

Title: Studies in the criminalisation of poverty : pauperism, pathology and policing
Author: Squires, P
Awarded: 1984

Abstract:

The study of social policy, or social administration, is usually associated with the study of statutory, welfare-oriented, distributive mechanisms. Indeed, it is precisely these distributive and welfare-related characteristics that qualifies certain kinds of policy as 'social'. Yet, there is no real justification, save historical accident and tradition, for continuing to accept this particular conception of social policy. A different kind of examination of the historical record - such as the analyses contained within this thesis - reveals a quite different legacy to the British social policy tradition. Thus, the work contained within this thesis consists of an attempt to take another look at the historical development and modern evolution of state social policy. The effort is made to show that there is an older and more entrenched social policy tradition in Britain; one as much concerned with discipline as with welfare, more to do with division than with integration and more repressive than, liberating. It is important to acknowledge that the penal code is as old as the Poor Laws, that the mercantilist science of police preceded the science of political economy and, later in the age of capitalism and industrialization, the Metropolitan Police Act predated the extension of the franchise and the reform of the Poor Laws. In short, a central preoccupation of the thesis is the attempt to elaborate Gareth Stedman-Jones' remark that, in the history of social administration, welfare and discipline, or care and control, were but two sides of the same coin. In order to develop this argument, theoretical perspectives deriving from the work of Marx and Foucault have been employed. The works of Marx have been used to help in the analysis of the state, class struggle and the changing modes of political domination, whilst Foucault's work - especially his emphasis upon the analysis of discipline - has been employed to help elaborate the ways in which objectives, techniques and practices are brought together in forms of socio-political 'intervention' - political strategies or social policies. Furthermore, Foucault's work in the analysis of socio-political discourse was of major importance insofar as it offered a technique for isolating and examining the formation of knowledges, practices and policies in social interventions. Thus, in different periods, differing discourses on pauperism, poor-relief, charity, social pathology, need and poverty, can be identified. These discourses are the preserve of the state, of philanthropists, of 'experts' and of the mass media. Equally, they all have a certain popular currency. Within a particular discourse are concealed differing political strategies and targets of intervention, forms of knowledge and relations between objectives and practices. To examine social policy - in every respect a rich field of enquiry - as a series of changing, competing and interconnecting discourses is to bring another dimension to its analysis. On the basis of such theoretical foundations the thesis examines the penalties, sanctions and disciplinary components - what Marx called 'the severities' - of the policies designed to cope with the problems of pauperism and poverty. Different chapters deal with different historical aspects of the organisation of the Poor Law and Social Security, in particular:

- the relationships of philanthropy and the investigation of the poor,
- the strategies of control embodied within poor relief and the development of insurantal techniques around the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century,
- the tests and regulations determining entitlement to relief,
- the strategy of social security after the Beveridge Report and the Second World War,
- the administrative discourse of the National Assistance Board and the preoccupation with social pathology and 'voluntary-unemployment',
- the emergence of a concern about fraud and abuse in social security and, finally,
- an analysis of the Fisher Report in 1973 and the subsequent intensification of claims-control techniques throughout the social security system.

By taking this 'alternative' look at what we might reasonably call the 'dark side' of social policy, from the early years of the 19th century to the present day in respect of the Poor Law, and Social Security systems, a range of more fundamental questions are raised. These larger questions have to do with the disciplinary and regulatory nature of social policy itself. Such questions accept that all social policy is entirely concerned with the shaping and structuring of human social relations, they leave us less inclined to take the intentions of social policy-makers at their word and more interested in the effects and consequences of social policy. With our grasp of these wider questions we can see how the more specific focus on the Criminalisation of poverty becomes just one part of a much more general project of research about the disciplinary character of social policy itself and the ramification of power relations through social policy, social legislation and governmental 'intervention'. The present thesis is informed by insights from this broader general thesis about the nature of social policy at the same time as it is intended to contribute to that more radical and challenging thesis itself. From the early 19th century a vast labour of statutory and political-economic intervention in the population expanded under the sign of 'the social'. 'Socialisation' and integration came to spell progress for almost 150 years but then a strange shift began to take place. Nowadays, the social and the anti-social sit curiously together in a range of statutory, public and private initiatives. It is less the case that a struggle over meanings is taking place, rather, an attempt is being made to economise the social - to attach it more firmly to economic

Title: Taiwan's mountain policies and the poverty of the indigenous people
Author: Liou, He-Chium
Awarded: 20005

Abstract:

Indigenous people make up two per cent of the population in Taiwan. They are easily distinguishable from the Han majority by their second-class living conditions. There is overwhelming evidence of their relative deprivation. Their average income is half the national average. In the mountain indigenous villages, nine per cent of households are registered low-income, 11 times the national rate (cf. pp. 11-12). This research answers the following questions: what is the nature and dynamic of indigenous people's poverty? How can their situation be improved? In this thesis, a number of the structural cause of indigenous people's poverty are investigated, with the state mountain policies found to be responsible for causing, or at least enhancing, the indigenous people's poverty. At all levels of society, the inequitable power relationships between the dominant Han and the dominated indigenous people determine the latter's inferior social status. Discrimination is responsible for the disadvantaged position of indigenous people in the state apparatus and systems, including education, employment, healthcare, economic development, and land rights. A qualitative research design, combined with documentary and secondary data analysis, is used in this thesis to explore the dynamics of indigenous people's poverty. In-depth interviews were conducted mainly in Fu-shing Hsiang, one of the most populous mountain indigenous villages in northern Taiwan. In-depth interviews were conducted with 16 low-income household members about their experiences of living in poverty. Seven sub-village heads were interviewed about policy level issues. In addition, five former Fu-shing Hsiang villagers who now live in urban areas were interviewed to investigate their adjustment to urban life and how they cope in their daily interactions with the Han.

Title: The 'meaning and measurement of poverty'
Author: Deeming, C.
Awarded: 2008

Abstract:

Debates about the meaning and measurement of poverty are very current in Britain and internationally. This study attempts to determine semi-normative food poverty lines for older people living in the United Kingdom, developing the ideas of Peter Townsend originally published in the *British Journal of Sociology* in 1954. A semi-normative approach to setting poverty lines, and household budgets, represents expert normative standards, such as standards of nutrition for health, while simultaneously respecting cultural context and everyday requirements for participation in society. Recent developments in national survey data collection now make it possible to test Townsend's idea for measuring poverty over half a century on, possibly for the first time. The inquiry uses a variety of statistical techniques including logistic regression and discriminant function analysis to determine the minimum level of (a) disposable household income and (b) non-housing expenditure at which nutritional requirements for good health have been met in the study sample of older persons living in private households. Three years of data (20002-05) from the *Expenditure and Food Survey* (EFS), a family budget survey, provides a combined sample of about 5,000 households, single persons and couples. The finding and poverty lines are critically discussed in relation to the national and international research literature on poverty measurement. A programme for further research and development has been suggested.

Title: The Child Poverty Action Group 1965-1974 : the origins and effectiveness of a single-issue pressure group

Author: Meyer-Kelly, Maria Lesley

Awarded: 2002

Abstract:

This study raises two key questions about the Child Poverty Action Group between 1965 and 1974. Firstly, it seeks to offer an explanation as to why the Child Poverty Action Group was formed at this time. Secondly, it draws on the empirical evidence set out in this study to ascertain how effective CPAG was as a group during the period; both at drawing attention to the problem of family poverty and at persuading the government of the practicalities of its solution. In answering both these questions the study uses the framework of the theoretical literature. This theoretical framework is used to structure and interrogate the empirical evidence, which is drawn from archival, interview and published sources. The study argues that the origins of the Child Poverty Action Group can be attributed to a number of factors converging at this time and that the rediscovery of poverty acted as a catalyst for the formation of the group. The study concludes that the Child Poverty Action Group was effective as a catalyst, which forced the government to take action about the problem of family poverty. The group was not consistently successful in persuading the government of that its solution was the optimal solution but gradually the solution became mainstream. It argues that the Child Poverty Action Group played an important role. The study aims to be both a detailed historical examination of the Child Poverty Action Group, as an organisation and a case study of an influential pressure group of the period. Thus, it furthers knowledge of academic disciplines of History and Social Policy.

Title: The effects of poverty on single mothers living in Hartcliffe

Author: Vowles, Angela

Awarded: 2000

Abstract:

This piece of research highlights the effects of poverty on teenage mothers in Hartcliffe. Measures such as housing, diet, morality, morbidity and life expectancy have all been looked at to show how poverty affects the lives of those on a low income. The problems of using such measures have also been discussed. It has made use of qualitative methods of research, whilst using both group and individual interviews of some seven single mothers. It has pointed to the gender and class inequalities in relation to poverty, poor health, housing, diet and access to services, all of which have impacted disproportionately on women. It has used the area of Hartcliffe, as this was an area identified by the Bristol City Council as an area which suffers from severe deprivation and poverty. This research concludes by looking at the present Labour government's welfare reforms in relation to the structural causes of poverty and how this government seeks to reduce poverty, in the case of child poverty, abolish within twenty years.

Title: The link between poverty and ill health : some implications for health education in Zimbabwe
Author: Annah-Maria Regedza Razika-Mangwiro
Year: 1993

Abstract:

The three main principles of Primary Health Care (PHVC) are community participation, intersectoral collaboration and equity. These principles are so interwoven that you cannot effectively work with one without bringing in the other two. In looking at the link between poverty and ill health we are mainly dealing with equity. And yet most factors that affect ill health necessitate that we bring in other sectors besides the health sector like housing, agriculture, water development and many others and that means bringing in the other principle which is intersectoral collaboration. Again, there is no way we can alleviate poverty and ill health without communities themselves participating fully and this brings in the third principle of primary health care which is community participation. Equity may be the most difficult of these three principles to operationalise because it concerns justice and humanity. It is not by some fate or destiny that the poor suffer more ill health and mortality than their richer counterparts but because of the conditions that the poor live in, day in and day out and because they are deprived medically as well. Differences in the health status of the people will always be there, especially those inevitable differences caused by biological processes like aging, chromosomal defects and other congenital abnormalities. The equity dimension of PHC is concerned with those differences in health status which are within human control (MacDonald 1993). It seems that the poverty and ill health have become inextricably linked as it is difficult for the poor to be healthy. This is because poverty itself perpetuates ill health and ill health brings poverty. Therefore, to alleviate ill health one has to eliminate poverty and vice versa. This is indeed a mammoth task especially in a world blighted by recession, unemployment, economic structural adjustment, and most of all where resources are so unequally distributed among the nations and within nations. This dissertation examines the link between poverty and ill health and concludes with a description of a primary health care approach to health education. Chapter 1 looks at the meaning and classification of poverty as well as its main causes. Chapter 2 looks at the causes of poverty in Zimbabwe and looks at the explanations of this phenomenon offered by the historical or dependence perspective and the modernisation concept of poverty. Chapter 3 discusses the link between poverty and ill health by comparing the mortality and morbidity rates of the rich or higher class and the poor or lower class and the factors that influence ill health. Chapter 4 discusses the primary health care approach to health education by trying to show that people's socio-economic status determines their health status and how PHC should aim to empower people. The chapter brings in all the principles of primary health care in health education. The dissertation ends by making some recommendations for further and more specific studies on inequalities in health in Zimbabwe.

Title: The population, public health and the poor of Leamington Priors, 1830 – 51

Author: Brealey, Sally A.

Awarded: 1979

Abstract:

Little is known of the early history of Leamington Priors, but in the twelfth century the Manor of Leamington was given to the holy priors of Kenilworth and this gave the town its name. After the dissolution of the monasteries, Leamington Priors became a crown possession until Elizabeth I granted it to the Warwick family. It was at this time that the beneficial qualities of the waters first began to be known outside of the village. By the mid-seventeenth century the Warwick estates in and around Leamington Priors had been divided between four or five families but the water remained unnoticed until about 1780 when a second spring was discovered by William Abbotts, an innkeeper. In 1786 he was joined by Benjamin Setchwell, the village shoemaker, in erecting baths for the use of visitors. Though three more springs were discovered by 1806 and two small pump rooms had been erected, there was little other development in the town. In 1808 the first phase of building fashionable town houses and hotels began. This building took place, not in the old village south of the River Leam, but a few hundred yards further north on a slightly higher ground on what was to be called The Parade. In 1810 the ducal house of Gordon visited the spa and Gordon House was built the following year. They were soon followed by the Bedford family and other wealthy and fashionable visitors. In 1811 the Bedfords gave their name to the first fashionable hotel to be built in Leamington Priors, which was located in The Parade. Less than a year later the Assembly Rooms were built and in 1814 the Royal Pump Room was opened on the bank of the Leam. Developments were also taking place in the old village as new houses were being built and existing ones were let as lodgings to cope with the increasing number of visitors who came for "the season." The first phase of building came to an end in 1814 with the building of the Royal Pump Room. The next boom in building came four years later and lasted until about 1822. During this period, the Parthenon was built (1821) and contained the new assembly rooms, library and reading rooms. A further scheme began in 1825 with the building of an episcopal chapel designed by P. F. Robinson at the northern end of the parade. Bertie Circus, Clarendon Square and Beauchamp Square were planned at this time, though only Clarendon Square survives there being no trace of the other two. John Nash was commissioned to design an equally ambitious scheme for the eastern perimeter of the town, but though he certainly went to Leamington Priors to supervise the beginning of the building, it is unclear how much was actually built and how much remains. As a whole, though it never quite came off, these plans would: "as regards novelty of design, external elegance, and internal convenience, surpass anything of equal extent, in any place of fashionable resort in the Kingdom." Though the population almost double in the 1830s, there were signs of decay in the public amusements. The balls held in the Upper Assembly Rooms during the season faced a declining popularity and private parties were becoming more popular. In 1838 the town gained the right to place the prefix "Royal" in front of its name and became "Royal Leamington Spa"; in official matters though, the town was still referred to as "Leamington Priors". To save confusion the town will be referred to as "Leamington Priors" throughout this dissertation. In 1848 the London and North Western Railway reached Leamington Priors, clearing a path right through the old town. This made the town more accessible to Birmingham and Coventry businessmen and professional men, who built many of the Victoria villas which filled the gaps left by the Regency developers. The visitors included many of the wealthy and aristocratic members of the 'haut ton', and even Napoleon III resided in Clarendon Square for a time during his exile from France. Famous people from the world of music, theatre and literature such as Edmund Kean, W. C. Macready and Jenny Lind also visited the spa to perform at the theatre and concert halls. Paganini, Liszt and Johann Strauss the elder as well as many less well-known people performed there in the 1830s. This study is concerned with some of the developments taking place within the town during its heyday. Studies in the past have centred mainly on the social activities and increasing popularity of the town. Little has been written about the more basic areas of population, public health and the poor, which will be examined in this study. Extensive use has been made of the 1841 census for Leamington Priors to show a more complete picture of the town than that given by a study of the social elite. Chapter One will deal with the population structure of Leamington Priors and we will look at the age, sex and occupational distribution of the inhabitants, primarily in 1841. In the following chapter we intend to look at the conditions of the poorer inhabitants of the town; the labourers in need of relief or charity; how widespread was the poverty; and how charity and relief was dispensed. In the final chapter we will also look at the sanitary conditions of the town, especially in the areas not frequented by the visitors.

