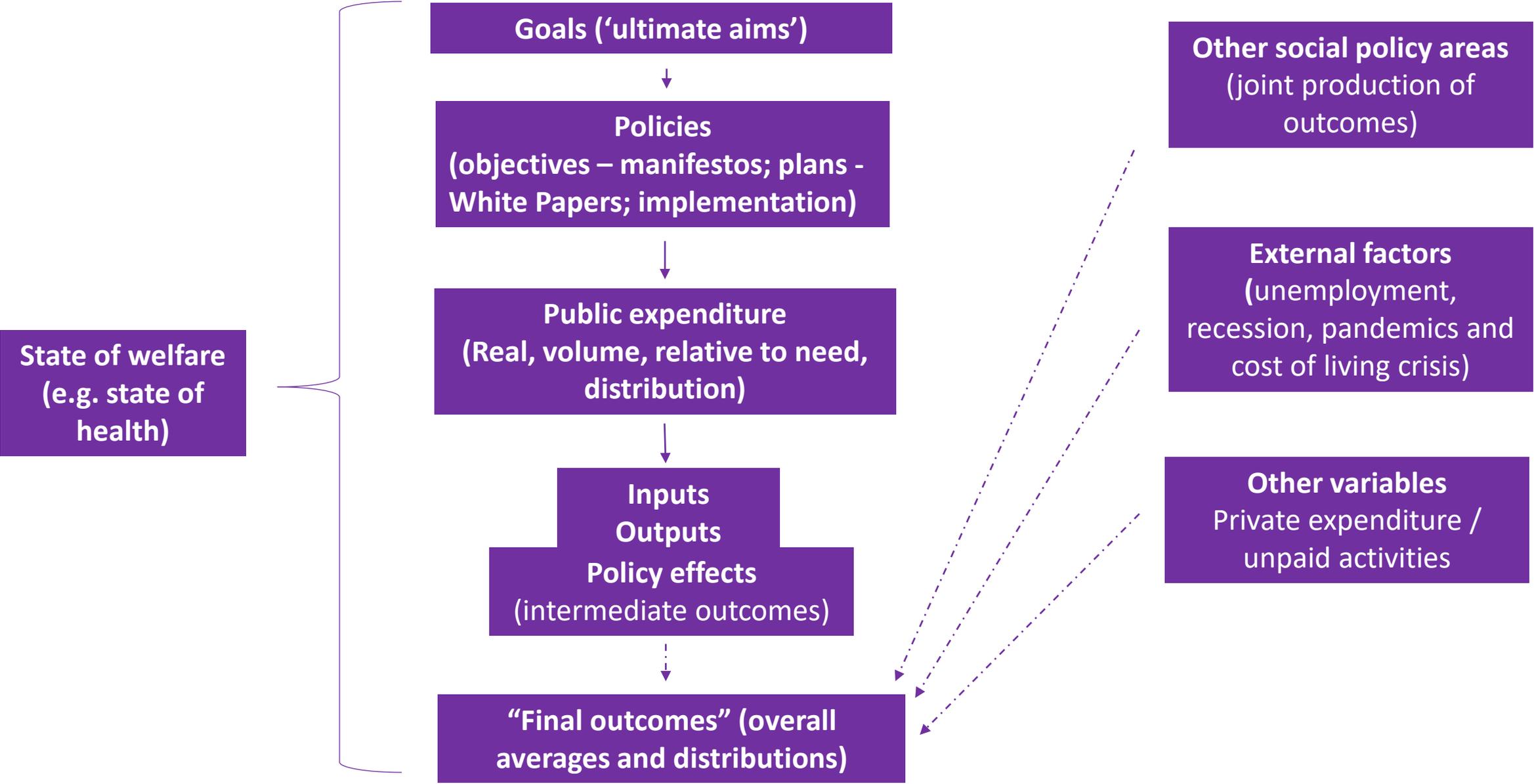
Multiple areas of social policy

Health

Social security

Education

Schema for welfare state analysis (adapted from Hills 1990)



