Centenary of Barnett House

Barnett House was established in 1914 in memory of Canon Barnett. Barnett was an Anglican clergyman and social reformer, married to Henrietta Weston with whom, from 1873, he worked unceasingly in Whitechapel for the poor of their parish and established Toynbee Hall as the first university settlement. Barnett’s work and Toynbee Hall had an impact beyond Britain, as it became the model for the settlement movement in America, leading to the establishment of Hull House by Jane Addams in Chicago.

Barnett kept in contact with a group at Oxford around the philosopher and social reformer T.H. Green, Arnold Toynbee and Sidney Ball, all closely involved in adult education and university reform, civic education and welfare reform. When Barnett himself died, Barnett House was set up in Oxford, not as a settlement but a centre combining study, training, adult education and local involvement.

In 1961 Barnett House was formally incorporated into the University and the eminent sociologist A. H. Halsey (‘Chelly’) became its director in 1962. Halsey held the title of Professor of Social and Administrative Studies and was a Fellow of Nuffield College. His research focused on the analysis of class, status, family and social cohesion, and above all on education. He retired in 1990 after nearly 30 years at Barnett House, and we congratulate him on recently celebrating his 90th birthday. Halsey significantly expanded the teaching at Barnett House, which today comprises Masters courses in Comparative Social Policy and Evidence-Based Social Intervention as well as doctoral training and research.

There are continuities visible throughout the Department’s history. Barnett House has supported social reform through rigorous academic research, teaching and outreach, and an international focus has shaped the work of the Department throughout its history. Much of the research has had an impact on British policy developments and increasingly informs policies internationally, for example of the European Union, the ILO, the South African government and the World Health Organization.

Alumni of Barnett House hold academic positions all over the world; for example, they have been instrumental in the development of social policy research in South Korea. Many alumni work as social workers, lawyers and doctors as well as policymakers in government, international organisations and NGOs. Last year *Barnett House News* featured Benjamin Jealous, 17th President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), and Derek Kilmer, who since 2013 has been a member of the US House of Representatives for the 6th congressional district of Washington State.

A research team funded by the Nuffield Foundation (led by George Smith and Teresa Smith) has been charting the history of Barnett House. In 2014 their findings will be published in a book to be launched at the Reunion Weekend on 12-13th July 2014, at which we hope to see many of our alumni.
Message from Head of Department

This academic year we celebrate the Centenary of Barnett House. A number of colleagues and former colleagues have worked hard over the past two years to develop an exciting Centenary programme. Baroness Lister of Burtersett will be giving the Annual Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture on 4 December 2013, which will mark the official start of the Centenary celebrations. The Chancellor of the University, Lord Patten of Barnes, will chair the event. I hope that many alumni and friends of Barnett House will be able to attend this and indeed many of the other events planned throughout the year (see the back page for more information).

In 2012-2013 colleagues within the Department have once again secured significant research grants of which I want to highlight two. Professor Paul Montgomery and Dr Alex Richardson have been successful in securing a research grant worth £764k from DSM Nutritional Products to work on The DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) Oxford Learning and Behaviour (DOLAB) Confirmatory Study. Dr Lucie Cluver was awarded one of the extremely competitive Starting Grants from the European Research Council. The €1.5 million grant will allow her to embark on a new research trajectory to study effective ways of Preventing Abuse of Children in the Context of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

During the past year Barnett House has undergone a significant modernisation as the entire building was rewired. Despite many interruptions and inconveniences, work within the Department continued, and I am grateful to staff and students for their patience and endurance.

Finally, I want to thank Professor David Coleman for his collegiality and great contribution not only to the academic life of the Department and the study of demography at Oxford University, but also to the social life of the Department through his good-humoured nature. After three decades, he will formally retire at the end of Michaelmas Term in December 2013.

Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser

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Centenary logo

In the 2012 edition of Barnett House News we explained the history of the Sower, taken from George Frampton’s sculpture on Canon Barnett’s memorial in Westminster Abbey, which Barnett House used as its emblem for many years. As part of the Centenary preparations we have revived the logo, and have brought it up to date with a modern twist. We are grateful to designer Joe Skinner who kindly donated his time to do this, enlarging a detail of the emblem and adding his own designer birds. Joe will be exhibiting his work in Barnett House as part of the Renuion Weekend. The inscription on the original emblem, ‘Fear not to sow because of the birds’ is drawn from a biblical parable. While the modern logo retains the idea behind the inscription, we have not incorporated the words into it. Instead, after much consideration of how best to capture and reflect the work and impact that Barnett House and its people have had on the world over the last century, we have adopted a strapline, ‘100 years of social enquiry’. 
Postdoctoral Research Fellows

One of our aims is to provide more career development opportunities, and in 2012-13 we were delighted to appoint Dr Lucy Bowes, Dr Soohyun Lee and Dr Marek Naczyk as our first Postdoctoral Research Fellows funded by the Department. Congratulations to Soohyun, who has already been able to secure a permanent position as a Lecturer at Leeds University, and to Lucy who has been awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship here in the Department.

Dr Lucy Bowes

For my Fellowship, I am focusing on school bullying. School bullies are more likely to follow an anti-social and criminal path compared to children not involved in bullying. A significant number of bullies do not engage in future problem behaviour, possibly because of the buffering effects of protective factors.

Through a combination of statistical approaches, including behavioural genetic analyses of twin samples, I aim to identify potentially modifiable protective effects that promote positive development among children at risk of behavioural problems. By analysing data from twins, it is possible to disentangle genetic and environmental effects, important for informing intervention studies aiming to strengthen or change protective factors.

The principal goal of my research is to inform basic science as well as interventions designed to help school bullies to regulate their behaviour and desist from aggression, violence, delinquency, offending and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Being based at the Department has given me an amazing opportunity to discuss my research with world-leading experts from a wide range of disciplines. Learning about evidence-based interventions and social policy will enable me to maximise the policy and practice implications of my findings.

Dr Soohyun Lee

The Fellowship at the Department has given me a great opportunity and the freedom to pursue high quality research as an early career academic. The Fellowship has provided me with plenty of time to focus primarily on my research, which has greatly enabled me to develop and refine ideas. Moreover, I was able to utilise the great research environment that the Department and the University offer – in particular a research community willing to invest their time to listen to new ideas, read your work and provide quality feedback. Thanks to being at a world-renowned academic institution I had the opportunity to exchange ideas with leading scholars in my field. Last but not least, I was able to further develop my teaching skills.

Dr Marek Naczyk

This Fellowship provides me with an opportunity to build on my doctoral research and write articles that I will submit to peer-reviewed journals. Furthermore, it also allows me to gain experience in teaching. Ever since the first day, I have felt very much supported both by academic and administrative staff. Indeed, with its soon to be fully refurbished building, Barnett House constitutes a great work community.

My research concentrates primarily on the politics of pension privatisation in Europe. I am studying how the financial industry in its various components (i.e. insurance companies, mutual funds and stock exchanges) has lobbied governments to extend the role of private funded pensions.

I also examine how employers’ associations and trade unions have reacted to these processes, and try to show how their preferences have been determined not only by their social policy concerns, but also by their constituents’ corporate governance interests. While in my thesis I focused on the British, French and Polish cases, I am now extending my analysis to other countries, such as Hungary, Germany and the United States.
The Sidney Ball Memorial Lectures were established after World War I in memory of Sidney Ball, who died in 1918. Ball was a philosophy Fellow at St John’s College, Oxford, and a political radical as well as university reformer. He was convinced that contemporary social and economic problems should be studied at Oxford and was the first president of Barnett House when it was formed in 1914.

The first Memorial Lecture was delivered on 1 December 1920 by The Right Hon. Sir Horace Plunket. The Lectures were then given annually until the 1940s, addressing ‘modern social, economic or political questions’, and were published as ‘Barnett House Papers’ by OUP. The lectures continued with some gaps from the 1950s, and were held intermittently from 1976 but no longer published as Barnett Papers. Barnett House revived the series in 2007, and has held a lecture annually since.

