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Who we are

The Department of Social Policy and Intervention is a global centre of excellence in its field. We deliver ground-breaking research and teaching in social policy, while developing and evaluating social interventions. We are home to an international community of academics and researchers, with a diverse team that spans a range of disciplines.

Our work contributes extensively to academic debate. We have a major impact on social policy and practice, through peer-reviewed publications and research projects. Our research affects the social landscape, from the way government funds are allocated to the delivery of local programmes.

We offer postgraduate and doctoral programmes in comparative social policy and evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation. We also teach an option paper in Social Policy for undergraduates at the University studying PPE, Human Sciences, or Modern History and Politics.

With a history spanning well over a century, a reputation for ground-breaking research and a portfolio of unrivalled graduate programmes, we stand proudly at the forefront of social policy and interventions in the UK and across the globe.

Our mission

Our work aims to engage in teaching and research that contributes to social reform across the globe, reducing inequalities and bringing positive change to people’s lives. We are passionate about research excellence and committed to making our society a better and fairer place.

Through world-leading graduate study programmes, we teach the brightest minds in the field. Through pioneering research, we are at the centre of contemporary social policy theory, analysis and critique. Through enduring commitment to investigating policy and programmatic interventions, we are at the forefront of social reform.
Welcome to the 2021/22 DSPI report

From the Head of Department, Jane Barlow

The academic year 2021/22 presented us with our first opportunity to return to full in-person teaching following the pandemic and was possibly best characterised by our working to establish harmonisation across our research and teaching. The announcement of the REF2021 results in May saw DSPI confirmed as one of the leading departments for Social Policy and Social Work nationally, with 62% of our research as a whole being rated as 4*. Our students continue to be integral to the energy and success of the Department. We were pleased to see a diverse group of students graduating this year, having covered a wide range of topics in their theses focusing on significant, real-world issues. Organisers of DSPI’s annual Symposium for Early Researchers in Social Policy & Intervention (SERSPI) - its first in-person since the pandemic - hailed the event’s benefits in fostering a ‘warm, relaxed, friendly, fun, and constructive’ culture.

For the ninth year in a row, the Department achieved an end-of-year surplus position, finishing the financial year with a surplus of £187k against a planned surplus of £256k. We also secured research funding from a wide range of sources, with our biggest achievements being the award of two grants by the LEGO and Oak Foundations worth £11M and £3.7M respectively (PI: Dr Jamie Lachman), a European Commission Horizon Europe/UKRI grant worth £2.3M (PI: Prof Mary Daly) and a Leverhulme Foundation Doctoral Scholarships Programme in conjunction with the Departments of Sociology, Experimental Psychology and Psychiatry worth £1.35M (PI: Prof Jane Barlow). Dr Naomi Muggeridge secured a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Dr Laura Sochas won a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship. The department also secured a number of significant impact awards: Professor Lucie Cluver won the Panel’s Choice - COVID-19 Emergency Parenting Response Team, funded by ESRC Impact Award 2021, worth £2,500, and Dr Jamie Lachman won the Evidence-based parenting programmes, funded by O2RB Excellence in Impact Award 2021, ESRC Impact Accelerator Award worth £2,000. Our signature Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture, which was delivered at St John’s College by Baroness Minouche Shafik - What we owe each other: A New Social Contract, attracted a large and highly engaged audience.

We were delighted to appoint two new CSP chairs. Professor Jane Gingrich will be joining us in January 2023 to take up the Professorship of Social Policy with a Fellowship at Green Templeton College. Jane is currently Professor of Comparative Political Economy at the Department of Politics and International Relations, and Tutorial Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford. Jane’s areas of expertise are Comparative Political Economy and Comparative Social Policy with a particular interest in the contemporary restructuring of the welfare state and the politics of institutional change. Professor Kenneth Tommy Nelson will be joining us in April 2023 to take up the Barnett Professorship in Social Policy with a Fellowship at St Cross College. Kenneth is currently Professor of Sociology at the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), University of Stockholm. Kenneth is Head of the Social Policy Unit at SOFI, and his areas of expertise are Social Policy, Well-Being, and Comparative Analysis.