Importance of empirical evidence base on (final) outcomes

Outcomes focus: distinctive contribution to social policy

- Atkinson, Hills and Le Grand (1987) rejected analyses of the welfare state that focus only on public expenditure categories and / or the welfare state as an institution / and or policy analysis
 - “Future research programme” harnessing the power of new social survey and administrative data to build up an empirical evidence base on (final) outcomes
- This approach continues to be distinctive and results in different assessments and conclusions about change in the UK welfare state (McEnhill and Taylor-Gooby 2018)

Link with the broader search for a set of multidimensional indicators for evaluating social outcomes

- Atkinson, Hills and Le Grand (1987): welfare indicators
- Subsequent assessments have regularly evaluated progress using different sets of social indicators
- Not a single indicator / measure approach (not ‘life satisfaction’)
 - Social monitoring using a broad set of indicators / portfolios of indicators (Atkinson)
 - Capability approach (Sen)

Building up robust empirical evidence on *distributional* outcomes

- Building on broader literature on poverty/inequality/distributional analysis
- Building on John’s broader contributions (analyses of income and wealth, social exclusion indicators, distributional impacts, forensic work on breakdowns and distributions by equality characteristics (protected in legislation / beyond ...))

SPDO research programme: cross-cutting evidence on the structural weaknesses and limitations of the welfare state and public services on the eve of COVID-19 (Vizard and Hills 2021)

10 areas of social policy

Social security
Employment
Early childhood
Education
Higher education
Health
Social care
Physical safety and security
Complex needs and homelessness
Social mobility

Overview report

The Conservative Governments' Record on Social Policy from May 2015 to pre-COVID 2020: Policies, Spending and Outcomes

An assessment of social policies and social inequalities on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic

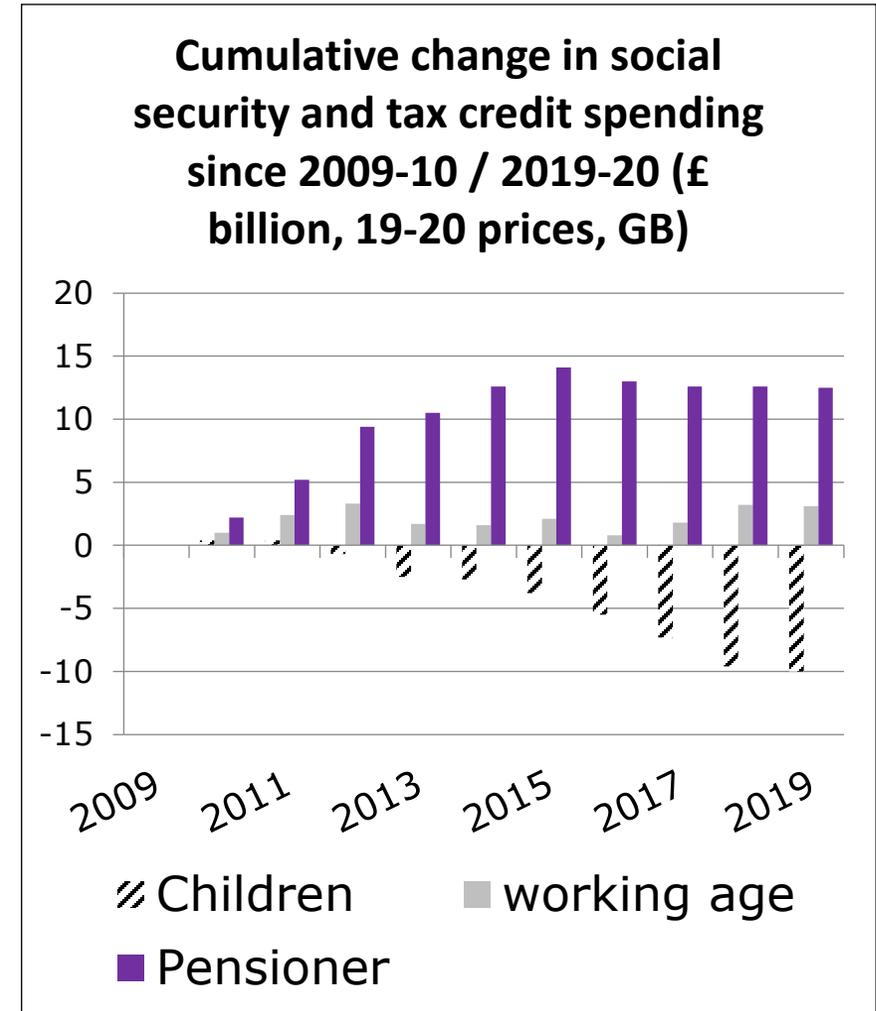
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The protective capacity of the welfare state was eroded during the second decade of the 21st century (Cooper and Hills 2021)