Title: The relief of the poor in Walton-on-Thames under the Vestry and the Board of Guardians 1800-1850 : a comparison

Author: Whiteaway, Sarah

Awarded: 1974

Abstract:

After a journey of 18 miles from London, a traveller passing through the Parish of Walton-on-Thames in Surrey in 1801, would have found himself in a fairly large parish of 6,859 acres, where the chief arable crops were barley, oats, wheat and rye. He would have discovered that the Parish of 1,476 inhabitants was bordered in the north by the River Thames and in the East by the River Mole, and that a considerable area of the Parish, about 3,000 acres, was common pasture and common land. His counterpart, fifty years later, would have seen a rather different picture. The population of Walton by 1851 had nearly doubled to 2,881, a National school has been set up, and the 1840s had seen the arrival of the railway in the Parish. The Walton Enclosure Act in 1804 had brought with it great changes in the distribution of land, and the landscape of the Parish. The Enclosure, however, were not brought in without opposition. At a Vestry meeting on November 7th 1799, of about forty inhabitants, a petition was addressed to the "nobility and gentry", who resided in the Parish, expressing the hope that the latter would not "promote any scheme imperious to the inferior orders of the people, and especially to those from whom the labours and benefits of husbandry are to be looked for". The petition was to go first to H.R.H. The Duke of York. The protest, however, was in vain for the Enclosures were carried out in 1804. New roads were laid down bordered by newly-planted oak trees. Some of the major landowners bought large areas of land to add to their estates and in this way the Parish became transformed. The Kemeys-Tyntes of the Burhill Estate, Sir Henry Fletcher Bart. of Ashley Park, Sir John Frederick Bart. of Burwood Park, Col. Alcock of Burwood House and the Earl of Carhampton of the Painshill Estate all enlarged their estates, and Edward Peppin formed the new estate of Walton Lodge with his purchases. All but the first of these landowners attended the Parish Vestry at some time. The Earl of Tankerville of the Mount Felix Estate also attended at times, and the Duke of York too send his proxy on one or two occasions. The old Church of St. Mary's, parts of which dated back as far as the Domesday Survey, was the Parish Church for the areas of Walton, Oatlands and Hersham until 1850. After this date the latter areas formed two separate parishes. However, in 1830, a Chapel of Ease was built in Hersham, spurred on by the growing interest in non-conformity in this part of the Parish. The first Methodist Church was erected in 1845, promoted by a Walton grocer and ironmonger, Joseph Steele, who will be mentioned again in the following chapters. The period chosen, 1800 to 1850, therefore, was one of the many changes in the landscape and environment of the Parish. It was also one of social change, in which the administration of the Poor Law was transferred from the Walton Vestry to the Chertsey Board of Guardians after the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. This dissertation will compare the new with the old system at the local level, and discuss the criticisms and opinions of contemporaries, and later historians, about the effect of the Act on Poor Law administration, and on the treatment of the Poor themselves.

Title: The role of primary health care in the management of diseases of poverty in Northern Lesotho
Author: Anastasia Ntsoaki Mohlba
Year: 1994

Abstract:

This dissertation addresses the problems of poverty and the diseases of poverty in developing countries and also in Lesotho in particular. There is little question that ill health among the poor continues to be one of the most serious pervasive health dilemmas of today. The widespread economic crisis has resulted in a fall in living standards, serious unemployment, devaluation of national currencies and formidable austerity policies in response to high costs of fuel, the heavy burden of interest payments and unfavourable terms of trade in Africa and Latin America. Poverty increased as a result of unemployment, inflation and unfavourable terms of trade. Food subsidies have in many cases been abolished and in drought-stricken Africa, food of any kind was in short supply. The cumulative effect of health of increased poverty, unemployment, under-employment and famine and the reduced capacity of health services to respond to health problems, cannot only be inferred but documented with facts for a number of countries in Latin America and Africa. While the principal consequences of drought are malnutrition and the infection is fostered, the situation has been further complicated by epidemics of cholera and acute diarrhoeal diseases. The concentration of populations around the few water points, unsanitary conditions and on the edges of towns was conducive to the outbreak of epidemics and the spread of communicable diseases. The major contributory cause of death of children in Lesotho are protein-energy malnutrition, diarrhoea, infectious diseases at childhood and respiratory infections. The causes of ill health are numerous and complex in nature. However, for the fortunate few health facilities are relatively available. For the majority, health facilities may be situated far away from their homes. Questions have been raised concerning the appropriateness of health services to meet these diseases of poverty. This dissertation examines this question in the context of Lesotho. The dissertation concludes that although progress has been made to combat the diseases of poverty there remains much to be done under primary health care to render health services in Lesotho which are more appropriate to people's needs.

Title: To what extent has research been used to inform anti-poverty policy in Ghana
Author: Williams, Muhammed
Awarded: 2016

Abstract:

Social science research pinpoints groups at high risk of poverty and illuminates the impact of persistent poverty. However, a perceived lack of commitment by government and other agencies to research, and, neglect of its findings has confounded many social scientists. This study explores anti-poverty policies in a developing country, asking the question: To what extent is research used to inform anti-poverty policy in Ghana? Three further questions inform the answer:

- Which factors hinder or facilitate the use of poverty research by policy makers?
- How do policy networks facilitate or constrain policy-making?
- To what extent has policy transfer influenced anti-poverty policies?

Answers to these questions explain the dynamics of the interaction between social scientists and policy makers. The methods used include:

- A literature review of the effectiveness or otherwise of evidence-based policymaking, policy-making frameworks and anti-poverty policies in Ghana.
- In-depth interviews of researchers and policy makers.
- Analysis of poverty research in Ghana.

The study settled on Ghana because it focuses on poverty through academic and policy research. Social scientists also know little about how researchers and policy makers work together, the barriers to knowledge exchange or factors that might increase researchers' engagement with policy makers. There was also an opportunity to assess the contribution of researchers to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The study found evidence of the direct use of research to develop policies in the health, agricultural and technological sectors. There was considerable evidence of the conceptual use of research to enlighten policy makers, facilitated by a network of specialists across government and international agencies. Analysis proved that policy networks helped to spread and exchange knowledge and resources, which contributed to the development of anti-poverty policies in Ghana. However, there was some evidence that International Finance and International Development Agencies imposed anti-poverty policies on the government of Ghana.

Title: What are the comparative advantages of international non-governmental organisations engaged in the alleviation of poverty in rural Africa?

Author: Gilbert, Alistair

Awarded: 1996

Abstract:

This study examines international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with specific reference to their role in poverty alleviation in the rural areas of Africa. By exploring the unique properties of NGOs, in particular their relationship with their beneficiaries and their organisational structure, the veracity of the generally held view that they are a more suitable vehicle for rural development than the African State will be tested. The relative strength of the NGO and State sectors will be investigated, their attitudes and approaches to rural development will be considered, as will the relationship between them. The conclusion will be that NGOs will only take advantage of their singular properties when they become fully aware of their limitations. The contention is that they are unable to achieve significant impact with their project work precisely because of the characteristics that define them, and to improve the scale of their results they will need to look for alternative strategies. These strategies, it will be argued, will necessarily be of a more political nature; using the respect they have gained through their small-scale project work, they will challenge governments and the international institutions to create an environment more conducive to rural development.

Title: Who deserves a better life? Social inequality in Chinese higher education access

Author: Chen, Yu

Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

This thesis explores the sociological issue of how and with what outcomes students' trajectories through the Chinese higher education system are shaped by the nature of policy, on the one hand, and their social backgrounds, on the other. In relation to policy, from 1999 onwards there have been major changes in higher education policy which have provided new opportunities for higher education development in China. As a consequence, during the period from 1999-2010, the gross enrolment rate increased nearly six-fold. However, this expansion has been paralleled by other policies that allocate additional resources to model (formerly key) schools as well as to a small group of already elite universities. The question, then, of who gets to go to these exclusive and elite institutions, and the ensuing social justice outcomes, are at the heart of this thesis. A mixed-methods research design strategy was used to investigate the relationship between higher education expansion and access, institutions, key schools and university applicants. To identify those influences shaping students' choices and experiences required a focus on both their families' social, cultural, economic, and political capital and their personal understanding of their choice and experiences. The fieldwork design involves focus groups with university applicants, interviews carried out in China with policy makers and university applicants, as well as a survey examining the kinds of social backgrounds of students in key and non-key schools. This study examines both policy makers' perspective of China's higher education expansion since 1999, and university applicants' experiences and understandings of the choices of higher education access. Theoretically, the study is based on a critical conceptual framework and is inspired by Bourdieu's theory of the forms of capital to understand differences in higher education access in China. The research findings suggest there is a relationship between families' social, cultural, economic, and political statuses, and that these relationships have important implications for social outcomes, equity and justice. Widening access to higher education in China does not appear to be matched by equal access to opportunities for social equity, and mobility. The findings reveal that Chinese higher education policy makers fail to see, take account of, and respond to, the outcomes of higher education expansion outcomes and their unequal consequences and impacts on university applicants as this is mediated through key schools. The study also finds that the differences between students is less a question of aspiration - in that all Chinese students and their families have high aspirations. Rather, those families with access to economic, social, cultural and political capitals strategize their paths through the institutions - including access to key as opposed to non-key schools. Interviews with students reveal the pressure on them to be a 'good person', and that this status is the outcome of securing a place in university. By exploring how higher education trajectories are shaped by students' family backgrounds in China, this study offers a more holistic approach to examining the influences shaping student's experiences and outcomes. This study also contributes to sociological debates on ways to understand the relationship between higher education expansion policy and social equity and mobility issues in a global context.

Title: Widening participation in higher education for students from the low socio-economic status group? : a social justice analysis of student loans in Tanzania

Author: Msigwa, Faustina Martha

Awarded: 2016

Abstract:

Higher education (HE) is expanding internationally driven by governments' dual concern to develop human capital that will contribute to economic growth and individuals' desire to expand their capabilities. However, as participation in HE expands, national governments are no longer able or willing to meet the costs. Financing of HE through provision of student loans has become the most popular strategy globally for funding undergraduate degrees. Widening participation as HE expands therefore depends on socially just distribution of loans. The Tanzanian student loans programme targets the support of students from the low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds. This study explores the extent to which the loan policy and practice in Tanzania enables participation in HE for these students. The study is guided by the philosophical perspectives of critical theory and applies Nancy Fraser's theory of Social Justice. Political representation issues of who makes decisions and how, are investigated through critical analysis of policy documents and focus group discussions with higher level officials within Higher Education Student Loans Board (HESLB). Loan policy implementations are explored from the perspective of twenty students from low-SES backgrounds studying at two Universities in Dar-es-salaam, who have applied for student loans with differing degrees of success. Through one to one interviews they were invited to share their stories of applying for and distribution of loans, and about studying with or without a full loan. The findings show a discrepancy between the purposes of the financial assistance policy and the loan scheme on the one hand and, the practice of loans distribution on the other. The policy guarantees loan accessibility for poor students but in practice the proclaimed opportunity is unreliable. For instance, the 'national priority' criterion for loans accessibility excludes many poor students who have not been enrolled in Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Education programmes but qualify for HE entry. This study recommends that, HESLB revise its criteria for issuing of loans and the means-testing formula in order to create more opportunities for HE participation for students from low-SES backgrounds.