The year concluded with the launch of our new website and branding. The website now emphasises how people’s lives. The departmental branding has been completely redesigned with a fresh new look that reflects DSPI’s position at the forefront of social policy research and the development and evaluation of social intervention.

Finally, we said goodbye to our wonderful Head of Administration and Finance, Sophie Gibbons, who took us a post at the Department of Computer Science, and we look forward to welcoming Arne Kuehl from the Oxford Department of International Development as our new HAF.

Jane Barlow
Head of Department
People

Our staff make us who we are. DSPI boasts a hugely talented community of academic, research and professional services staff and associated members, all of whom contribute to the ongoing success of the department. Headed by our all-female department leadership team, the rich diversity of our staff base reflects our ongoing commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and our brilliant academics continue to gain recognition for their work with a range of honours and awards. You can see a full list of our staff at the end of this report.

A new identity

Our new brand identity was launched in September 2022, reflecting our core values and the ethos, heart and passion of the department. The new branding represents our continued efforts toward societal change, people-centred inclusiveness, innovative thinking, high ethical standards and professionalism, emphasising how our collaborative work and delivery of real-world, practical solutions make a positive and lasting difference to people’s lives.

Our brand values

We are ethical
We act with integrity. We are open, honest and transparent. We seek a more equal, inclusive world.

We are change-makers
We actively innovate to create a fairer and better society. Our work creates real-world impact that makes a difference to people’s lives.

We are forward-thinking
We are proactive and our approach is always evolving. We don’t accept the status quo, and will always push boundaries to deliver groundbreaking work.

We are people-centred
We nurture collaboration within the department and beyond to deliver positive outcomes. We are compassionate and we are curious about how our work can help people.

We are professional
We have the highest standards, so we always strive for excellence. We treat everyone with dignity and respect.

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Celebrating the achievements of our staff

Staff Honours and Awards

Aaron Reeves
Aaron Reeves was awarded the title of Professor following the University’s most recent Recognition of Distinction exercise. Aaron, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, is a sociologist with interests in public health, culture, and political economy. His research is focused on understanding the causes and consequences of social and economic inequality across countries.

Mark Fransham
Dr Mark Fransham, Senior Research Officer and Departmental Lecturer in Quantitative Methods, was among the winners of the Social Sciences Division Teaching Excellence Awards 2021-22. Mark, who joined DSPI in September 2020, received the award for his impact in teaching on the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

Equality, diversity & inclusion

DSPI has always championed, through its research, the voices and experiences of complex and marginalised individuals and organisations. We are committed to doing the same for our staff, students and partners through our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion strategy.

Visibility
We will focus on people’s achievements, accomplishments and struggles, and ensure that our approach to EDI is transparent. We will provide a platform to make diverse journeys and pathways visible, to ensure that we all take and learn from one another.

Voice
We will encourage everyone to be involved in departmental decision-making and agenda setting. We will provide a safe space for everyone’s voices to be heard and opportunities for their concerns to be raised and addressed.

Vocation
We will be more inclusive, enabling all staff and students to feel empowered to develop and progress as they would wish. We will review, reflect and monitor our practices, and incorporate best practices in communication, training, consciousness raising and social interactions.

Athena Swan Award
We have a dedicated team working towards attaining a Bronze Award of the Athena Swan Charter to reflect our work promoting gender equality and our commitment to addressing the challenges faced by the department and the discipline as a whole. The Charter is a national framework used worldwide to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research.
Study

DSPI is a small, friendly department, made up of a diverse body of talented people making a huge impact. Students at DSPI become an important part of our community, as they develop their academic research skills for use in practice and policy settings.
Study pathways

Undergraduate
We teach an option paper in Social Policy to undergraduates studying PPE, Human Sciences, and Modern History and Politics, exploring the nature and development of social policy and welfare, alongside contemporary policy problems and challenges. The key framework for analysis is the mixed economy of welfare – the shifts in the relative importance of the state, the market, the voluntary sector and the family. The course focuses on Britain, but seeks to set the British experience in comparative perspective.