Speakers included key founding fathers of the British welfare state, such as John Maynard Keynes (1924) and William Beveridge (1930 and 1940), and prominent politicians and political intellectuals, such as Richard Crossman, who spoke shortly before he died in 1974. The rich history of the Sidney Ball Memorial Lectures also lists two Noble Prize Laureates: the eminent social scientist and political activist Alva Myrdal, key to establishing the Swedish welfare state, spoke in academic year 1953-54, and James Meade, a leading economist in the Atlee government, delivered the 1972-73 lecture. Other eminent lecturers included: Edward Shils (1949-50), Ralf Dahrendorf (1962-63), Asa Briggs (1964), Partha Dasgupta (1992), Howard Glennerster (2000) and Gösta Esping-Andersen (2010).

As part of the Barnett House history project funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the research team working on the history of Barnett House has obtained copies of the OUP published lectures and digitised them. These (except for Keynes, 1924) are all available via the Department’s website, along with podcasts of more recent lectures.

2012 Lecture: The Reform of the Welfare State and the Dynamics of People’s Lives

The 2012 Sidney Ball Lecture was given by John Hills, CBE. Hills is an economist and Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he directs the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion.

Core to his argument in the lecture was the emphasis that people lead dynamic lives with significant fluctuations of income. Hills argued, ‘Much of what the welfare state does is best seen as a reaction to the dynamics of people’s lives’. Whilst the idea of a fixed underclass, so often emphasised in political debates, is wrong, there are also continuities over time that make some people’s life chances worse than others. Welfare states have to cope with this duality of smoothing short-term risks in the life cycle and redistribution. Hence, welfare states matter to many more people than only to the net beneficiaries at any particular moment in time.

2013 Lecture

Linking to the long history of prominent lectures, we are delighted that the 2013 Lecture is the official launch of the Centenary celebrations. The Lecture will be delivered by Baroness Lister of Burtersett and is entitled Speaking truth to power: social policy in action.

It will take place on 4 December 2013 at 5 p.m. in the Nissan Lecture Theatre, St. Antony’s College. We are delighted and honoured that the Chancellor of the University, Lord Patten of Barnes, will chair the Lecture. All are welcome.
Barnett Fellowship

On 25 June 1928, ‘certain British and American friends of Canon Samuel Augustus Barnett’ established the Barnett Fellowship, to be managed by trustees to be appointed by ‘an association called the Universities Settlement in East London and commonly known by the name of “Toynbee Hall”...and...Barnett House in the city of Oxford, an institution for the promotion amongst other things of economic study’. The first trustees included William Beveridge; Barnett’s widow Dame Henrietta; J.J. Mallon, the warden of Toynbee Hall; and W.G.S. Adams, the president of Barnett House.

The subscribers donated £4,335 (equivalent to approximately £230,000 today) and it was planned that the value of the Fellowship was to be the net yearly income on this amount to be paid to a Fellow who would hold the post for one to four years. The Fellow was to ‘devote him or herself to such an extent and in such a way as the Trustees shall reasonably require to work which shall involve teaching or research (or both) in social or economic science in or in connection with one of the above named universities with a period of residence in an industrial community’.

In this post credit crisis world the rate of return on the value of the fund has become rather small. Consequently, the newly appointed trustees of Toynbee Hall and Barnett House decided to spend the capital on the appointment of a final Barnett Fellow. We are pleased that Rys Farthing, a current DPhil student of the department, has accepted the appointment to the Fellowship, which coincides with the Centenary.

As the Barnett Fellow, Rys will be exploring the ways in which the geographic spaces within which young people live and grow define their current actions and their aspirations for the future. Young people in Tower Hamlets experience some of the highest levels of deprivation in Europe. Poverty is associated with reduced mobility, not only socially but also geographically; and with a narrowing of horizons not only metaphorically in terms of aspirations but also literally in terms of reduced awareness of the potential to access different areas of the city for learning and leisure. Existing research suggests a number of important factors such as limited money for transport and leisure services, as well as space being constructed in terms of gang turfs and consequent fear of crime. However other factors are likely to be important such as a greater tendency to attend schools located in one’s immediate neighbourhood and a consequently more geographically concentrated social network.