Title: Women's health in urban primary health care

Author: Ingrid Mijlof

Year: 1995

Abstract:

This dissertation describes the health needs of women in poor urban areas. It then continues to look at existing health services and actions that can be taken to improve the quality of life for low income women. The health needs of women has either been medicalized or neglected. Events like the International Women's Year in 1975 has helped to inform the world about women's issues, but now ten years later and there are still millions of women that die of preventable conditions and are still discriminated against because of their gender. Woman and girls' health is important, because they play an important role in their family's health, but they also contribute towards the economy of their countries, throughout their whole life span. How can women fulfil their roles as mothers, carers and earners when they are undernourished, have no control over their own lives and have not access to credit or land. The rapid rate of urbanisation combined with the creation of unplanned slums results in high population density areas with a variety of health problems ranging from air pollution and violent crimes to communicable disease such as tuberculosis and malaria. More and more women find themselves living in these conditions and where high population density is a reason for more and better services in cities, that doesn't mean to say they are accessible and affordable for the urban poor. The Primary Health Care approach is a holistic way of looking at health and is especially suitable for women when implemented well and expanded widely. It is an empowering approach because it takes into account the actions of women in the family and the community. In the last stage I describe the existing health services that has been very narrowly focused on the reproductive years. Then moving on, I take a look at services and actions that can enable women to live decently and with dignity in the squalor of urban settings, from childhood through to old age.

Title: Working towards gender parity in education in developing countries : issues and challenges
Author: Nassali-Lukwago, Rose
Awarded: 1998

Abstract:

This study was based on the present writer's perception that inequality in education is a result of people's negative traditional cultural attitudes to girls and women and that, to provide equal opportunities for both girls and boys, there is a need for changes in the primary and secondary school curricula that will alter peoples' attitudes. The thesis of this dissertation is that equal opportunities policies are often based on developed countries' models, recommended for implementation in developing countries' education systems by funding and research bodies. These policies do not take into account the perceptions of the key players in the implementation process and how their perceptions might influence the success or failure of intended measures to provide equal opportunities in education for boys and girls. It is hypothesised that in Uganda, the government has chosen affirmative action policies to reduce gender inequality in education but, from the perceptions of the key players, they have had unexpected consequences which reinforce past patterns of advantage and disadvantage for the targeted group. The advantages and disadvantages are grounded in the contradictory and paradoxical outcomes of internationally and nationally recommended educational policies. This is because policies deal with only one aspect of educational inequality, which is perceived in terms of girls' non-participation in education (access, enrolment and retention). They ignore the attitudinal problem, which is an outcome of the socio-economic, socio-cultural, and school related factors which not only further disadvantage girls but boys as well, thus creating more inequalities. The study focuses upon a cross-section of those who inform and implement policies in the Ministry of Education, those who implement policies at the district and school level and those whom policies target in the classroom. The data, which is selectively quoted in the study, was derived from standardised open-ended elite and group interviews. Key players' perceptions, which impact on the provision of equal opportunities in education, are discussed in relation to international and national policies in education. Particular attention is paid in the study to understanding key players' perceptions of the meaning of equal opportunities in education. This was considered as central to the successful implementation of equal opportunities measures in a way that will not disadvantage any group. It soon became clear from the perceptions on equal opportunities held by key policy makers and implementers in the Ministry of Education and at the district levels, that the problem was not changing attitudes, but increasing access, enrolment and retention for girls within the system of education. At the school level, the problem involved increasing: enrolment; retention; academic competition between boys and girls; participation of girls in school leadership; interaction; and strategies to reduce discrimination practices between boys and girls by their teachers. These perceptions were reflected in individual schools. Implications for theory and practice of equal opportunities in education are drawn from findings from the study.

Title: Young people's lives in university : exploring welfare mixes and inequality of young people's experiences in university in England, Italy and Sweden

Author: Antonucci, Lorenza

Awarded: 2014

Abstract

After the mass expansion of higher education, young people's experiences in university have become crucial in defining the overall characteristics of the current European youth. Despite the relevance of these paths of transitions, the variation of young people's experiences in university remains a relatively overlooked area. This research aims to fill this gap by exploring the inequality of young people's lives in university (encompassing financial circumstances, housing, well-being and education). The research employs a theoretical framework in which individual experiences are analysed in relation to structural factors, namely their socio-economic backgrounds and available welfare mixes (sources from the family, the state and the labour market). Welfare sources are conceptualised as structures available to semi-dependent young people to cope with social risks in the context of a privatisation of social risk for young people in university across Europe. Through a comparison of highly different 'welfare mixes' in England, Italy and Sweden, the research clarifies the role of each source of welfare in stratifying young people's experiences in university. The research employed a mixed methodology strategy, combining the use of a q-methodology survey with in-depth follow-up interviews. The research identifies five profiles of young people's experiences in university which are explained by the interaction between welfare sources and socio-economic backgrounds. Furthermore, it identifies three different models of 'semi-dependence' among young people which are linked to the different welfare mixes available in the three countries. The study argues that inequalities in young people's experiences of university arise from the different availability of welfare sources (from the family, state and the labour market), which is related to young people's socio-economic backgrounds. Furthermore, the thesis points out that the increasing use of private sources of welfare results in an increasing inequality of young people's experiences in university.

Title: Youth poverty and social inequalities in Mexico

Author: Catalán, Héctor E. Nájera

Awarded: 2016

Abstract:

This thesis aims at providing an estimate of the extent of youth poverty and advances in the understanding of its existence in Mexico. It raises the following four main research questions: (1) What is the extent of youth poverty in Mexico? (2) What are the associations between different material deprivations? (3) What is the relationship between different socio-economic factors and the likelihood of experiencing poverty during youth? (4) What is the spatial association between material deprivation and public provision for youth at the municipal level? The findings suggest that official poverty measure is not reliable and does not offer a valid poverty index. The thesis produces an adjusted measure and according to this index, poverty affects around half of young Mexicans, and only a small minority fully enjoys their social rights. The results indicate that the theoretical structure of the poverty index holds and that different deprivations are positively associated. Multiple deprivation can be tackled by improving public provision, including increases in access to social security and health. Youth poverty in Mexico seems to be rather structured, in that the likelihood of being poor varies considerably across different population groups. Ethnicity, family composition, economic independence and rurality all affect the chances of remaining in poverty. The results suggest that human capital is a good framework for predicting the worst forms of poverty among young people, but it is not a theory that can be applied to less severe types of poverty and deprivation. Further theoretical developments are therefore required, in order to explain fully poverty experienced by youth in Mexico. Finally, area-level material deprivation is highly clustered, and it is spatially associated with poor standards of public provision.

Title: Youth poverty reduction in Nigeria : a policy perspective
Author: Momah, Patricia Adaeze
Awarded: 2012

Abstract:

The extent of poverty experienced by Nigerian youth and its effects on national security, sustainable poverty-reduction, socio-economic development, and the global economy has made youth-poverty a serious concern worthy of timely redress. Accordingly, this study explores potential remedies to curb youth-poverty in Nigeria from the economic-empowerment standpoint. The study adopts four steps to address the research problem. First, it reviews the relevant literature related to the topic. Second, it investigates the extent, nature, and causes of youth-poverty in Nigeria. It also examines the limitations of the national monetary, fiscal, and labour policy processes, and the efforts of the non-government agencies in contributing effectively to the reduction of youth poverty in Nigeria. Third, it gained insight into these investigations through qualitative in-depth interviews with twenty-two purposely selected macroeconomic and labour policy process officials. Fourth, an analysis of the findings based on a framework approach along with the relevant theoretical outlook, facilitated potential policy recommendations for managing youth-poverty in Nigeria. Amidst other findings, inadequate economic-empowerment and increased poverty amongst young people in Nigeria is largely associated with the unsatisfactory performance patterns of both past and present governments. The poor socio-economic and politico-legal situations in the country not only limited monetary, fiscal, and labour policy processes but also have hampered the efforts of non-government agencies in achieving economic-empowerment and poverty-reduction for Nigerian youth. The study concluded that both global and national youth-poverty reduction policy frameworks are required to deal adequately with the factors limiting the economic-empowerment and emergence of young Nigerians from poverty. It underscores good democratic governance, as essential tool to attain youth economic-empowerment and poverty-reduction in Nigeria. The study argued strongly that only responsive governance can create the requisite structure to address the problem of youth-poverty.

Title: (Net)working out poverty and social exclusion in rural Ireland and Russia
Author: Shubin, Sergei Vitalyevich
Awarded: 2003

Abstract:

This thesis uncovers complexity of poverty experiences and mechanisms contributing to social exclusion of people living in rural Ireland and Russia, as well as explores the relationship between rural poverty and policies which are supposed to deal with it. It uses networked approach to understanding rural social malaise. The emphasis is given to the explanation of network processes through which poverty and otherness are constructed within a multiplicity of spheres, including social, cultural and political domains. Drawing on empirical research presenting comparative narratives of rural poverty in three villages in Ireland and Russia this research goes beyond an examination of specific "poor" and "excluded" people, in order to consider the processes of impoverishment and marginalisation. At the same time, the thesis investigates the ways in which different knowledge and power, which are enacted in rural policies, transform and translate experiential meanings of poverty. Interpretation and critiques of current rural policy-making, which fails to address poverty-related issues, promote the need to move away from rational and logical policies which produce oversimplified, trivialised and de-sensitised constructions of poverty and otherness. Instead, the thesis refers to different postmodern and post structural approaches to poverty and otherness which allow a more hybrid and complex understanding of these phenomena. It argues that fluid, sensuous and poetic politics of difference could broaden and deepen understanding of poverty and contribute to the alleviation of poverty-related problems. In conclusion, this thesis suggests the ways in which this research can be incorporated in existing policy practices. It demonstrates that in different countries with contrasting situation vis-a-vis poverty (in terms of scale and seriousness of problems) and anti-poverty policies (in terms of attention paid and funding allocated to rural development) the adoption of alternative approaches to dealing with poverty can alleviate rural social malaise.

Title: A longitudinal multilevel study of the health outcomes for the elderly in China
Author: Feng, Zhixin
Awarded: 2013

Abstract:

As China has the largest and one of the fastest growing aging populations, health status and its disparity among the elderly has become one of the most challenging issues in the coming decade. The traditional family care system for the elderly has been weakened since the 1980s and at the same time the current social security provision for the elderly remains extremely underfunded, underdeveloped and unevenly distributed geographically. This study seeks to understand to what extent different demographic, socioeconomic factors, social security provision and access, social contexts and geography effects are responsible to explain differential health outcomes and mortality among the elderly. The results of the study have great policy implications for the well-being of the vulnerable elderly population and China's on-going social security reforms. The empirical analysis mainly uses the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (2008/2002-2008) and employs multilevel statistical approaches to analyse variations of Self-Rated Health (SRH) and mortality for the elderly at both the individual and province levels simultaneously. Results indicate that individual characteristics (demographic and socioeconomic status), social security sources and social context (income inequality) bring out different consequences on the health outcome and mortality of the elderly. To be more specific, males have better health than females, but a lower survival rate than females; family and state play different roles on the SRH and mortality of the elderly in the form of financial resources and as medical expense bearers; income inequality has a positive effect on the elderly with poor health, but a negative effect on the risk of mortality of the elderly with poor health. No significant differences are found for urban-rural residence and schooling in this study. Substantial province level differences exist on the health outcomes of the elderly.

Title: A study of anti-poverty policy in the welfare state : the case of public assistance programmes in the Republic of Korea
Author: Nho, Gil-Sang
Awarded: 1994

Abstract:

The main aim of this thesis is to examine how Korea might establish a welfare state through analysing the experience of the Korean development process and the anti-poverty policies of the other welfare states. During the last three decades, the Korean government has put top priority on economic development and considered economic growth as a mechanism to extend the welfare of people through income increase within growth maximisation policy. To pursue only economic growth to the detriment of social welfare has brought much social and political instability, which in turn makes further growth itself impossible. The current public assistance programmes and social security system have the character of anti-social welfare and widen inequality within the population. The conceptual foundation of current anti-poverty policy has been a combination of the "starvation" and "subsistence" approach, plus the "minority group" approaches, without any reference to the "relative deprivation" approach. The "relative deprivation approach" relates not only to anti-poverty policy for the poor but also to national development policy in constructing a welfare state in Korea. Without the adoption of a "relative" approach, it would be impossible to establish a welfare state. The growing relative deprivation felt by the poor and also the working class in an extravagant consumption society and labour's growing demand for participation in both a political and economic capacity, and the international trade situation suggest different possible directions for the future of Korean welfare policies. The Korean welfare state is at a crossroads. The only way to solve the poverty problem would be to conduct structural surgery on Korean society through the "relative deprivation" approach, to modify the economic growth first policy of the last three decades and give greater attention to social development as well as welfare. The Korean development policy needs to adopt a more balanced "relative" approach to poverty, rather than the insufficient and meagre "subsistence" and "basic needs" approaches.

Title: A woman can starve before she gets any relief : poverty and hardship amongst service families during the Second World War in England

Author: Vegoda, Helen

Awarded: 2011

Abstract:

This dissertation explores the ways in which service families experienced poverty and hardship during the Second World War; the measures taken by service men and their wives to overcome this privation; the attitudes and support given by the philanthropic workers who assessed their circumstances; and the campaigns mounted in Parliament and the press to improve their financial position. My interest was prompted by the collection of letters exchanged between my parents from 1941 to 1946 when my father was conscripted, and my mother remained in London caring for their daughter. I became aware from the correspondence, that conscription had brought greater financial hardship for my mother, leaving her struggling and largely dependent on army allowances. To set my parents' poverty within a national context and gain a greater understanding of the extent of disadvantage amongst families of conscripted citizens, the dissertation draws on a wide range of archival sources, including prominent charities like Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association [SSADA], the Charity Organisation Society [COS], and The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Regimental Aid Fund. The Ivory Cross Dental Aid Fund and Bristol Corporation War Services Allowances [Hardship] Fund also proved to be rich sources of information. I drew on *Hansard* and newspapers to analyse the contemporary debates on service remuneration. The dissertation uncovered widespread hardship, a situation that sparked off Parliamentary and national debate during the war years. It highlights the plight of those unable to afford medical and dental care and whose other basic needs were compromised by lack of means. It reveals the partnership existing between the state and philanthropic organisations and the pivotal role played by charities in bridging the gap in welfare provision. Most importantly, it gives a voice to those service individuals and their dependants who suffered at the state's failure to address their needs.