MSc / MPhil in Comparative Social Policy
Our one- and two-year Comparative Social Policy Master’s programmes are designed to enhance understanding of social problems and challenges, policy options, reforming policy, and the impact on individual lives, households and societies. The programmes explore welfare systems and policy developments across the world, with a focus on advanced economies in Europe and OECD countries.

Our comparative approach is a defining element of the programmes. We believe systematic international comparison is the best way to analyse and understand particular welfare systems and their social policies. Students study across disciplines, including demography, economics, political science, social policy and sociology. The courses offer a strong emphasis on training in comparative research methods and their application in a thesis project.

MSc / MPhil in Evidence-Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation
The Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation Master’s programmes investigate policies and programmes in areas such as child protection, education, poverty, housing, and gun control. The practical imperative of ensuring effective use of finite resources, together with an ethical imperative to demonstrate that an intervention or policy is doing more good than harm, require that practice be based on sound evidence.

The courses focus on research methods for evaluating interventions and policies, such as randomized trials, systematic reviews, advanced quasi-experimental methods, and qualitative and quantitative methods. The programmes are interdisciplinary and international in nature, focusing on appraising, generating and using evidence in policy and practice.

Doctoral Study
Our world-renowned DPhil programmes in Social Policy and Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation are delivered by a diverse and vibrant community of expert academics. Our DPhils are examined solely by thesis, under the guidance of a supervisor, and provide an opportunity for the finest students to pursue in-depth research focusing on key challenges facing the modern world. Our research groups also provide a rich source of data and case study material. Students study within a college, while contributing to OSPI’s unique intellectual environment. Our international community of doctoral research students play a key role in the academic life and development of the department.

Leverhulme Trust Biopsychosocial Doctoral Scholarship Programme
In addition to a range of departmental scholarships, we also offer 15 doctoral scholarships, thanks to a £1.35m grant from the Leverhulme Trust. Successful applicants complete multi-disciplinary research on the impact of poverty and social inequalities in early childhood. This ground-breaking programme of doctoral scholarships, spanning the social and biological sciences, aims to reduce the impact of these disadvantages on children’s life chances. Directed by Professor Jane Barlow, this is Oxford’s first doctoral programme that brings together expertise from diverse disciplines, with the explicit goal of reducing the impact of social inequality in early childhood through the application of biological science.

Our world-renowned programmes are delivered by a diverse community of expert academics.
Celebrating the achievements of our students

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who won prizes for their work during the academic year 2020/21:

George Smith Award
The George Smith Award for best Master’s thesis for Comparative Social Policy was awarded to:

Leon David Küstermann
for Afraid of automation? Do active labour market policies improve the subjective wellbeing of workers who are threatened by automation?

Teresa Smith Award
The Teresa Smith Award for best Master’s thesis for Evidence-Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation was awarded to:

Alejandro Biondi

Barnett Prize Winners
Our annual Barnett Prize is awarded for the best paper submitted by a research student. The winners were:

Lukas Lehner
for Begging thy co-worker – Is Europe’s wage growth destined to slow further?

Mackenzie Martin
for Measures of Facilitator Competent Adherence Used in Parenting Programs and Their Psychometric Properties: A Systematic Review.

Sarah Melville
for Investigating equity effects of parenting programmes on child maltreatment in low- and middle-income countries. An individual participant data meta-analysis of four Parenting for Lifelong Health randomised trials.

In the news

DSPI MSc student speaks at COP26
Rai Sengupta, a DSPI MSc student, attended COP26 where she represented the Weidenfeld Hoffmann Trust in promoting youth-led climate action. Rai moderated a panel discussion The Rising Opportunity for Green Careers in India. She also spoke at the event Global Problems, Local Solutions, representing Enactus SRCC, the international non-profit she volunteered with for three years.