The project will involve collaboration between academic researchers and young people in Toynbee Hall’s ‘Inspire’ programme, a project that supports young people aged 14+ to engage actively with the world around them both as volunteers and peer mentors. Rys will be continuing our long association with Toynbee Hall by utilising the project to train the young people in qualitative research methods, and will provide them with an Open College Network accreditation. They will conduct individual interviews and focus group discussions with young people from the locality and analyse each young person’s use of space for different purposes, linking qualitative data such as interview excerpts and photographs to specific geographical points. Results will be disseminated by the Fellow and the young people at special events in Oxford and at Toynbee Hall.
Research into families and children

Research at Barnett House has focused on families and children throughout its history, and there are a number of notable examples of work in this area. Violet Butlet, Director from 1919 to 1948, studied ‘women’s work’ as part of her 1912 survey *Social Conditions in Oxford*. Juliet Cheetham researched pregnancy and the unmarried in the 1960s and 70s, while Jane Aldgate worked on children’s services and children ‘at risk’. Ann Buchanan’s Oxford Centre for Research with Parenting and Children brought these individual achievements together. More recently Jane Lewis, who in the early 2000s was appointed as the first Barnett Professor of Social Policy and has subsequently taken up a Professorship at the LSE, as well as Mavis Maclean and Teresa Smith have carried out significant pieces of work in this area.

Mary Daly, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, was recruited to the Department in October 2012 to coordinate and develop further research in the area of gender and family policies in a comparative and international context.

Family Policy in Focus

Mary Daly’s work prioritises the links between family change and family policy. She is especially interested in how contemporary family policy deals with highly complex, inter-related pressures such as family diversity, the links between family life and employment, gender and generational equity. Two main research questions drive her work:

- How are families and family life changing and how are these changes being implemented into policy?
- To what extent and how do policies serve to affect or construct processes and practices relating to family structures and forms, relationships and resources?

Mary Daly takes a broad approach to family policy, including classic family policies – child welfare, cash benefits, tax credits, parental benefits, childcare and other policies – employment, health, education, housing and transport all impact on family life. In addition, she is interested in an intersectional approach, which investigates how policy is affected by the interaction of gender, age, race, and class.

At present she is undertaking two ESRC-funded research projects related to family policy. One investigates parenting and how social policy in England (in its own right and in comparison to Germany, France and the Netherlands) seeks to support parenting. This project looks at the provisions in place for this purpose and is especially interested in understanding whether these are new developments and what is driving them. The second project investigates how family life is affected by poverty. Based on interviews with members of over 50 families in Northern Ireland, the research examines how people organise their family lives when resources are scarce, the support they receive from other family members, and their priorities in regard to family living and family relations.

With these guiding interests her work fits well with existing strengths and interests in the Department. In collaboration with colleagues, she intends to build on this work, which includes a range of projects on demography, interventions relating to children, parents and families, health policy, gender equality and policy relating to poverty and social exclusion, to establish the Department as a world-leading centre of expertise on family policy.
Recently, there has been rapid diffusion of parenting interventions among countries, yet little is known about whether they are effective when transported to countries very different from those in which they were originally developed and tested, or about the country-level factors influencing their success. Professor Frances Gardner led a review, funded by the Swedish Board of Health and Welfare, which is the first systematic attempt to address these questions, focusing on interventions for reducing behavioural problems in children aged 3-10, a subset of parenting interventions for which there is robust evidence.

In the first stage of the project the team identified interventions that had been tested in at least one randomised trial in their origin country. In the second stage, the team searched for trials of these programmes implemented in another country, then conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of the effectiveness of these ‘transported’ programmes, followed by subgroup analyses asking whether country-level cultural, resource and policy factors affected the success of these interventions.