Title: Alcohol patterns through mid-adolescence and socioeconomic position : the ALSPAC birth-cohort

Author: Melotti, Roberto

Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

Socioeconomic inequalities of adolescent alcohol use are not as consistent as for other health risk behaviours. Thesis hypotheses were that a) alternative familial early socioeconomic position indicators of both immaterial and material resources presented specific associations with several modalities of alcohol consumption; b) associations of immaterial capital typically diluted from early to middle adolescence and material/immaterial influences varied between genders; and c) the socioeconomic context of schools exerted influence on middle adolescent alcohol misuse. Outcome data were collected at age 12, 13 and 15 from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) birth-cohort. Self-reported early alcohol onset, ever/past use, misuse and problem use were investigated in early and mid-adolescence. Socioeconomic position included mother's reported questionnaire-based measures of maternal education, parental social class and disposable household income. School level indicators were retrieved from Annual School Census data linked to ALSPAC. Multiple logistic regressions assessed associations between variables. Sensitivity analyses used multiple imputations. Multilevel models accounted for ALSPAC participants nested within schools. Maternal education was negatively associated with most measures of alcohol investigated, including early onset and use/misuse at both age 13 and 15. Conversely, household income had positive associations with measures of early alcohol use and later measures of alcohol misuse. Girls in more disadvantaged families were at lower risk of alcohol related problems than boys. However, for increasing levels of income and maternal education their risks overtook and matched that of boys, respectively. Non-negligible residual variance of alcohol misuse among schools (~ to 3%) was not explained by the school socioeconomic context. Socioeconomic gradients on underage drinking manifest since early alcohol exposure and differ by construct through mid-adolescence. Policies on youth drinking should reflect that material advantage across the socioeconomic spectrum may increase risk of alcohol misuse and problem use, particularly in girls.

Title: An analysis of changes in child poverty in the developing world at the end of the 20th century
Author: Nandy, S.
Awarded: 2010

Abstract:

What do we know about child poverty and deprivation in the developing world? Are things getting better or, given the political and economic turmoil of recent years, have conditions worsened? Are children's basic needs for shelter, water, food and education being met, or has there been a decline in their standard of living? These are, one would think, quite simple questions to which there would be ample evidence to provide a detailed answer. In fact, reliable data on child poverty in the developing world are sparse. This may come as a surprise, given the considerable international attention and resources according to children. Until recently, most detailed studies of child poverty were conducted in rich countries; very few, if any, were conducted in the countries where almost all of the world's poorest children live – those in the developing world. This thesis examines the issues of child poverty and deprivation in the developing world. Using an international accepted definition of absolute poverty, a peer-reviewed methodology and high-quality individual level survey data on more than 3.5 million children in 84 countries, it provides for the first time, reliable data to show what changes there have been in the extent and nature of child poverty and deprivation in the developing world in the final decade of the twentieth century. It shows limited progress has been made in reducing the depth of child poverty and the prevalence of some key deprivations, and that while some regions have successfully reduced child poverty, others, namely Sub-Saharan Africa, have seen conditions worsen. The data also show how disparities, between boys and girls and between urban and rural children, changed over the 1990s.

Title: Analysing the distribution of income and taxes in Slovenia with a tax benefit model
Author: Čiček, Mitja
Year: 2002

Abstract:

This thesis begins, in Chapter 2, with the analysis of income distribution and income inequality during the transition from a socialist to a market economy in Slovenia. The results suggest that during the 1990s the inequality of market earned income grew, while social and fiscal policy ensured that the inequality of household disposable income did not increase. The tax system provides a shelter for low income individuals and social and family transfers are effectively tax free, as well as the major part of pensions. On the other hand, the system is progressive and high-income individuals pay proportionally more tax. Chapter 3 presents a microsimulation model for the Slovenian tax-benefit system. It provides an estimate of the size and distribution of personal income tax, social security contributions and payroll taxes at the level of both individuals and households. The results of the model validation reveal that the quality of simulations crucially depends on the databases used by the model. A comparison of its simulations with the outcomes of other microsimulation models reveals that the model can claim a level of accuracy no worse, on average, than other comparable models. Chapter 4 shows the ability of the microsimulation model to simulate tax policy and to estimate the consequences on analysed policy alternatives. It includes three sets of simulations connected with the tax-benefit system in Slovenia: an introduction of tax credits, an introduction of uniform child allowance and a new child benefit and the simulation of a basic income scheme for children. Effects of analysed policy alternative are estimated both at the level of households (regarding the changes in disposable income) as well as at the level of government (regarding the changes in tax revenues). Chapter 5 includes the estimation of the overall tax burden of households, including direct and indirect taxes. Results suggest that inactive (pensioner) households are faced with lower marginal and average tax rates for direct taxes, especially for personal income tax. On the other hand, they carry a higher tax burden of indirect taxes compared with the active households.

Title: Being and becoming : youth poverty and labour market transitions in Europe
Author: Sánchez, Alba Lanau
Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

The socio-economic transformations that accompanied the development of post-industrial societies in the West have generated debates regarding the impact of social change on the nature and patterning of youth disadvantage (e.g. Giddens, 1991; Paugam, 2007; Woodman, 2012). Individualisation theory argues a loosening of the influence of structural factors on young people's transitions (Leisering and Leibfried, 1999). In contrast, social disqualification theory suggests that the experiences of young Europeans are becoming increasingly polarized (Paugam, 2007). Finally, supporters of structural theory highlight that biographies remain strongly shaped by the traditional stratification markers and that the impact of socio-economic transformations on youth transitions has been overstated (Furlong, 2009). To date empirical evidence is scarce (Vandecasteele, 2011). Drawing on two longitudinal European comparative surveys, this thesis examines change and continuity in youth disadvantage during the 1990s and early 2000s. The project assesses changes in the extent to which gender, class and migrant background shape young people's exposure to poverty, as well as the influence of disadvantage on young people's labour market transitions. Results for a range of economic and institutional contexts are contrasted by comparing six European countries: Denmark, Belgium, France, the UK, Italy and Spain. The study finds no sign of an individualisation of youth transitions. During the period of examination, the association between individual background, poverty and transitional pathways is remarkably robust. There is no indication of a process of polarisation either. There are however significant cross-national differences indicating that national structures filter the impact of social change in the nature and patterning of youth disadvantage. Changes in the patterning of disadvantage also vary across predictors, suggesting the need for theories of social change to consider factors such as gender, migrant background and their interaction with class in order to build a more nuanced understanding of social inequality.

Title: Child poverty in urban China
Author: Qi, Di
Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

This thesis examines the changes in the extent and nature of child poverty in urban China using all waves of the China Health and Nutrition Survey Data (CHNS) between 1989 and 2011. It also explains how household demographic and socioeconomic characteristics impact on child poverty. A combined measure of income and deprivation is employed to measure child poverty in urban China. The number of poor children in urban China with both a low income and a low standard of living declined from 1989 to 2011. However, the number of children who were not deprived but were income poor increased sharply during this period. They are vulnerable to sinking into poverty in the future if their household income remains low. A disaggregated analysis shows that the extent of child deprivation remains a problem in 2011 including sanitation, nutrition and shelter deprivation. The analysis using a Cox proportional hazard model shows that parents' work units and the hukou type of the family exert the greatest influences on child poverty. This thesis provides strong evidence that child poverty in urban China is mainly caused by structural rather than individual factors. This calls for a fundamental reform by Chinese policy makers to remove the structural barriers to child survival and development and to ensure that all children in urban China can have equal access to social security and associated cash and in-kind benefits.

Title: Christians and poverty
Author: Norton, Richard
Awarded: 1983

Abstract:

This study explores the nature of contemporary British Poverty and some Christian responses to it. The first chapters examine the complex and politically controversial issues involved in the definitions of poverty; its causes and common assumptions which together influence our perception of it. The third and final chapter considers a range of theological, ethical and practical resources which some English churches currently employ in their attempts to provide a measured Christian response to the issue. It examines the extent to which a 'Church of the Poor' may be required to recover and develop an image of God among poor people. As a result of this investigation, it seems reasonably clear that the optimistic belief that poverty had been eradicated by the operation of the Welfare State during the 1950s and 1960s is as erroneous now as it was then. Poverty remains a central experience in the lives of many British people and this poses both a challenge and a problem to the churches. The exact nature of the challenge is, however, far from clear. Both the material and theological resources available to the churches may be diffuse and impair the extent and effectiveness of their action. The Christian response to Poverty raises central and important questions in social ethics because it suggests a reconsideration of the connections between church and state, religion and society, Christian philosophy and practice. Political considerations are included in this: 'to what extent are individuals responsible for the 'life-changes' of others?', 'do all citizens enjoy the same right of access to a basic standard of living?', 'how far, if at all, is the abolition or reduction of British Poverty consistent with the maintenance of an ethical, democratic social order in a free market economy?'. For the Christian, a consideration of the persistence of poverty is, in addition, a specific instance in which the question 'Who is my neighbour?' may be asked afresh. This entails a consideration of the obligations placed on individuals and Christian communities in virtue of their recognition of the impairment of the lives of some of these neighbours. A consideration of the major Christian responses to Poverty in Britain since 1974 provides no final answers to the problem, and it is not the purpose of this discussion to do so. It may however, be concluded that in the attempts to relieve and eradicate poverty, the church has a major role to play. This role is determined as much by effective action with, and in the interests of, poor people, as by the exercise of its traditional caution in matters of social concern. In order to achieve a balance between these two aspects, 'radical' changes in thought, structures and action, may be demanded. It is with these that this study is also concerned.

Title: Colour and class inequality in Seychelles
Author: Low-Hang, Kathleen
Awarded: 1984

Abstract:

This thesis is concerned with the various aspects of social and material inequality in Seychelles. More specifically, it seeks to examine the relationship between the distribution of resources and the division of the population into class and racial groups. On almost all dimensions of inequality, the white minority is shown to enjoy a privileged position by comparison with blacks and coloureds. Despite the clear connection between colour and class, there have been very few signs of racial animosity on the part of the disadvantaged black majority. Seychelles has, in fact, enjoyed something of a reputation as a model of inter-racial harmony. The thesis seeks to investigate whether this reputation is warranted and how the absence of violent conflict could best be explained. The investigation took the form, principally, of a sample survey of the population carried out in 1981, supplemented by archive materials and other documents relation to the period of slavery and subsequent emancipation. Respondents' answers to the questionnaire, and their elaborations during interviews provided the basis for discussion and analysis of most of the key issues relation to social inequality, class and race. The questionnaire was designed to elicit, among other things, how respondents perceived inequality and whether they regarded it as just or morally unacceptable; whether they tended to judge their own and others' material condition in class or racial terms; whether they had personally experiences discrimination on class or racial grounds; whether they felt that colour was of any social relevance, and so on. These personal, subjective assessments of the social system were examined against the background of the factual distribution of resources and opportunities in the society. Data were provided on the existing pattern of landownership, income distribution, housing and educational opportunities. It was shown that perceptions of inequality almost always underestimated its actual extent, and that the least advantaged section of the society – the blacks – were not necessarily the most critical of existing arrangements. It was also found that most blacks and coloureds accepted the aesthetic and moral values espoused by the white elite. This provoked a consideration of whether the existing consensus arose from a genuine community of interest or whether it was 'manufactured'. Although much of the thesis concerns the attitudes and behaviour of the black majority, considerable attention was also paid to the white elite. Of particular interest here, is the ability shown by this elite in maintaining its power intact throughout the entire period of Seychelle's history. The extent of this power is illustrated both in the opening chapter dealing with the slave origins of the society, and the concluding chapter dealing with the establishment of an egalitarian socialist state.

Title: Community cohesion and ethnic difference : examining "race relations" and equalities practice in Bristol

Author: White, Hannah

Awarded: 2011

Abstract:

Community Cohesion was one of New Labour's most durable social policy programmes. Launched during the aftermath of the 2001 riots, due to concerns that segregation is exacerbated by the absence of day-to-day interaction between members of different ethnic 'groups'. In contrast to the alleged divisiveness of the protectionist multicultural model, its architects claimed Community Cohesion signalled a more sophisticated approach intended to establish shared commonalities in an era of increasing diversity. This thesis explores New Labour's transformations to 'race relations' and equalities practice at the end of the last decade, by examining the implementation of Community Cohesion in the city of Bristol. Central to the study is exploration of different understandings of identity, as cultural differences were perceived to be the root-cause of social fractures, while the promotion of a shared sense of belonging, experience, and values, the recommended solution. In particular, the research examines whether the advised approach of emphasising common similarities addressed the underlying causes of ethnic disadvantage. This research is intended to complement the existing academic literature, by examining not only the repercussions of New Labour policy introduced to address divisions rather than inequalities, but also the implications for single-issue campaigning. More specifically, it investigates how attempts to establish the 'invisibility' of ethnic difference across service provision, impacted upon single-issue organisations acting as supplementary service providers and proxy representatives of minority interests. The research findings suggest that in Bristol neither 'race relations' nor equalities policy were embedded across Council services. Instead voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) were primarily responsible for addressing the effects of structural inequalities. However, due to the priority of establishing cohesion, organisations were struggling for survival, and subsequently by the end of New Labour's term the foundations of a 'colour-blind' approach to tackling social disadvantage had been laid.