Student helps disadvantaged communities enter Higher Education
Sayed Manzer, MSc student and Chevening Scholar, played a leading role in an initiative helping disadvantaged people from South Asia enter Higher Education. He is a co-founder and Strategy and Innovation Lead at the initiative Project EduAccess, which is helping applicants from India with university applications, with aims to expand the scheme for other countries.

DPhil student earns prestigious research grant
Ertuğrul Polat, DPhil student and Barnett Scholar, said he was ‘excited and grateful’ after his project was selected for a prestigious research grant by The Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy. His project, Understanding the Variation in Social Policies for Vulnerable Children in Europe: Policies, Politics, and Outcomes, was also awarded the Robert K. Merton Award.

DPhil student Lukas hails DSPI’s support in double award success
DPhil student Lukas Lehner hailed the ‘incredibly prosperous and inspirational research environment’ at DSPI, after being selected for a research grant and fellowship. Lukas received the recognition for his research on a job guarantee pilot initiative, carried out with Maximilian Kasy in the Department of Economics. Lukas was awarded a Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy dissertation grant award and the UC Berkeley Fellowship 2022/23 of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation.

DSPI student helps disadvantaged communities enter Higher Education
Sayed Manzer, MSc student and Chevening Scholar, played a leading role in an initiative helping disadvantaged people from South Asia enter Higher Education. He is a co-founder and Strategy and Innovation Lead at the initiative Project EduAccess, which is helping applicants from India with university applications, with aims to expand the scheme for other countries.

DPhil student’s research presented at the House of Commons
DPhil student Ben Scher presented his research on the feasibility of Overdose Prevention Centres at an influential event at the House of Commons. Ben presented at the Parliamentary Symposium on Overdose Prevention Centres, hosted by Drug Science and the Faculty for Public Health.
We are already witnessing the impact of the research in our hallway chats, the follow-up on feedback, and the general sense of achievement from the speakers for a job well done.

Alexandra Blackwell
DPhil Student

Annual Student Symposium

Student organisers of DSPI’s annual Symposium for Early Researchers in Social Policy & Intervention (SERSPI) - its first in-person since pre-pandemic - hailed the event’s benefits in fostering a ‘warm, relaxed, friendly, fun, and constructive’ culture.

The day-long SERSPI, which was previously the department’s Graduate Research Conference, is a DPhil-led initiative, hosted at and sponsored by Nuffield College, showcasing the work of DPhil and MPhil students, and including a distinguished faculty panel.

More than 50 people enjoyed a programme featuring 13 presentations by students among panels on: Interventions for Violence and Children at Risk; Policy Outcomes in Advanced Welfare States; and Critical Perspectives on Policy Problematisation and Narrative.

Alexandra Blackwell, a DPhil student in Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation, said the Symposium provided a great opportunity for students to see the emerging research being developed around social policy and interventions.

Alexandra said: “We are already witnessing the impact of the research in our hallway chats, the follow-up on feedback, and the general sense of achievement from the speakers for a job well done. This year’s Symposium also rolled out some novel features, such as a session of short five-minute pitches to facilitate rapid feedback from attendees on research ideas from first-year DPhils; student discussants for each panel; as well as faculty panel on the future of the discipline and the development of a good researcher moderated by DPhil student Benjamin Goodair.”

The symposium was supported by Faculty members including Professor Jane Barlow and Dr Ben Chrsinger, with the panel discussion on The Future of the Discipline and the Development of a Good Researcher featuring Professor Lucie Cluver, Professor Mary Daly, Dr Aaron Reeves, and Dr Tim Vlandas.
Celebrating our alumni

Our alumni take DSPI to the world and continue to influence the Social Policy landscape long after they have left us. Many go on to become key practitioners across the globe, in world-leading research universities, in government and in non-governmental and international organisations such as the World Bank, the World Health Organisation and the UN.