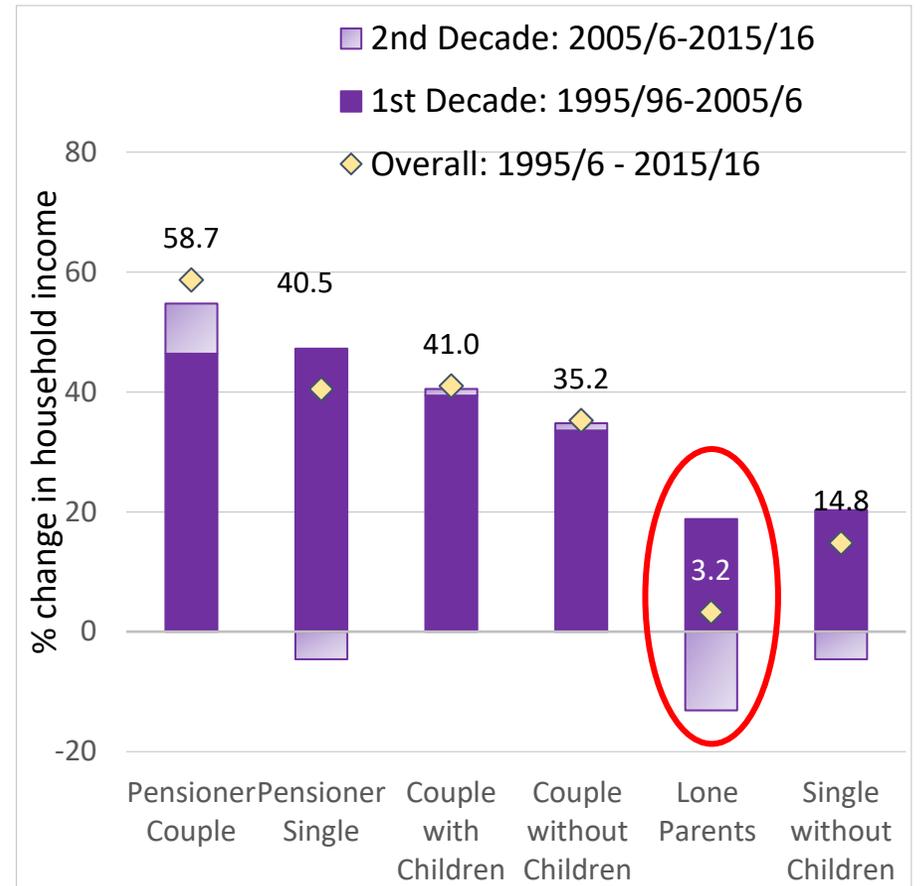
- **Erosion of the effectiveness of the minimum income guarantee for different family types resulting from three mechanisms**
 - Erosion of the real value of support for non-pensioner groups
 - Social protection gaps opened-up ('holes' in the welfare state)
 - Gap between formal entitlements v disposable incomes in practice (benefit deductions / repayments / shortfalls)



Inequalities in the decade running up the 2016 Brexit referendum (Obolenskaya and Hills 2019)

- A 'calm surface' at population level masks substantial differences for particular groups
- **Young adults.** For all economic outcomes – both better and worse-off – younger adults did far worse than older ones during the decade of slow economic growth running up to the Brexit referendum.
- **Other groups.** The pattern does not correspond to simple ideas of who had been 'left behind' before the 2016 Brexit vote (poorest lone parents, the poorest Londoners, poorest social tenants, Black African ethnicity, disabled people ...).
- Lessons for 'levelling up'