Title: Dilemmas and dynamics relating to selection for secondary schooling in Trinidad and Tobago
Author: Mills , Michele Celine
Awarded: 2013

Abstract:

The high-stakes eleven plus placement examination has remained a feature of the education systems of many postcolonial Anglophone Caribbean territories. Originally based on a British model, it was introduced to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in 1961 and was perceived to be the fairest means of allocating the limited number of secondary school places. The expansion of the secondary sector and the achievement of universal secondary education, however, have had little impact on the selection role and societal significance of the examination in the local context. This qualitative study draws on concepts of cultural and social capital and power, and the theoretical work of sociological and educational researchers such as Bourdieu, Foucault, Bernstein, Dore and Broadfoot, to investigate whose interests are being served by maintaining the selective examination system. This is done with reference to implications that stem from the uncritical transfer of educational and assessment policies and practices to, and within, small states. More specifically, critical discourse analysis, and four detailed school case studies, are employed to examine the extent to which the Trinidad and Tobago eleven plus reproduces patterns of power and social inequity in practice. In developing the arguments, the study draws upon experiential knowledge based on my own varied professional experience within the Trinidad education system. Metaphor informs the stages of data analysis and allows the voices of the research participants to be foregrounded in the presentation of the data. Additionally, metaphor offers an important bridge that connects the findings with the key theoretical concepts that guide the study. The findings suggest that students are unequally positioned in terms of access to the cultural, social and linguistic capital that is taken for granted, and indeed required and rewarded, by the examination. It is argued that the linguistic and cultural competence demanded by the examination process requires initial familiarisation within the family and that those students who are better placed, in terms of the quantity and quality of such capital, have a better feel for the game and a significant advantage at the eleven plus level. These findings are consistent with Bourdieu's theory that education systems reproduce the unequal distribution of cultural capital and therefore contribute to the reproduction of inequities in the social structure. In concluding, it is argued that the eleven-plus examination symbolises and is located within the power struggles and ideological disconnections that marked its introduction to Trinidad and Tobago in the 1960s.

Title: Dimensions of poverty
Author: McKay, Stephen
Awarded: 2007

Abstract:

This dissertation examines the measurement of poverty and its distribution across families and areas. The submission includes seven publications drawn from a wide portfolio with a commentary outlining the significant and original contributions that these have made within social policy. The research makes an important contribution in a number of ways; the methods used, the substantive empirical findings, conceptualisation and effect on theoretical discussion, and role in policy development. The publications represent analyses of changes in family incomes and wellbeing over the 1990s and the 2000s, tracking panels of families with children. In the first part I discuss the inadequacies of 'consensual deprivation indicators' as a scientific measure of poverty, pointing to the weak bases of consensus and how difference in spending patterns compromise the usefulness of the measure. I also demonstrate the power of a range of measures of wellbeing (taken together) in demonstrating the effects that major policy changed may have on families with children. In the second part I apply longitudinal analysis tools to considering the causes of the growth of lone motherhood and discuss the problematic nature of treating a diverse range of families ('lone mothers') as a single group. The substantive analysis shows how material conditions, including family background, are powerful causes of family change. The third part provides evidence for the importance of using locality information in the analysis of various social phenomena. Social policy is generally sceptical about the importance of 'place', but my analysis showed that area-based influences could not be reduced to individual-level characteristics. Specific analysis of the London labour market illustrated how analysis at a regional level could illuminate discussion of lone parent employment rates.

Title: Embracing universal access to secondary education in St. Vincent : what are the costs and consequences for parents in beneficiary households?

Author: Bristol , George S.

Awarded: 2013

Abstract:

Governments, multilateral donor agencies, civil society, development scholars all agree that education contributes to poverty reduction. In St Vincent and the Grenadines, this conviction underpinned the implementation of the Universal Access to Secondary Education (UASE) initiative of 2005 that provided all successful Vincentian primary school students with access to five years of secondary school education. The same sort of confidence in the ability of education to reduce poverty has also motivated Vincentian parents to embrace the UASE initiative, and to make a variety of decisions that have allowed their children to take advantages of the new educational opportunities for secondary education. This dissertation investigates these decisions; highlight the cultural and economic contexts in which these decisions have been made; and illuminate the contributions that fathers and mothers have each made to the success of the initiative. A core theme of this study is that while Vincentian households are decreasingly male dominated, major gender differences remain. In particular, while adult males in some poor households have borne additional burdens because of the UASE initiative, adult females have done so in virtually all households. Previous poverty studies using statistical methods to link education to poverty reduction have been insufficiently sensitive to social changes that have proven often necessary for parents to embrace expanded opportunities for the education of their children. Therefore, this thesis adopts a qualitative case study approach that is based on 49 semi-structured interviews and 2 focus group meetings. This research strategy is well suited to capture people's lived experiences; their own understandings of these experiences; the reason why parents make important sacrifices for the sake of their children's education; and the related transformation of gender traditional gender roles and gendered division of labour, on the part of some, though importantly not all, mothers and fathers. Empirically, the study reflects on tensions and contradictions within households about these transformations, and the increasingly important role of women in household decision-making. These household circumstances have been an important part of the context from which poverty statistics have often emerged, and the study contributes a fuller account of the traditional expectations, practices and work orientation of Vincentian parents. A sound grasp of these socio-cultural and historical characteristics is vital in accounting for observed changes in parents' household relations. In documenting and accounting for household processes and orientations that have accompanied parental embrace of the UASE initiative: this study shows how fathers have exhibited a range of dispositions to their households. These have reflected their gendered orientation to the division of labour and their varying degrees of willingness to transform their orientation. In contrast to the variability of these fathers, women - in their roles as mothers - have almost invariably borne heavy burdens in terms of added domestic labour and sometimes paid labour outside the house. Attaching tremendous importance to their roles as mothers, women have taken this responsibility upon themselves in households where adult males simply refused or at least were very reluctant to do what was necessary. These sacrifices were necessary if their children were to attend secondary school. In this sense, the success of the UASE has come at an important cost to these mothers. Mothers' pro-school actions catalysed many unintended changes to household relations and cultural practices - changes not well documented in previous poverty studies. These findings have important implications for the focus of future poverty reductions studies and poverty reduction initiatives. Poverty related studies should expand their purview to embrace more nuanced analysis on the ways in which culture and poverty have interacted to shape the lived experience of people in diverse geographical locations and have in turn shaped responses to education-poverty reduction initiatives.

Title: From potential donor to actual donation : how does socioeconomic deprivation affect the recruitment and progression of living kidney donors?

Author: Bailey, Phillippa Kathryn

Awarded: 2016

Abstract:

Live-donor kidney transplantation offers the best treatment for most people with renal failure. Socioeconomically deprived individuals in the UK are less likely to receive a live-donor kidney transplant (LDKT) than less deprived people, despite being more likely to develop renal failure. The reasons for this are not well understood. This work aimed to understand how socioeconomic deprivation (SED) might affect the recruitment of potential living kidney donors by transplant candidates, and the progression of potential donors through to donation. A quantitative-qualitative mixed methods approach was taken. A qualitative study of in-depth semi-structured interviews with renal patients aimed to identify patient-experienced potential barriers to live-donor kidney transplantation. A questionnaire-based case-control study was then piloted to investigate, quantitatively the themes arising from the qualitative study, and to examine potential intermediaries in the causal pathway between SED and reduced likelihood of a LDKT. Finally, a multi-centre prospective cohort study examined whether after successful donor recruitment deprivation was still associated with a reduced likelihood of a LDKT, and whether SED was associated with potential donor progression. More deprived patients reported being less actively engaged in their transplant decision-making; describing passivity and a short-term focus, as well as a lack of empowerment and engagement by some clinicians. They also reported that a lack of social support affected donor recruitment. For individuals who had successfully recruited potential donors to undergo donor evaluation, it appeared that SED was still associated with a reduced likelihood of receiving a LDKT. More deprived potential donors were younger, less likely to be married or retired, and appeared less likely to actually donate. SED is associated with multiple barriers to live-donor kidney transplantation, related to both the recruitment of potential donors and donor progression through work-up. Many of these barriers may be amenable to intervention, to redress the socioeconomic inequity currently observed.

Title: Gender and the mental health of women

Author: Williams, J

Awarded: 1982

Abstract:

The origins of the recent interest in gender and mental healthcare discussed, and in this context the controversy over the meaning of the apparent higher incidence of mental illness in women is examined. Several approaches are distinguished in the current investigation into the differential incidence of mental illness, both between and within the sex groups. Work reviewed here includes attempts to establish links between the mental health of women and: their reproductive system; their gender roles; and the ways that they structure and define their identities. The community studies reported here are part of the latter inquiry, and specifically address the way that women's mental health may be affected by the extent to which they define themselves in terms of gender stereotypes. Some insights are gained into the processes which mediate the relationship between femininity, masculinity, and mental health. However, only equivocal support was found for the advantages of an androgynous self-definition. Furthermore, for these women their femininity was a more important predictor of their mental health than their masculinity. It is noted, that the relative importance of masculinity and femininity is opposite to that found in other studies carried out within this paradigm. However, these studies have typically been carried out with students, whereas this research was carried out with samples of women drawn from the general population. This observation, in conjunction with other findings reported here, is used as a basis for arguing the importance of including contextual factors when examining the issue of sex-typing and mental health. More specifically, it is suggested to be crucial for this literature's development to take full account of the fact that gender stereotypes are not just a source of self-definition. They are part of a dynamic process by which inequalities between the sexes are maintained and changed at both the intergroup and interpersonal level

Title: Gender, work and the new economy
Author: West, Jackie
Awarded: 2011

Abstract:

The thesis is a critical contribution to the sociology of gender and work. It argues for a more nuanced understanding of work and employment than generally provided by feminism, political economy or cultural preoccupations with identity. Beginning with my own research on intersectionality, I call for an alternative 'relational mapping' of work that goes beyond the inequalities of gender, sex, class and race, one which attends to wider relations, both social and material. The thesis is developed through six refereed journal articles and three chapters in edited volumes (one journal special issue). Part One consists of four empirical studies of women and the labour market: on employment trends, with particular reference to part time work and occupational segregation, on the position of South Asian women in the household and local economy, on gender discrimination and equality strategies in the academy, and on the impact of changes in the medical profession on sexual health care. Part Two is focused on the normalisation of gambling and prostitution in the entertainment industry, with three papers on sex work and two papers on gambling. The first identifies problems with conventional paradigms in the analysis of women's employment and the service sector more generally. Part Two as a whole develops earlier themes of accountability, variation and specificity in regulation and markets. It highlights the role of diverse social actors and also technologies in the (re)organisation of work. The commentary explains the background to each of the publications, situating them in relation to the development of my academic career and wider currents in the sociology of gender and work both at the time they were written and subsequently. It discusses at some length the conceptual threads that link the published work and its overall coherence, from questions of difference between women to issues of place and relational networks, from connections between labour market and family to those between production and consumption. It also clarifies the ways in which my own approach is distinctive, and its implications for the theorisation of work and its sociological study.

Title: Ghana : structural adjustment and its impact on the incidence of mass poverty
Author: Donkor, Kwabena
Awarded: 1995

Abstract:

Ghana's Structural Adjustment has been promoted as the most comprehensive and far reaching by the twin Bretton Woods institutions. Gross Domestic Product growth rates have average about 5% per annum over the whole of the adjustment period. This has inevitably, been pedestalsed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as confirming the efficacy of their prescriptions for not just the Ghanaian, but the African economy malaise. The thesis examines the Ghanaian economy, particularly in its adjustment phase, both from a broad developmental perspective and a specific poverty viewpoint. This work is conscious of the fact that the ultimate aim of development in the African context is the elimination or at the very least, the minimisation of mass poverty. The thesis is divided into three parts. Part 1, made up of three chapters, is a historical tour of the genesis of the Ghanaian economic collapse that takes in both the colonial and the post-colonial period up to the adoption of the adjustment programme dubbed the Economic Recovery Programme. The second part is made up of four chapters generally devoted to the structural adjustment experience. Chapter 4, which is the first, attempts to set out a general theory of structural adjustment in a way that is consistent with the African experience. Chapter 5 examines the stages in the management of Ghana's adjustment programme. The next chapter looks at the critical sectors of agriculture, mining and industry in their relationships with the adjustment thrust of the Ghanaian government. Chapter seven then follows up with a critique of the adjustment experience. Part three of the thesis is devoted to poverty both within the broad Ghanaian situation and specifically to the impact of adjustment on mass poverty in Ghana. The concluding chapter, which is also incidentally, the conclusion of the thesis, draws apt judgements from the preceding chapters and also puts forward some suggestions towards improving both the macro economic efficiency of the Ghanaian economy and more importantly, accelerating the economic and social development of the country.