By staying in touch with our alumni, we can find out about their exploits and achievements since taking their next steps into the world of work. They also provide us with invaluable insights into their memories of life in the department and how DSPI set them on the path to career success.

After my degree, I worked as a consultant at the Social Protection and Labour Unit of the World Bank in Washington D.C. ... I believe that my time at DSPI has equipped me thoroughly for what lies ahead.

Ali Bargu
DSPI Alumnus

Following Our Students’ Next Steps

Ali Bargu
MSc in Comparative Social Policy 2015-2016,
DPhil in Social Policy 2022,
Junior Social Policy Analyst/Junior Economist at the OECD Employment Labour and Social Affairs Directorate in the Social Policy Division

During my DPhil at the department, I had the opportunity to advance my skills in my area of interest, social safety nets, while also gaining wide exposure to pressing social problems. DSPI offers a great interdisciplinary environment that allows working on social problems that require addressing. My favourite part of studying at Barnett House was the atmosphere and ability to get to know every staff member and colleague. It has helped me build a strong network of like-minded people. Especially during the pandemic, the comradery between fellow doctoral students was invaluable.

For over a decade, I have been interested in how governments can employ social policies to support their citizens. The MSc in Comparative Social Policy at Oxford provided me with a great general overview of the field and allowed me to explore which areas particularly spark my interest. After my degree, I worked as a consultant at the Social Protection and Labour Unit of the World Bank in Washington D.C., putting this knowledge to the test. My time at the department equipped me with the ability to quickly familiarise myself. After some time as a consultant, I wanted to specialise further in the field of social policy, so I returned to DSPI and commenced my doctoral studies.

My studies equipped me with a broad skill set, which I realised yet again when I started my position as a Junior Social Policy Analyst at the OECD Employment Labour and Social Affairs Directorate in the Social Policy Division. I currently work on topics like social housing, homelessness and housing exclusion, as well as reports on the gender pay gap, which all require a critical interdisciplinary lens. I believe that my time at DSPI has equipped me thoroughly for what lies ahead.
Ani Movsisyan

MSc in Evidence Based Social Intervention 2013-2014,
DPhil in Social Intervention 2014-2018,
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Munich (LMU Munich)

My years at DSPI have been instrumental in providing important skills and framework necessary for understanding evidence practices and negotiations in public health. The multidisciplinary academic training and the network that I have received from Oxford have enabled me to engage with large international teams and collaborations to co-develop approaches in evidence-informed practices. I particularly valued the engaging intellectual community at DSPI and the ability to lead an independent research project with support and supervision from the top scholars in the field. The academic environment at DSPI is unique in its emphasis on deep exploration of complex research and policy questions, innovative methods and approaches, and support for young professionals aspiring to make an important contribution to social research and policy on national and global scales. My studies at DSPI have been foundational in shaping my academic and consulting careers.

Since my studies at DSPI, I have worked to support evidence-informed practices within public health and social care. As a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Munich, I work to develop methods and guidance for evidence synthesis, evidence integration, and evidence use in global public health guidelines, such as those produced by the World Health Organization (WHO). Over the last decade, I have also worked as a methodologist and consultant to WHO, supporting development of evidence-informed practice recommendations on issues related to maternal and newborn care and parenting. More recently, I consulted the WHO as part of their COVID-19 response and to help build an evidence ecosystem for better pandemic preparedness.

“

My studies at DSPI have been foundational in shaping my academic and consulting careers... I work to develop methods and guidance for evidence synthesis, evidence integration, and evidence use in global public health guidelines.

Ani Movsisyan
DSPI Alumni
Key elements of our strategy to deliver international research excellence are:

- Building expertise by strategic recruitment and investment to develop research strengths
- Emphasising methodological excellence and innovation at the macro and micro level
- Engaging in international and collaborative research
- Strengthening our capacities in evaluation research and international comparative analysis
Our Research Themes

Our research work focuses around seven key themes:

1. **Poverty & Social Inequalities**
   Key areas of our research include social mobility, life events, social and educational inequalities of opportunity. We examine economic growth models and living standards in policy and practice in the UK and around the world.