The team found 17 randomised trials of transported parenting interventions involving 1558 parent-child dyads: four programmes originating in the USA and Australia were tested in ten countries, mostly in Northern Europe. Meta-analysis of the trials showed large effects on child behaviour problems. Sub-group analyses found that interventions transported to other ‘Western’ countries showed comparable effect sizes to those in the origin country, while effect sizes appeared stronger when the interventions were transported to culturally more distant regions (Asia, Latin America, the Middle East). Trials in countries with more traditional family values showed higher effect sizes than those in countries with more secular, individualistic cultures. The team found no differences in effect sizes by country-level policy or resource factors (e.g. level of family benefits; ‘family friendly’ policies; child poverty).

The findings of our review did not support the common and very plausible view that parenting interventions are most effective when transported to countries that are more similar (in terms of cultural values and policy regimes) to those in which they were developed. Neither do these interventions appear necessarily to need extensive adaptation when transported across countries.

The role of education in intergenerational social mobility

Barnett House has a long established link with social mobility studies. Though the famous Oxford mobility study of the 1970s and 1980s was always based in Nuffield College, several of the central figures were also at Barnett House. These included A.H. Halsey, who directed the study and was at that time the director of Barnett House, as well as Anthony Heath, John Ridge and Keith Hope.

In recent years intergenerational social mobility has once again become an issue of central political and policy concern in Britain. All three main political parties have an explicit commitment to creating a more mobile society, and there is general agreement that education plays a key role in processes of social mobility. However, many difficult conceptual and empirical questions remain. Education may be a crucial factor in determining who is mobile but is it equally important in determining levels of mobility in the population at large? Does education currently play a greater part than previously in mediating the association between the socio-economic positions of parents and their children? And, if so, does this mean that education is becoming more important as a facilitator of mobility or simply as a channel – with the more basic drivers constituting various cognitive and psychological attributes of individuals or features of their families of origin? Is education of the same importance in determining the chances of mobility, or immobility, of children from different social backgrounds – are we moving towards a genuine education-based meritocracy? Dr Erzsebet Bukodi and Dr John Goldthorpe FBA are working on a project funded by the ESRC to address these questions.
Student News

Each year the Department awards three prizes to outstanding students. The Barnett Prize recognises the best paper submitted by a Graduate Research Student. In 2012-13 the prize was awarded to Rebecca Waller for her paper with Professor Frances Gardner Parenting as predictor of callous unemotional traits in young people: a systematic review. The paper is now published in the Clinical Psychology Review.

The George and Teresa Smith Awards were launched in 2010 to acknowledge academic achievement by Masters students. The Awards were established by five alumni who wanted to thank the Department for the opportunities and skills gained during their time in Oxford. In 2012 the George Smith Award for Comparative Social Policy was won by Balint Misetics and the Teresa Smith Award for Evidence-Based Social Intervention was won by Nicholas Netto and Elona Toska.

Congratulations to Katie Apfelbaum (far right in the picture below) a second year MPhil student in Comparative Social Policy, who coxed the Oxford women’s Blue Boat to win this year’s Newton race against Cambridge University. She had already played a key role in Boat Race history coxing the Oxford men’s reserve boat in 2012 to win the reserve race with a record time.

Scholarships

One of the Department’s key aims and the key fundraising objective is to establish more scholarships to enable the best students from any background to study with us. We are delighted that in our Centenary year we will be able to offer five scholarships to students applying to start their DPhils in 2014. These include two ESRC scholarships offered through the Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre and topped up with departmental funding.

We have partnered with Wolfson College to offer the Oxford Wolfson Marriott Graduate Scholarship in Social Policy and Intervention, jointly funded by Wolfson College through a bequest from Frances Marriott matched by the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund and the Department. Furthermore, we are pleased to have been able to increase the value of the Barnett Scholarship from £9,000 to £60,000 over three years. Congratulations to Selcuk Beduk who has been awarded the Barnett Scholarship in 2013 to read for a DPhil in Social Policy, having previously completed the MSc course.