Title: Governance and policy-making in Thailand : a study of poverty alleviation policy since 1997
Author: Kitthananan, Amornsak
Awarded: 2007

Abstract:

One of the stimulating theoretical discussions of the last decade involves the concept of governance and its linkage to public policy. However, many substantive studies on governance transformation and how it has affected policymaking processes have drawn on the experience of western developed countries, with little has been done in the context of developing societies. This research, therefore, responds to the need for a greater understanding of the increasing complexity of contemporary governance and its nexus with policy-making in developing countries. It explores the nature of Thailand's governance configuration in the making and delivery of anti-poverty policy since the 1997 crisis. The research also investigates this nexus in the context of globalisation which the roles and influences of globalised agents are asserted. The research findings suggest some dynamic patterns in the relationship between various actors involved in the governance of anti-poverty policy since the crisis. Instead of the Thai state turning into a weak and less powerful actor in shaping policy and service delivery, the state was able to use different governing approaches and strategies to maintain its power to steer society, to influence other actors, and ultimately to align all other domestic and international non-state actors with its purposes. The governance configuration of Thailand's anti-poverty policy appeared to shift from a *society-guided, state-governed governance* toward a *state-guided, state-governed governance*. This case supports a position arguing that the power of states is not yet diminished as promoted in the western literature; on the contrary, the state has readjusted itself in response to the dynamic, growing complexity of the contemporary governing process. The Thai state seeks coherent strategies for maintaining its influence over domestic policy-making and engaging itself with new policy conditions.

Title: Health outcomes and income inequality : a multilevel analysis of the Wilkinson hypothesis
Author: Jen, Min-Hua
Awarded: 2006

Abstract:

This thesis aims to evaluate Richard Wilkinson's arguments that, in developed economies, it is not (absolute) income that is a main determining factor of health but the degree of inequality of income within a society. The distinctive nature of this thesis is twofold. This is the first study to analyse individual data at the scale of countries which was the scale used originally used by Wilkinson. Moreover, random coefficient modelling is used to model individual and country variables simultaneously and thereby overcome the ecological fallacy that has troubled previous research. The study is based on four distinct pieces of research, which are international-based comparisons of aggregated and individual level data through time. One is a longitudinal analysis of life expectancy at birth for some 196 countries across thirty years. Group trajectory modelling is used to reveal groups of countries with distinctive trends and these trends are then related to changing GDP and income inequality. Using this aggregated data, support is found for the Wilkinson hypothesis in that in developed countries life expectancy is related to GDP but not to income inequality. The other three studies are based on individual level data derived from the World Values Survey. These analyses provide a direct test of the Wilkinson hypothesis using micro data on individuals, and macro data on relative inequalities analysed simultaneously. They investigate the individual self-rated health associated with country income and inequality data, while also estimating the relationship between subjective well-being (happiness and life satisfaction) and individual income and country inequality. Finally, they uncover the underlying relationship between individual self-rated health and individual and country level social trust as an evaluation of the hypothesis that social cohesion affects human health. In summary, with this improved methodology it is found that the Wilkinson hypothesis is not supported in terms of income inequality, but there is an effect for social trust, over and above individual factors.

Title: How the World Bank perceives education's role in development and poverty reduction : an analysis of educational policy documents in their historical context

Author: Alison Oldfield

Year: 2005

Abstract:

Since the end of World War II, education has been considered an integral factor in national development. More recently, it has been closely linked to the reduction of poverty, which itself has become the primary mission of international aid agencies like the World Bank. The World Bank has become the world's most powerful multilateral organisation in funding and researching educational issues in developing countries. This study investigates how the World Bank has portrayed the relationship between education and poverty reduction through three education sector policy documents from its 40 years of educational lending. Using an interpretive, hermeneutical approach, this study finds the historical, political and economic context of the three documents and their language critical to understanding World Bank approaches to education learning. Lending criteria and trends follow the particular dominant ideologies of those countries that have the most control in World Bank lending operations. Tension is also identified between the World Bank's proposed mission – reducing poverty – and its original legal imperative to protect the global market system. This study proposes that the Bank struggles to execute these two distinct objectives simultaneously. It also argues that its lending strategies often do not sufficiently examine the complex relationships among development, education and poverty reduction. Instead, the strategies are often based on superficial assumptions that actually undercut the World Bank's intentions to help countries create sustained and meaningful educational development.

Title: Improving the quality of teaching and learning in Mauritian primary schools : the role of learner-centred pedagogy in current educational reform

Author: Colin, Mindy Lee

Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

This study examines the international transfer of learner-centred pedagogy as a means to improve the quality of teaching and learning in developing countries, with special reference to detailed fieldwork in the Small Island Developing State (SIDS) of Mauritius. Specifically, this case study critically examines a primary schooling initiative in Mauritius called 'Zones d'Education Prioritaires' (ZEP). This education reform was conceptualised in the light of international agendas calling for a Quality Education for All. Such initiatives often promote social justice for marginalised children through the integration of learner-centred pedagogy in schools and classrooms. This research investigates efforts to shift from formalistic to learner-centred pedagogy in the ZEP Initiative, with reference to the history of Mauritian education reforms, the evolution of ZEP policy, and a detailed and empirically grounded case study of one ZEP school. The study explores the successes achieved, along with the challenges and barriers encountered, in implementing learner-centred pedagogy in the Mauritian context. Fieldwork engaged directly with ZEP Initiative staff at the Mauritius Ministry of Education and Human Resources, support organisations present at ZEP schools, ZEP teachers, pupils, school administrators, and communities. The findings suggest that there is slow, but unsustainable, movement towards learner-centred pedagogy in the ZEP Initiative. Progress is restricted by hierarchical social norms that have perpetuated competition in the country's formalistic education system. The study's major findings indicate that sustainable progress may depend upon greater practical attention to quality-oriented policies and processes that underlie learner-centred pedagogy. In concluding, the study explores the implications of the research for the case study school, for the ZEP Initiative, for related government policy and practice, and for the theoretical literature on the international transfer of learner-centred pedagogy and educational reform processes in SIDS.

Title: Inequalities in health : the role of local authorities
Author: Betts, Graeme Stuart
Year: 1990

Abstract:

The Black Report presented evidence of widening inequalities in health in Britain and offered a national strategy to reduce them. However, the present Government has not addressed the issues that it raised and its policies may be serving to further widen the inequalities. It is argued that one of the reasons that the Government has not acted to address the problems identified in the Black Report is that a medical view of health underlies its position. Thus, it is predisposed to solving health problems by recourse to remedies concerned with individuals. This thesis takes an alternative view which is that material and structural factors cause inequalities in health. Thus, local authorities are well-placed to reduce them for they provide services which have an impact upon the social structure. It is demonstrated that local authorities have, since the nineteenth century and earlier, been developing a wide range of health services. An examination of the role of two local authority departments indicates that there is considerable potential for them to reduce inequalities in health. A survey amongst elderly people supports this conclusion. However, it is suggested that the role of local authorities is being constrained by the legislative framework, inadequate resources and the lack of a wider local authority strategy for reducing inequalities in health. The final chapter discusses these issues and sets out a wider strategy. It also discusses the barriers which exist to its implementation and it is concluded that the most effective way to reduce inequalities in health is to tackle them at national and local levels. However, in the absence of central government support, local authorities may still reduce them and by their actions draw behind them the support of central government.

Title: Jacob's Wealth : an examination into the nature and role of material possessions in the Jacob-cycle (Gen 25:19-35:29)

Author: Vrolijk, Paul D.

Awarded: 2008

Abstract:

Various biblical studies on wealth and poverty have been published over the last thirty years. Although some of these studies touch on the wealth of the patriarchs in Gen 12-50, they predominantly focus on other part of Scripture. Conversely, scholars who have studied the patriarchal narratives comment on aspects of patriarchal wealth, but never offer an in-depth analysis on this topic. It is the aim of this study to offer such an integrated analysis, focusing on Jacob's wealth as evident in the Jacob-cycle (Gen 25:19-35:29). Although material possessions and associated attitudes and actions are not the main concern of the Jacob-cycle, they are an important and pervasive feature of the narrative. Material possessions often stand at the heart of various conflicts, which arise when desire for material advancement gains ascendancy over relationship concerns. Material possession associated attitudes and actions will be studied in their appropriate contexts. As a result, I will comment on the relationship between Jacob's wealth and larger theological concerns like 'blessing' and the 'patriarchal promises' in the book of Genesis. With this study, I aim to make a contribution towards a better understanding of the Jacob-cycle as whole. I also hope that it will be a useful contribution to larger-scale endeavours, like the construction of a biblical theology of material possessions.

Title: Life-history factors and inequalities in affective disorders : a cohort study
Author: Rodgers, Bryan
Awarded: 1990

Abstract:

As minor affective disorders claim a substantial proportion of the considerable NHS commitment to psychiatric illness, there is a strong argument for examining their origins. In the example investigated, over 3,000 36-year-olds from the MRC National Survey of Health and Development, high rates of disorder were found in men who were "hard up", in rented accommodation, in unskilled manual jobs, who had been divorced or separated, or whose husbands were unemployed. Factors from early life (family disruptions, parental and own illness, special schooling, behaviour problems, introversion, neuroticism and menstrual pain), differing for men and women, were found to be predictive of later symptoms of anxiety and depression, and these contributed to the inequalities described. Although recent stressful events were significantly associated with individual differences in symptomatology, they did not account for a substantial part of the identified group difference. Nor could the role of early factors be adequately explained by heightened vulnerability to such events. However, several "mediators" were found in data on occupational, marital and fertility histories and records of ill-health in early adulthood, which formed pathways between childhood risk and inequalities in adult life. These features of early adulthood may be important because they involve reciprocal transactions between endogenous factors and environment, which can eventually lead to high risk circumstances and affective disorder. More detailed studies could identify the complex causal processes underlying these associations and hopefully would contribute to preventive strategies.

Title: Low social contact among UK working parents
Author: Pomati, Marco
Awarded: 2014

Abstract:

According to the Poverty and Social Exclusion survey 2012, a sizeable minority of UK working parents identify lack of time due to paid work and childcare responsibilities and lack of resources as obstacles to achieving desired levels of social contact with friends and relatives. Drawing on a wide range of theories and evidence, this thesis explores these findings by carrying out in-depth quantitative analysis on the large body of information about parents' social contact, work patterns, time and economic resources, material and social deprivation contained in three large UK surveys. The findings from this thesis provide a strong rationale for focusing on parents' social contact with their personal communities (Pahl and Spencer, 2006) by showing that low levels of social contact with these are associated with reduced levels of social support; a crucial asset to maintaining psychological and physical wellbeing during stressful times. This thesis also finds that the busy schedules and tight budgets of some working parents can affect their social interactions, particularly with friends. Specifically, it shows that working fathers and mothers generally experience high levels of time scarcity because of paid and unpaid work and that this increases their likelihood of having low social contact with friends. In line with much of the social network literature, it also finds that despite their double shifts mothers generally manage to maintain higher levels of social contact with friends than fathers do. Finally, confirming some of the exploratory findings from the social exclusion literature (Millar, 2007), it shows that the relationship between poverty and social contact is complex, and uses theories articulated by Townsend (1978) and Walker (2014) to explain the low levels of social contact experienced by a sizeable minority of working parents just above the poverty line.

Title: Macroeconomic determinants of inequality and finance : evidence from Brazil

Author: Bittencourt, Manoel F. Meyer

Year: 2006

Abstract:

In this Thesis we examine firstly how macroeconomic performance, mainly in the role of high rates of inflation, affected earnings inequality in the 1980s and early 1990s in Brazil. The empirical evidence presented shows that the extreme inflation, combined with the incomplete indexation coverage existent at the time, had a regressive and significant impact on inequality. The results-based initially on national time series, and then on subnational panel time-series data and analysis-are robust for different concepts of inflation, inequality measures, estimators and specifications. Thus, sound macroeconomic policies, which keep inflation low and stable in the long run, are to be a necessary first step of any public policy package implemented to alleviate high inequality and improve welfare in Brazil. Secondly, we examine the impact that financial development had on earnings inequality in Brazil in the 1980s and 1990s. The empirical evidence presented-based also initially on time series, and then on panel time-series and panel data and analysis-shows that broader access to financial and credit markets had a significant and robust effect in reducing inequality during the period. We suggest that this is not only because the poor can invest the acquired credit in either short or long-term productive activities, but also because those with access to financial markets, or the indexation provided by them, can insulate themselves against recurrent poor macroeconomic performance, which is exemplified in the case of Brazil by high rates of inflation. The main implication of the results is that a seemingly non-distortionary policy, such as more widespread finance, alleviates the high inequality - and therefore improves welfare - present in Brazil without distorting economic efficiency. Thirdly, we examine the impact of inflation on financial development in Brazil. The data available permit us to cover the eventful period between 1985 and 2002 and the results-based firstly on time series and then on panel time series data and analysis, and robust for different estimators, specifications and financial development measures-suggest that high rates of inflation presented deleterious effects on finance at the time. The main policy implication arising from the results is that poor macroeconomic performance, exemplified in this case by high rates of inflation, can only have detrimental effects to finance, a variable that is important for directly affecting, e.g. economic growth and development, and income inequality. Therefore, low and stable inflation, or a much-improved macroeconomic performance, is a necessary first step to achieve a more inclusive and active financial sector with all its attached benefits on crucial variables not only in Brazil but in any developing country. All in all, we stress in this Thesis the importance of a sound and well-coordinated fiscal and monetary framework so that inflation is brought under control, and stable macroeconomic performance is achieved with all the attached benefits, i.e. lower inequality and more importantly, a more developed, inclusive and sophisticated financial sector, and all that it encompasses.