2. **Welfare States, Gender & Care**
   This theme includes research into parenting for lifelong health and interventions aimed at transforming the life-chances of young parents and their children across low and middle-income countries. Research focuses on gender inequalities, parenting policies and practices.

3. **Social Policy & COVID-19**
   Our research is focused on increasing understanding of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes its effect on national service provision and also in terms of providing resources aimed at supporting parenting internationally, including in low and middle-income countries.

4. **Violence Prevention**
   We work with a range of international organisations and police, health and social welfare agencies, seeking to identify innovative interventions and policies for reducing antisocial behaviour, violent injury, reducing harsh parenting and violence against women and children.

5. **Child & Family Welfare**
   With family policies being drawn more to the centre of economic policies, we make a significant contribution to the development of a range of policies and practices aimed at promoting child and family well-being in both the Global North and South.

6. **Political Economy**
   Key areas of our research include the political economy of welfare state reform, in particular the role of party politics, organised interests and public opinion in relation to social policy reforms. Our expertise includes in-depth knowledge of British, European, and OECD countries.

7. **Health Inequalities & Social Policy**
   This theme is concerned with how policy decisions influence the health and well-being of populations. Our work covers a range of policy areas including welfare reform, political institutions, taxes and transfers, and trade deals.
New Grants Awards

We continue to be successful in attracting externally funded research grants. Among the projects started during 2021 - 22 are:

**Professor Jane Barlow**

Systematic Review of Domestic Abuse Interventions Delivered to Children about whom there are Child Protection Concerns funded by What Works for Children’s Social Care, led by DSPI.

Total £40,000. Start date 01/04/22 for 7 months

Evaluation of the Shared Outcomes Fund 2 - Family Hubs Transformation Fund funded by Department for Education, led by ECORYS.

Total £300,000. Start date 01/07/22 for 21 months

Addressing Adolescents’ Depression And their Parenting funded by The Prudence Trust, led by University of Oxford Department of Psychiatry.

Total £439,775. Start date 01/05/22 for 36 months

What health visiting models in England are most promising for mitigating the harms of Adverse Childhood Experiences? funded by NIHR Policy Health Research, led by University College London.

Total £647,809. Start date 01/02/22 for 48 months

**Professor Lucie Cluver**

PROTECT: Parenting Response with Offline Technology to End COVID-associated trauma funded by European Research Council, Horizon Europe, Proof of Concept.

Total £150,000 / £120,000. Start date 01/05/22 for 18 months

Care for COVID- orphaned children funded by the Tolkien Trust, led by DSPI.

Total £92,000. Start date 01/01/22 for 12 months


Total £2,500. Start date 01/01/22 for 12 months

Accelerator solutions for Africa’s adolescent girls funded by Wellspring, led by DSPI.

Total £600,000 / £400,000. Start date 01/11/21 for 24 months

Generating evidence and capacity building for scalable solutions to improve wellbeing of adolescents living with HIV and adolescent HIV-affected mothers in Eastern and Southern Africa funded by UNICEF ESARO.

$74,997 / £50,000 supplement and extension added to the original award. Start date 01/01/22 for 10 months

Accelerate Achievement for Africa’s Adolescents HUB funded by the UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund | ODA adjustment fund.

Total £16,765 and £524,915. Start date 31/03/22 for 4 months

**Professor Mary Daly**

Extending the Child-related Policy Database to all High-income Countries funded by UNICEF.

Total $43,883 / £29,333. Start date 01/12/21 for 10 months

rEUsilience: Risks, Resources and Inequalities – Increasing Resilience in European Families funded by European Commission Horizon Europe/UKRI.