As part of the Centenary celebrations, we are launching a new Centenary Scholarship. Any donations received will be put towards this scholarship (unless specified for another use), with the Department matching contributions (or making up the shortfall). If you would like to contribute and enable world-class students to study at the Department please see the enclosed donation form.

Eli Grant: ESRC Scholarship 2011

A majority of prisoners have substance use problems and in addition to a range of health and social costs, substance misuse is amongst the strongest predictors of reoffending. Prison-based drug treatment programmes are therefore increasingly provided, and even mandated, in order to reduce post-release substance misuse and recidivism. Systematic reviews with meta-analyses have consistently concluded that such programmes are effective. However, desistance from crime and recovery from substance misuse disorders are complex processes of behavioural change with biological, psychological and socio-structural components. Drug treatments encompass a diverse range of interventions, ranging from single 30 minute counselling sessions to 12-month full-time residential treatment to medication-based substitution therapies. The strength of available evidence for any particular type of treatment and the generaliseability of findings remains unclear.
My research aims to contribute to the growing body of literature concerned with the segmentation of social protection and the responses of welfare states to the new social risks that have emerged with recent changes in the structure of European labour markets. It focuses on the reforms of unemployment protection in rich democracies, with a special emphasis on Germany and Austria. The latter are two countries that have diverged markedly in the extent to which they have adjusted their systems of unemployment protection to ensure the protection of a growing number of workers earning low or unstable incomes. The first part of my research explores the extent to which this divergence in unemployment protection reform can be attributed to a difference in the degree to which organised interest groups in Germany and Austria have been able to influence policy-making.

The Department of Social Policy and Intervention has been a great environment for my research and intellectual growth. This has been facilitated by the strong support of my academic supervisor and the close interaction of scholars at the Department. In particular the weekly departmental colloquia, the thematic research groups and the departmental seminar series provide excellent opportunities for the exchange and discussion of ideas. Receiving funding from the ESRC has greatly benefited my research. Beyond enabling me to pursue my studies here at the Department, the ESRC Award allows me to participate in different training modules organised through the Doctoral Training Centre, to attend conferences in the UK and abroad, to participate in advanced methods training, and to complete an institutional visit abroad.

**Staff news**

Martin Seeleib-Kaiser was appointed as the Barnett Professor of Comparative Social Policy and Politics. We bid farewell to Chris Bonell, Professor of Sociology and Social Intervention, who joined us in 2011 and is now moving to the Institute of Education in London. In October 2013 we are joined by two new University Lecturers: Dr Stuart Basten as University Lecturer in Social Policy and Dr Chris Wilson as University Lecturer in Demography – a joint appointment with the School of Anthropology.

We have also appointed three Departmental Lecturers taking up post in October 2013: Emanuele Ferragina in Comparative Social Policy, and Gerardo Melendez-Torres and David Humphreys in Evidence-Based Social Intervention. In addition, we are being joined by two further Postdoctoral Research Fellows: Johan Bo Davidsson and Patty Leijten.

**Professor David Coleman retires**

After a distinguished career at the University, Professor David Coleman is retiring in December 2013. He studied Zoology at Oxford and completed a PhD in Demography at the LSE, then joined Oxford as a University Lecturer in Demography in 1980 after a decade of lecturing in Physical Anthropology at University College London. He has been Professor of Demography since 2002 (previously Reader in Demography from 1996). In this role, David has made a unique contribution to studying and researching demography at Oxford. Demography is a compulsory part of the Human Sciences degree and an option for PPE, and David has delivered most of the university lectures and tutorials on the subject as well as offering a demography option for graduate students in this department.