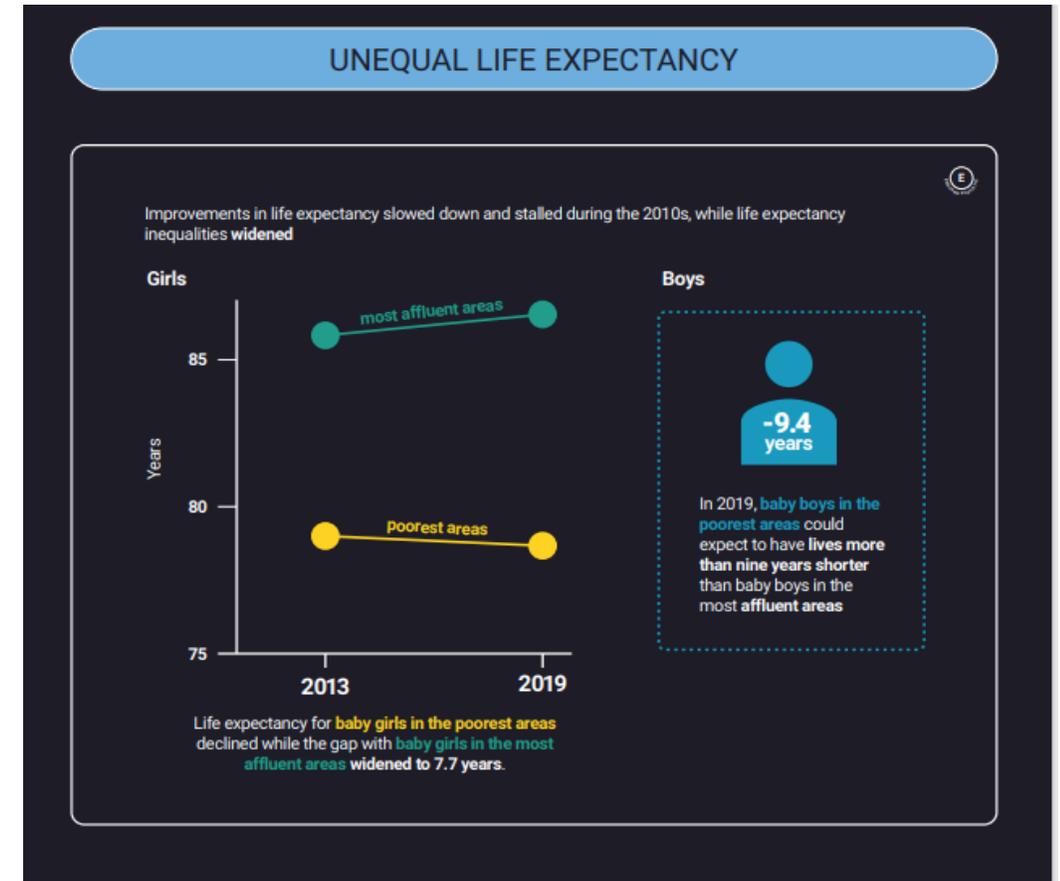
Change in household income (ahc) at the 10th percentile



SPDO Indicator Set

Eight areas of stalling social progress from before the pandemic and cost of living crisis

- **Child poverty;**
- **In-work poverty;**
- **Life expectancy inequalities;**
- **Unmet need for care;**
- **Educational inequalities;**
- **Inequalities in early childhood;**
- **Homicide inequalities;**
- **Homelessness.**



Looking forward: relevance and applications of John's cross-cutting framework

- **CASE will continue to monitor progress in reducing disadvantage and inequalities during the 2020s using John's cross-cutting framework**
- **Existing analysis stopped on the eve of COVID-19**
 - **Depth analysis of social policies/public expenditure/outcomes during pandemic**
- **Analytical framework for evaluating the 'levelling up' programme**
 - **Public (and private) expenditure**
 - **Policies**
 - **Outcomes**
- **Keep the SPDO Indicator Set updated**
- **Looking back over the body of work (1974-preCovid 2020) and draw out key social changes and policy lessons**