Total £2,979,007 / £2,383,206. Start date 01/09/22 for 36 months
Professor Frances Gardner

Parenting for Lifelong Health in Latin America funded by Pan American Health Organisation.
Total £135,575.
Start date 01/04/22 for 12 months

“We raise these children with them”: Enhancing father engagement in a parenting program for street-connected families in Kenya funded by the John Fell Fund, led by DSPI.
Total £33,516.
Start date 01/05/22 for 12 months

Dr David Humphreys

Assessing the Impact, Equity, and Mechanisms of a Novel Policy Intervention to Reduce Tobacco Retailer Density in Communities funded by National Cancer Institute, USA.
Total $2,797,459 (DSPI $95,223 / £65,571).
Start date 01/09/2022 for 60 months

Dr Jamie Lachman

Global Parenting Initiative funded by LEGO Foundation, led by DSPI.
Total $16,550,056 / £11,033,370.
Start date 01/04/22 for 60 months

Global Parenting Initiative funded by Oak Foundation, led by DSPI.
Total $4,999,996 / £3,749,998.
Start date 01/01/22 for 60 months

Parenting for Respectability Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial project 2021 – 2023 funded by Oak Foundation, led by DSPI.
Total £17,754 / £11,836.
Start date 01/07/21 for 22 months

Evidence-based parenting programmes funded by O2RB Excellence in Impact Award 2021, ESRC Impact Accelerator Award.
Total £2,000.
Start date 01/03/22 for 12 months

Dr Naomi Muggleton

Why does income inequality foster status anxiety? Identifying psychological mechanisms of status competition from mass-transactional data funded by the British Academy, Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
Total £302,103 transferred to start at the University of Warwick.

Dr Marii Paskov

Returning Carers’ Fund award funded by Social Sciences Division.
Total £1,047.
Start date 01/03/22 for 12 months

Dr Laura Sochas

Policing Reproduction via Migration and Family Policies: Stress, Stigma & Health, Early Career Fellowship award funded by the Leverhulme Trust.
Total £193,525.
Start date 01/09/22 for 36 months.
Match-funding by the John Fell Fund £40,000 and Department of Social Policy & Intervention £33,640

Dr Katie Wright-Higgins

Transnational elite communities and the reproduction of inequalities, Research Grant funded by Economic and Social Research Council.
Total £255,511 (transfer-in to DSPI from Manchester University).
Start date 01/05/23 for 24 months

Dr Eve Worth

Podcasts project pilot for DSPI funded by Social Sciences Division.
Total £1,500.
Start date 16/05/22 for 2.5 months
**Featured Research Projects**

**Linking National and Regional Inequalities**

Dr Mark Fransham

This ESRC-funded study focuses on income inequality in towns and cities and how this has changed over time in five high-income countries. It is becoming increasingly clear that national income inequalities are driven in part by income inequalities within countries, with a divide between the ‘superstar’ global cities and ‘left behind’ ex-industrial towns. To help governments find ways to spread prosperity more evenly across their towns, cities and regions, there is a need for internationally comparable evidence to show how different countries perform in terms of geographic inequalities.

Our project examines trends in geographic income inequality across five high-income countries - Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States - since the 1970s. We are developing a method for analysing geographic income inequality in a way that can be compared between countries, defining comparable geographic areas, having consistent measures of income and adjusting incomes for the varied local cost of living. Our second objective is to assess the importance of geographic inequalities in driving national income inequalities across our five study countries. Thirdly, we will analyse the common trends and differences between and within countries, and investigate the causes of these trends. Our final objective is to use this project as the foundation of a global database that provides information about inequalities between places. Our vision is that this will act as a point of information for researchers to study the causes of geographic income inequality, and for governments to understand how their country compares to others.