David’s contribution to demography goes beyond the University. He was granted leave from 1985-87 when he held a role as Special Adviser to the Home Secretary, and then to the Ministers of Housing and of the Environment. Since then he has continued to work beyond Oxford, and has been a consultant for the Home Office, the United Nations and for private business. He was the joint editor of the European Journal of Population (Paris) from 1992 until 2000, and in 1997 and in 2001 was elected to the Council of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

In 2012 he was awarded the Valtynteevskiye Chteniya Gold Medal (awarded every 2-3 years) for his ‘outstanding contribution to demographic science and education’. He was presented with the award by the Rector of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Academician V.A. Zadovnichiy.
Alumni news

Lucinda Platt

Lucinda Platt read for the MSc in Applied Social Studies from 1992-1994 gaining her Certificate of Qualification in Social Work at the end of it. She then worked as a community worker in Oxfordshire for two years, before returning to Barnett House as a research officer and, subsequently, a doctoral student (DPhil 2001), with her dissertation addressing ethnic differences in children's welfare dynamics.

After a decade at the University of Essex, she moved to the Institute of Education as director of the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS). The MCS is a UK-wide cohort study of over 19,000 children born in 2000-2001 who are followed throughout their lives. The MCS has collected a wealth of information on early childhood and has contributed to enhancing the understanding of areas such as childhood obesity, the influence of poverty on child outcomes, and children’s cognitive and behavioural development. In Autumn 2013, Lucinda will take up a post as Professor of Social Policy and Sociology at LSE.

Andrew Park

Andrew Park completed his MPhil in Comparative Social Policy in 2004 while on a Rhodes Scholarship and continued on to complete his DPhil in 2009. During his time at Barnett House, Andrew worked primarily with George Smith on the topic of same-sex marriage in the United States, which went through a rapid evolution between the beginning of his research in 2002 and the completion of the DPhil seven years later, as the Bush administration successfully wielded equal marriage and gay rights as “wedge issues” in a bid to secure a second Presidential term, ultimately resulting in the passage of at least 12 state constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriages in 2004.

Today, with the fall of both “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” (which barred openly gay citizens from serving in the military) and the “Defence of Marriage Act” (which purported to ‘defend’ heterosexual marriage against the threat of same-sex marriage) the landscape has shifted dramatically, particularly with respect to social norms.

After completing both the DPhil, and his law degree at Yale Law School (in 2008), Andrew clerked for two years in the federal judiciary, first with the Honorable Judge Jed S. Rakoff on the District Court for the Southern District of New York, and then with the Honorable Judge Robert A. Katzmann on the Circuit Court for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. While on the district court, he was the sole clerk handling the multi-district litigation surrounding Bank of America and Merrill Lynch as a result of the systemic financial crash triggered by the implosion of mortgage-backed securities.

While he arguably learnt more about the law in two years of clerking than in law school itself, he ultimately decided to forego corporate practice to join the Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, in establishing Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Mayor’s private charitable foundation which distributed upwards of $360 million in 2012 alone. Andrew served as the special assistant to the COO, managed the Board of Directors, and helped launch a new arts granting programme. More recently, he has moved on to the company, Bloomberg LP, where he now sits at the intersection of philanthropy, sustainability (environment, social, and governance – “ESG”), and finance. This latest role seeks to translate the thought-leadership of the NGO community into actionable financial tools to enable the integration of sustainability factors into investment strategies under the theory that pushing the world’s capital markets towards sustainable ends is a powerful and necessary tool in our efforts to address climate change and the rapid depletion of natural resources. You can catch him speaking about the importance of ESG data and financial integration in a recent interview by Asset.TV: http://web.asset.tv/player/?sc=ms51124cc78eb448i=9651
June Thorburn

June Thoburn (née Bailey) came to Barnett House in 1962 after graduating from Reading University (BA Hons, French). She joined the second cohort of 14 probation officer/child care officer students on the 17 month professional training in social work and was awarded the Oxford University Post Graduate Diploma in Public and Social Administration and the Home Office Letter of Recognition in Child Care in December 1963.

Those were exciting and challenging times for the still newly emerging child care officers, as the 1963 Act that brought in preventive social work was being debated. The principles and values of empathic, relationship-based social casework that permeated the course have remained a constant throughout her career. She worked in local authority social work in England and Canada before taking up a University of East Anglia (UEA) joint appointment (with Norfolk County Council) in 1979. As a founding Director of the UEA Centre for Research on the Child and Family and of the Making Research Count collaboration, she has a particular interest in finding innovative ways of helping social workers to use knowledge from a range of sources in their practice. Her teaching and research have encompassed family support and child protection services for children and families in the community and services for children in care or placed for adoption. She has a particular interest in international aspects of child welfare and was awarded a Leverhulme Fellowship for a study of children in care in 28 jurisdictions.