Title: Measuring residential segregation in England and Wales : a model-based approach
Author: Owen, Dewi
Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

In this thesis, we propose an innovative model-based approach to the measurement and analysis of segregation. Historically, segregation has been measured using descriptive indices that provide summary measurements. We demonstrate that these indices are inherently biased. Further, they lack measures of statistical certainty, do not control for stochastic variation, are frequently aspatial, cannot cope with multiple scales and dimensions simultaneously and have no mechanism for the inclusion of explanatory models. We explore a multilevel modelling approach which remedies these issues and we argue that this approach is a more appropriate representation of the complexity of modern society. We illustrate the innovation using one of the traditional focuses of segregation research: the residential environment and analyse the changing residential segregation in England and Wales during the first decade of the twenty-first century. In these case studies we show that the residential segregation of benefits claimants has decreased during this period. Moving on to investigate the geographical inequality of mortality, we demonstrate that there is a great deal of stochastic variation in the raw data, and a further extension of the approach using a Poisson multilevel model is necessary to uncover the underlying trends. Conversely to common understanding the model reports no evidence of increasing inequality in the risk of mortality, that the highest levels of inequality were for those of working age and that the highest inequalities in the risk of mortality at the neighbourhood scales were found at the lowest end of the income scale. The final case study sets up a unique exploration of residential segregation by age, ethnicity and educational attainment in eight of the largest built up areas in the UK. We found the largest segregation was in the non-ESWI populations and those with low levels of educational attainment, along with a small decrease with age. All these findings were made possible by the flexible methodology proposed in this thesis.

Title: Miscarriages of justice : exception to the rule?

Author: Naughton, Michael

Awarded: 2003

Abstract:

This thesis explores the ways in which miscarriages of England and Wales' criminal justice system (CJS) are currently defined, quantified, constructed and deployed. Presented in two parts, the first identifies and argues against the pervasive but problematical tendency to conceive miscarriages of justice as exceptional occurrences, that are small in number, and that result from post-appeal procedures once existing appeal opportunities have been exhausted. In fact, the evidence is that a successful appeal against criminal conviction forms a routine and mundane procedure of criminal justice in England and Wales. This indicates a need both to re-orientate definitions and understandings of miscarriages of justice and to re-calculate the likely scale of the phenomenon, an attempt at which is then offered. The second part of the thesis involves a broader plane of analysis, examining a range of discourses which articulate challenges to, or reforms of, the CJS, with respect to miscarriages. In so doing, a critique is developed to show that counter-discourses against miscarriages of justice are hindered by their problematic definition and the consequential calculation of miscarriages as a small-scale statistical phenomenon. They also labour under a misconception of the relations of power in the sphere of criminal justice. This severely diminishes the potential force of critical counter-discourse in the existing terrain. As a possible way out of this malaise, a Foucauldian-inspired understanding of the inter-relations of power, knowledge and 'governmentality' is brought into dialogue with the emerging zemiological perspective, which seeks a more holistic appraisal of the harmful consequences of social and political decisions in the interests of social justice. The critical and reconstructive moves that I recommend enable miscarriages of justice to be thought about in new ways and to help assess what is to count as effective counter-discourse. The thesis, then, represents a determined effort to re-orientate our understanding of miscarriages of justice by moving away from 'exceptionalism'. This encourages new ways of defining and quantifying miscarriages of justice and new ways of developing theoretical resources. The ultimate point of the thesis is to contribute towards the production of more effective counter discourses that might achieve lasting practical change in this area of social regulation.

Title: Mobility, inequality and polarization
Author: Vittori, Claudia
Year: 2011

Abstract:

The main objective of this thesis is to provide a clear understanding of the earnings distribution across five European countries characterized by different welfare and labour markets regimes in the pre-accession European Union (1994-2000). These are: Denmark, Germany, Spain, the UK, and Italy. We investigate three aspects of the earnings distribution: mobility, inequality and polarization. While inequality and polarization are two different "snapshots" of the earnings distribution, mobility also provides information about the underlying dynamics. Chapter 2 is concerned with the analysis of mobility as an equalizer of longer-term incomes (Shorrocks (1978), Fields (2010)) and builds on the approach pioneered by Schluter and Trede (2003). With this method we aim to overcome the lack of clarity arising from the use of alternative inequality measures, by providing a picture of mobility at the global and disaggregated level. Global results show that Denmark stands out as the most mobile and Germany as the least, but the ranking of the other countries is unclear. The local analysis reveals that Spain has higher mobility than the UK at the middle and top of the distribution, mobility in Italy is mainly driven by low-paid people, whilst Denmark dominates almost across the entire range of the distribution, especially in the top tail. In Chapter 3 we explore the concept of mobility defined as the degree to which earnings growth is pro-poor (Fields (2007), Jenkins and Van Kerm (2006)). We visually identify the difference in the overall degree of pro-poor growth across countries using mobility profiles (Van Kerm, 2009a). Finally, we investigate the determinants of mobility with a regression-based approach. Results show that the extent to which earnings growth is pro-poor is very similar across countries, but important differences emerge when analysing the determinants. While in Denmark life-course characteristics account for almost half of the overall pro-poor growth, this is around one third in Germany and Spain, are only one fifth of the total convergence in Italy and the UK. We also find that some events, such as job displacement, tend to pull people away from the mean and therefore do not contribute to the overall mean reversion. With chapter 4, we analyse polarization. This consists of assessing not only the degree to which individuals are distributed far from the global mean, but also the formation of some earnings groups (poles) around local means. We analyse this concept by adopting the "pure" polarization measure developed by Duclos, Esteban, and Ray (2004). The graphical analysis of polarization and the underlying forces (alienation, identification), show that polarization and inequality might tell us a different story. Denmark has low polarization and inequality, but Spain is characterized by low polarization and high inequality. Italy and the UK emerge with the highest level of polarization. Finally, we also perform a merely illustrative exercise as a first attempt to gain some insight on the range of variation of the index.

Title: Money, friends and coping day to day : an inclusive research project exploring poverty and social capital in the lives of people with a learning disability
Author: Tilley, Liz
Awarded: 2012

Abstract:

People with a mild learning disability who live independently and do not get support from services make up the largest group within the learning disability population. This thesis describes an inclusive research project which, through using a grounded theory approach, enabled seven people from this group to explore their own lives taking a lead in the direction of the research. The project focuses on the strategies they used to cope with day-to-day living, their experiences of poverty, and the support received from their social networks and social capital. The research also explores issues of identity and labelling and how to give this excluded group a voice. The fieldwork took place between 2010 and 2011 with data being collected from ten focus groups, unstructured interviews, action research and notes from observations and reflections. The research found that, for this group, many aspects of day-to-day living were a challenge. They also endured poverty, other social problems and health issues, all of which exacerbated their social exclusion. They were all found to benefit from strong 'bonding social capital' from family and close friends but lacked 'bridging social capital' to people outside their social networks, although small local organisations such as churches provided vital support. The research group members were clear that they wanted to be understood by mainstream services as having a learning disability, so they could get better support. They found the involvement in inclusive research to be empowering, choosing to continue with it beyond the research project.

Title: Pastoral community perspectives on formal education for girls : an ethnographic study of Monduli District in Tanzania

Author: Raymond, Adella

Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

Education provision for pastoral communities in general and girls in particular is a global concern and urgent (UNESCO, 2010). Despite some progress in various countries; reaching indigenous groups, particularly pastoralists, with education is challenging all over the world. Children are not yet participating in education and girls are more likely to be out of school than boys. While we are approaching the deadlines for attaining Universal Primary Education and the second Millennium Development Goal set in 2000, this study focuses on a pastoral community in Tanzania, where the majority of girls have few opportunities to access and participate in formal education. In Monduli district, Arusha region, only 49.6% of girls participate in primary education. Although various initiatives have been taken to ensure their participation; none has fully succeeded in enrolling and retaining girls in school. They are criticized for not taking into account the socio-cultural and contextual challenges girls face in participating in education. There has neither been adequate involvement of the community nor consideration of their views on education provision. This study sought to explore the pastoralist community's perspectives on girls' education in Monduli district in Tanzania. The study explores the pastoral community's attitudes to formal education for girls, parents' and girls' aspirations as regards education, the type and level of community involvement in education provision for girls and the kind of education the community considers valuable for girls. The study is informed by the post-colonial analysis of the impacts of colonialism in post-colonial states, the postcolonial feminist theory of gender inequality in 'third world' countries and the capability approach for explaining people's (girls') functioning and wellbeing. The post-colonial theory provides an understanding of the pastoral community in post-colonial Tanzania and the impact of Tanzania's education system on formal education for pastoralists. The post-colonial feminist theory provides an understanding of women and girls' situation in a patriarchal community, what perpetuates gender inequality and its influence on girls' education. The capability approach explains the role of education in developing girls' capabilities and functioning. The study is also underpinned by interpretive hermeneutic epistemology and intensive fieldwork, including an ethnographic study of one rural village from April to June 2013. Formal discussions were held with thirty participants selected through opportunistic procedures, since every community member would influence the study. Methods such as participant observation, informal conversations, ethnographic interviews and documentary review were used to collect data. Peoples' views are presented and analysed thematically guided by Braun and Clarke's (2006) guidelines, with the support of NVivo 10 software. The findings show that the community maintains various norms and practices that influence its views on and aspirations for girls' education, which is contested and less valued by some members. Early marriage and fathers' domination and reluctance to educate girls form part of the opposing views. Conversely, government and NGO sensitization, some fathers' positive views and aspirations, desire for better life and new hope accrued from education by poor parents constitute views that support girls' education. Girls aspire to take advantage of various career opportunities which they believe will help them earn a living wage, live the life of their choice and contribute to the family's income. Girls believe education will help them escape from oppressive traditions and practices. The findings further show that the community participates in education through various school committee meetings, and by contributing their finance and labour for various activities. However, the top-down approach is used resulting in the failure of most plans for educating girls. Traditional leaders are rarely involved in education provision for girls. Pastoral communities value both traditional knowledge and formal education in order to cope with the changes occurring in the community and wider society. Women and girls value education as it will enable their views and demands to be heard and considered. Implications of the study are considered for parents and the pastoral community, for Tanzanian policy and practice and for international agendas. Implications for theory, research methodology and possibilities for future research are also considered. The study concludes that although girls value and are willing to participate in education; they are constrained by some community members' negative perception, poverty and women's lack of voice. Consideration of these issues is important for achieving UPE and MDGs. Girls need to be provided with education that will develop the capabilities they value for their functioning locally and internationally. The government should do more attend to what pastoralists consider valuable and develop more realistic ways of involving the community in providing education for girls at all levels.

Title: Perspectives and models of community social work : social workers' understanding and practices in social exclusion and citizenship in Chile

Author: Arce, Gianinna Ines Munoz

Awarded: 2015

Abstract:

Drawing upon the contributions of critical theory, this thesis aimed to explore perspectives and models used by social workers to address social exclusion and citizenship in Chile. Specifically, the research focused on the perspectives of social workers holding the role of coordinator of community-oriented programmes. A qualitative design using semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis informed the study. Twenty-six social workers employed by two Chilean NGOs were interviewed and a number of documents related to the interventions carried out by the participants were also collected. Data produced were analysed by using thematic analysis. This research, the first of its kind in Chile, provided a number of insights for understanding the position that social workers occupy in the implementation of state policy for overcoming social exclusion. The findings indicated that most of the social workers combined diverse perspectives to understand their interventions; however, a neo-conservative approach to social exclusion appeared as the dominant perspective. A functional model of community intervention predominated in their practices, as well as a liberal idea of citizenship. A few social workers exhibited an approach closer to radical perspectives. Using professional discretion, these social workers undertook what they called 'sensitisation' models and 'deliberative' models of community practice. Notions of citizenship, closer to a critical republican approach, were found among the views of these social workers. The study identified how neoliberal rationality has impacted on Chilean social work. At the same time, it brought to light strategies employed by some social workers to oppose resistance to such an apparent hegemonic order. Drawing upon the study findings, suggestions are made with respect to the development of the Chilean social work profession from a critical perspective. The thesis also seeks to make a contribution to international social work research and debate.

Title: Policy networks in African poverty reduction : a case study of the policy process for water supply in Lusaka, Zambia

Author: Hedley , Darren Kirk

Awarded: 2010

Abstract:

This dissertation presents a case study of the evolution of water supply policy in Zambia, applying Rhodes and Marsh's policy network theoretical approach. Since this approach was developed in northern, industrialized countries, and has not been tested through application in developing countries, my research question is: can the policy network approach explain the policy process for peri-urban water supply in Lusaka, Zambia during the period 1991 to 2008? To answer this question and characterize the governance of the water sector, I undertook in-depth interviews with almost 50 respondents and reviewed relevant documents. After years of policy stagnation, the newly-elected Zambian government in 1991 embarked on a series of reforms, which divided responsibility for water supply between several ministries and levels of government, an inter-ministerial policy agency and commercial utilities. International actors brought in new funding and policy ideas, and the period of the 1990s was marked by a multiplication of models of water supply. Learning was adapted from both international and national experiences of peri-urban water supply. Two main policy experiments emerged, the commercial model and the community participation model, which developed relatively independently. In the latter years of the study period, due to the growing resource capacity of the Zambian government and the donors' agenda of aid harmonization, these two models became more integrated. The policy network approach did foresee this type of shift, from a phase of change with a diversity of actors and models, to a phase of policy consolidation and coordination. The network framework draws attention to an important set of policy dynamics. In its application to a developing country setting, however, the approach doesn't prepare the researcher for the marked differential between a weak state and strong donors, and generally hasn't worked out the complexities of relationships between international, local and community-based organizations.