Jane has recently led on a research briefing for the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) on children returned home from care and has been invited to contribute expert evidence to the Select Committee on Children and Families inquiry into children in care, the Norgrove Inquiry into family justice and the House of Lords Select Committee on Adoption. Until 2008 she was Vice Chair of the General Social Care Council and from 2007-08 was Chairperson of the Jersey Child Protection Committee. She was a member of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service Board between 2008 and 2012. Since 2012 she has been Chair of Norfolk Family Justice Board, and is a member of the Child and Family Steering Committee of the College of Social Work.

Dan Zuberi

Dan Zuberi is Associate Professor of Social Policy and RBC Chair at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and School of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Toronto. After graduating from Johns Hopkins with an Honours BA in Political Science, he completed the MSc in Comparative Social Research at Oxford in 1996-1997. He went on to complete his PhD in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University in 2004, where he held an Inequality and Social Policy traineeship and received a Fulbright scholarship.

Dan began his academic career in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and was the William Lyon Mackenzie King Research Fellow at Harvard University from 2011-2012. His research interests include urban poverty, social policy, immigration, education, healthcare, housing and social welfare.

Dan’s first book, Differences that Matter: Social Policy and the Working Poor in the United States and Canada, was published by Cornell University Press in 2006, and received several awards, including the Michael Harrington Book Award from the American Political Science Association. His second book, Cleaning Up: How Hospital Outsourcing is Hurting Workers and Endangering Patients, will be published in October 2013, also by Cornell University Press.
Annual Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture

The Chancellor of the University, Lord Patten of Barnes, will launch the year at the Annual Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture 2013 to be delivered by Baroness Lister of Burtersett, *Speaking truth to power: social policy in action* 4 December 2013 at 5 p.m. in the Nissan Lecture Theatre, St Antony’s College.

Centenary Seminar Series (from October 2013)

The series will look back at 100 years of research and policy change in social policy, evidence-based social intervention, and social work. Seminars are held on Thursdays at 5 p.m. in Barnett House.

17 October: **Professor Bernard Harris** (University of Strathclyde) on the history of the British welfare state.

24 October: **George Smith and Teresa Smith** (University of Oxford) on the history of Barnett House.

31 October: **Professor Jose Harris** (University of Oxford) on the internal discussions of the Beveridge committee.

7 November: **Professor Carole Torgerson** (Durham University) *A brief history of RCTs*.

14 November: **Professor Herbert Obinger** (University of Bremen) *Warfare and the welfare state*.

21 November: **Professor Eileen Munro** (London School of Economics) on child protection.

28 November: **Ceridwen Roberts** (University of Oxford) on the ethics and politics of social science research.

5 December: Round Table Discussion. Participants: **Professor Jonathan Bradshaw** (University of York), **Dr Zoë Irving** (University of Sheffield), **Professor Jane Miller** (University of Bath), Chair: **Professor Robert Walker** (University of Oxford).

The seminar series will continue in Hilary Term 2014 and will conclude with a Round Table Discussion on trends in social policy and evidence-based policy research.

Reunion Weekend, 12-13 July 2014

Saturday 17 July: Welcome and book launch in the Examination Schools; “open house” at the department with displays of historic materials and the work of Joe Skinner (designer of the centenary logo) as well as overviews of current research. Sunday 13 July: showing of the film ‘The Heap’ by H.P. Albarelli and N. Albarelli, directed by Y. Sidhwa and Pegasus Youth Theatre Company, followed by a discussion with the director Y. Sidhwa and one of the playwrights, N. Albarelli; a lecture by Magdalena Sepulveda, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; and plenty of opportunities to socialise and network.

For information on events please contact: events@spi.ox.ac.uk

All other alumni queries to: alumni@spi.ox.ac.uk