Title: Poverty and social security in Malaysia: major themes in economic and social development
Author: Abdul-Rahman, Saaidah
Awarded: 1991

Abstract

This study is about poverty and social security in Peninsula Malaysia and explains options for the future. The analysis uses an approach which looks at economic and social development in the context of the historical factors which have influenced the structural formation of the Malaysian society. It seeks to explain poverty as a product of economic underdevelopment and dependency. Most of the poor live in the rural areas, working in the subsistence agriculture sector. Unquestionably development policies implemented since 1971 have been successful in reducing the incidence of absolute poverty, but simultaneously available evidence shows an increase in relative poverty and inequality. Conceivably, in its effort to ameliorate poverty and low income the Malaysian government has not adopted an equitable programme of resource allocation. This study is concerned with the unequal distribution of resources between the economic and social sectors. An analysis of the distribution of government resources in the social sector of welfare, health and education shows a distribution which is biased towards the urban areas and benefit the upper income groups rather than the poorer groups. Moreover, there are no adequate income maintenance and social security provisions for the poor. Hence this study seeks to recommend ways of providing an expanded programme of income maintenance and social security and make provisions for those who have been excluded by institutions responsible for workers' social security and old age income maintenance. Considering that political efforts to alleviate the problem of poverty and income inequalities need to incorporate egalitarian objectives. and means, the concluding chapter of this study proposes a non-contributory income maintenance programme especially for those employed in the subsistence agricultural and the urban petty commodity producer sectors. Only then can there be a pronounced trend towards a vertical redistribution of income and resources from the rich to the poor and from the urban to the rural sector.

Title: School level fundraising : exploring equity and governance in Tanzanian secondary schools
Author: Phumbwe, Dorothy Godfrey
Awarded: 2012

Abstract:

Due to a lack of government sources for funding education, self-help initiatives have been practiced by schools and are being promoted internationally and within the policies of national governments as a viable means for funding schools. They are also regarded as valuable for enabling school-led quality improvements. Currently, there is rapid secondary education expansion in Tanzania, achieved through building community schools. These are constructed through cooperation between the government and local communities. Self-help activities have also been practiced in schools in order to supplement government resources. Although scholarship dealing with community financing exists, there is little research in Tanzania on school self-help activities. This study analyses the process of school level fundraising in Tanzania within the context of the rapid expansion of secondary education and considers the implications for social equity and school governance. The study draws upon critical theory to analyse social-power relations, social inequality and their effects on school governance and communities. Robertson, Bonal and Dale's governance framework and Bourdieu's social-capital theory are employed to explore the relationship between education governance and social and cultural reproduction. This is an exploratory study using mixed-methods with the qualitative component being more dominant. Although schools in Tanzania are supposed to report on the self-help activities they conduct, there is no clear overview and no records available from education offices. This necessitated a mapping exercise to find out what activities are being implemented on the ground through a questionnaire, to which 42 schools responded. This was followed by in-depth case studies conducted at two government-funded schools in Kilimanjaro region, a community school and a long-established school, on the role of different stakeholders and how they actually work. Informants included teachers, educational officials, members of the community and school board, who are key actors in the mobilisation of resources at school level. Although the public expansion of secondary education is aimed at reducing inequality, the findings suggest that there is class-based social reproduction as the flow of private finance increases the resource gap between schools and students. Community schools, which receive lower capitation grants from government, tend to serve a greater number of socio-economically disadvantaged students and hence are less likely to be able to raise funds. The findings also raise concerns about the possible low impact of self-help initiatives on improving quality. Uncertain social-power relations among stakeholders at different levels participating in the activities, lack of accountability and lack of effective support for schools at all levels, all have effects on school governance. The findings have implications for a policy of rapid secondary education expansion that expects significant community support for new schools. Despite the drawbacks, secondary expansion is still a step forward for equity as it has given access to secondary education, albeit of a lower quality, to many young people who otherwise would have had none. This study suggests policy priorities that are necessary to go along with the approach in order to ensure a positive impact. These consist of making sure that schools have certain essential resources; building capacities for education governance in communities and establishing a functioning education governance system which supports schools with more emphasis on improving quality and reducing inequalities.

Title: Social citizens? : welfare provision and perceptions of citizenship amongst young people in Sri Lanka
Author: Agg, Catherine Mary
Awarded: 2014

Abstract

Sri Lanka has a strong social development record and throughout the civil conflict of the past two decades the country's welfare state has remained in place. In the wake of the controversial defeat of the armed separatist movement, the LTTE, the Sri Lankan government faces the challenge of convincing its citizens of the benefits of a unified nation. This thesis looks at the role government provided social services have to play in contributing to perceptions of social solidarity and national belonging in the country, asking the extent to which social citizenship is a relevant concept in a multi-ethnic, developing country context. It uses a multiple method approach, using both quantitative and qualitative data to examine the question through the perceptions of young adults in the country. The findings suggest that access to welfare does contribute to perceptions of citizenship amongst young Sri Lankans, but that this is dependent on the type of provision. Universal welfare is associated with perceptions of social solidarity and inclusion amongst young adults while, in a context of ethnic divisions, poverty-targeted social policies appear to enhance perceptions of difference and exclusion. This suggests that social policies aimed at addressing marginalisation may work to accentuate grievance, a process here coined the 'paradox of social cohesion'. The findings therefore point to a sense of citizenship that is essentially fluid and unstable, with young people expressing differing perceptions of both the state and their fellow citizens in relation to different types of social services, and varying in relation to their civil, political and social rights. While it is evident that the extent to which welfare is experienced as socially just is key to its association with perceptions of citizenship, the thesis argues that in a developing country context, where the majority of the population are poor and the challenge of equitable targeting greater, a discourse of equality may have a greater chance of being associated with social justice. In Sri Lanka, this is partly because targeted policies represent a disjuncture in their country's tradition of 'welfare state citizenship'. Here it may be seen how social policies initiated by external donor agencies, and based on new or alternative understandings of citizenship, may bypass the process of social negotiation required for the organic development of citizenship as a stable institution. Social citizenship should therefore be conceived as an evolving and iterative interaction between social policy and political discourse in the negotiation of social justice in a specific context.

Title: Social construction of gender inequality in the housing system in Hong Kong
Author: Chan, Kam Wah
Year: 1995

Abstract:

Gender inequality in the housing system is never an issue of concern in Hong Kong. The invisibility of the problem arises not because it does not exist, but because it is being neglected or underplayed. Even if there are some obvious cases of women with serious housing problems, such as homeless lone mothers, this is usually attributed to individual mishaps, or even worse, the women are blamed for failing to maintain a happy family. This thesis aims to challenge the traditional conceptualization of the problem. It is argued that women's housing problems are not 'individual' problems but are socially constructed in the patriarchal system coupled with the laissez-faire capitalist system in Hong Kong. The housing system, like other systems such as education, employment and social welfare, has a significant part to play in reinforcing gender inequality. This male domination is so far-reaching that it exists not only in the structural level but permeates throughout all social practices and interactions. Therefore, it is important to demonstrate how this inequality is constructed in women's housing experience, in addition to revealing its existence in the housing system. It is only through revealing the absurdity of the existing 'anti-women' housing system that there is any hope of developing a 'non-sexist' housing policy. Two groups of women – lone mothers and women living in new towns – are chosen as the targets of the study. Lone mothers are chosen because their housing problems are obviously severe. It is demonstrated how such severe problems can be trivialised in traditional conceptualizations. Housing inequality does not only affect 'vulnerable' groups such as lone mothers, but also affects ordinary women in 'ordinary' families. That is why women in new towns are chosen as the second target group to demonstrate the wide existence of gender-based housing inequalities. This research is mainly based on in-depth case studies of lone mothers and women in new towns. The evidence are supplemented with secondary data analysis of related social surveys and documentation of relevant government policies and statistics.

Title: Social justice and children in care
Author: Owen, Morag Christine
Awarded: 1990

Abstract:

This thesis is concerned with justice in social work. Specifically, it looks at ways in which children are admitted to care, both compulsorily and with the consent of their parents. It tries to expose the philosophical ideas underlying these processes, so that recent statements about parents' and children's rights may be seen in a fuller context. The approach I have used draws heavily on moral practice theory. The notion of moral practice, in the sense used, is parasitic on another one – the notion of a community within which there exists a shared moral language. Social work provides such a community. In Section III of the thesis, which reports the results of an empirical study into the use of voluntary care in different cases, close attention is paid to the language which social workers use – not simply in describing the details of case-decisions and outcomes, but in giving reasons and justifications for their own actions. What emerges from this is a picture of 'social justice' in which some legal and some social elements are combined. In the final analysis, the dimensions of social and legal justice are charted in a way which may contribute to general understanding of these issues – and some suggestions are offered about how social work may move forward in response to legitimate criticism.

Title: Social tariffs : a solution to fuel poverty?
Author: Baker, William
Awarded: 2006

Abstract:

The study examines the growth of fuel company social tariffs in Britain as a response to recent rises in fuel prices and considers their implications for future fuel poverty policy. Drawing on the findings of a literature review, qualitative semi-structured interviews with 'stakeholders' and secondary data analysis of current social tariffs (the 'impact assessment'), the study found that there was considerable interest in social tariffs among stakeholders but sharp difference, both real and perceived, over the contribution they can make towards reducing fuel poverty. The literature review showed how liberalisation of energy markets, fuel poverty policy and rising prices had encouraged the development of social tariffs. However, there were significant differences between stakeholders over the purpose of social tariffs and such related factors as eligibility criteria, relationship to the competitive market, funding and degree of prescription required. The study shows how these differences reflect wider debates over the benefits and costs of energy liberalisation, means testing or universal provision within welfare policy and the value of corporate social responsibility as a vehicle for delivering social policy. The 'impact assessment' found that although fuel companies targeted social tariffs at their low-income consumers, most companies still provided cheaper tariffs for their Direct Debit consumers who tend to be more affluent. It also found that many social tariff consumers would be better off switching to the standard tariff provided by another company (although, social tariff consumers tend not to switch). The study concludes that a full evaluation is required before policy decides whether to prescribe social tariffs or pursue alternative courses of action. This should examine the effectiveness of social tariffs with respect to their impact on both national fuel poverty levels and on individual households in terms of fuel poverty status, stigma, perceptions and consumption behaviours.

Title: Structural adjustment in Mexico : social and economic impacts
Author: Fernández, Luis Felipe Gorjón
Awarded: 2009

Abstract:

This dissertation analyses the period of Structural Adjustment in Mexico from 1986 to 1999. This includes the liberalisation of the incentive system and the restoration of investment. The research work presented here looks at the effect of an aspect of structural adjustment policy - trade reform - on labour market outcomes at the household level, in Mexico, by considering a large number of observations (household members), from a number of cities, over a period of thirteen years. It examines whether Mexico should have used alternative policies in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the poor. The main questions explored by this dissertation are: What has been the impact of adjustment on Mexican macroeconomic indicators directly related to poverty? Were migration and remittances affected by the adjustment process? The specific research questions are: 1. How did the effects of economic reform on wage and employment vary with age and gender in the short and medium term? Did this relationship change over time? 2. Did structural adjustment and trade liberalisation harm or help the poor? 3. Did the reforms help the poor indirectly through their positive effect on economic growth? 4. What were the effects of macroeconomic policy on aggregate measures of welfare - average wage, proportion of individuals unemployed? 5. What happened to migration and remittances during the analysed period? There are three separate analyses. The first two use repeated cross-sectional models to determine the effects of policy, economic conditions and household characteristics on wages, the probability of being unemployed and employed in the informal sector, as well as the probability of being poor. It is important to mention that this study refers mainly to the urban population. It is the use of household characteristics as control variables in the determination of welfare that distinguishes the models here from the macroeconomic models commonly used. For comparison, a third analysis uses a traditional time series model to measure the effects of policy and economic conditions on aggregate measures of welfare.

Title: Structure, agency and power in local authority possession proceedings
Author: Carlton, Nancy
Awarded: 1998

Abstract:

This thesis is a study of the conduct of local authority possession proceedings and the relationships of the parties involved in them: the courts, local authority housing departments and their tenants. On a more general level the thesis is concerned with the process of change and barriers to change in legal proceedings. The issue underlying these relationships is the nature of the security of tenure given to council tenants by the Housing Act 1980 (consolidated by the Housing Act 1985). On the face of it, discretion as to recovering possession of their properties was removed from local authorities and given to the courts through that legislation. Under the 1985 Act. local authorities are required to show that it is reasonable for a possession order to be made each time they make an application for possession on the ground of rent arrears. Various studies have been carried out about what happens in practice in possession proceedings, both independently and for the Civil Justice Review in 1986, which reported that the courts were more or less "rubber-stamping" local authorities' applications. As a result, the Lord Chancellor's Department instituted some procedural reforms in 1993 which were intended to ensure that courts properly exercise their discretion. This thesis looks at whether the procedural reforms have been effective in changing practice, and having found that they were not, then addresses the question of why that is the case. In seeking to answer the latter point, the author uses Giddens' theory of structuration to analyse the research data. Layder's 'realist' approach to social research is adopted and provides a framework for discussion of the material by considering it in its micro, macro and historical contexts. The relationships between the agents and the structures pertinent to possession proceedings are analysed, and consideration is given to where power is held and how it is used. By adopting such an approach, it is intended to make a contribution to the social theory of law.