The UK team consists of Dr Mark Fransham at DSPI, Professor Neil Lee at the London School of Economics and Dr Pawel Bukowski at University College London. We are working with collaborators at McGill University, Montreal, University of Bonn and University of Evry, Paris.
This EU- and ESRC-funded project trains the spotlight on socio-economic and other risks facing families across European societies and the role of policy in protecting against such risks. Undertaking both EU-wide research as well as studies of particular countries (Belgium, Croatia, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the UK), the goal is to identify how families respond to risks and changes in their economic and care-related circumstances, especially in a context of fast-paced changes in labour markets and increasing income insecurity.

The project will answer two research questions: What challenges and difficulties are created or exacerbated for families by labour markets in the ‘new world of work’ and how do families try to overcome these while managing their care-related and other responsibilities? How do social policies contribute to familial resilience, especially in terms of the extent to which policies are inclusive, flexible and complementary? As well as undertaking new research, the project includes a policy lab which involves citizens and experts directly in policy review and problem solution and also uses simulations and other methods to road-test policy solutions.

Along with Mary Daly (who is co-lead) the other partners are: Rense Nieuwenhuis (Stockholm University, also co-lead), Wim Van Lancker (KU Leven), Marga León (University Autonomous Barcelona), Anna Matysiak (University of Warsaw), Ivana Dobrotić (University of Zagreb) and Elizabeth Gosme (COFACE Families Europe).
Our COVID-19 parenting resources – with Dr Jamie Lachman and Dr Isang Awah – reached 210 million people, and won an ESRC Impact Prize, Vice-Chancellor’s Innovation and Engagement Award and Oxford University Innovation award. However, in February 2022, we realised the need to provide evidence-based support for parents in the Ukraine war, and were able to bring together UN agencies to reach 11.6 million families in the first weeks of the invasion. We are now working to support those affected by the Pakistan floods, with volunteer support from students. As the lines between research and implementation increasingly cross, we realise the urgent need for a humanitarian response team. In October this year, we brought four UN agencies to Oxford to work on a policy-academic vision to bring evidence-based parenting programmes to every family.

Our work on modelling COVID-associated orphanhood – with Dr Seth Flaxman in Computer Sciences and Dr Susan Hills in DSPI – has expanded, with papers in the Lancet, Lancet Child and Adolescent Health and Pediatrics. These have led to increasing policy attention: a White House memorandum, a Vatican decree to support orphaned children, and a World Bank Rapid Response fund. This now comes alongside our existing studies: of adolescents living with HIV and adolescent mothers in South Africa with Dr Elona Toska at University of Cape Town: now working with the South African government Department of Basic Education to design their Learner Pregnancy policy. We are also looking to the future – one in which we may need to identify effective services for children and youth in the context of not only pandemics, but also conflict and climate crises.

Violence against children is a prevalent public health issue with serious short- and long-term consequences. Over 72% of children in Tanzania report experiencing physical violence by age 18. Caregivers, relatives, and teachers are the most common perpetrators, and corporal punishment is considered normative. Substantial evidence shows that parenting programmes are successful in reducing violence against children and that they have the potential to do so at scale.

Parenting for Lifelong Health for Teens (PLH-Teens), which is among few evidence-based and low-cost parenting programmes in low- and middle-income settings, found to improve positive parenting and reduce violence against children. In 2020–2021, Pact Tanzania scaled up an HIV-enhanced version of PLH-Teens (locally known as Furaha Teens) to 75,061 teen girls and caregivers across Tanzania. The Furaha Adolescent Implementation Research (FAIR) Study examined the impact of PLH-Teens on preventing and reducing violence against children at scale in Tanzania, as well as assessed the quality, acceptability, appropriateness, feasibility, benefits, and challenges of programme delivery.

Evaluation research has shown that PLH-Teens reduced child maltreatment, intimate partner violence perpetration and victimisation, school violence, and improved sexual health communication. Caregivers also noticed improvements in communication with their children, conflict resolution, connectedness, anger management, and planning for family economic resources. Caregivers and teens also reported improvements in child behaviour, such as children showing higher levels of respect, greater contribution to family decision-making, and more frequently confiding in and seeking advice from their caregivers. The results suggested that Furaha Teens had a positive impact on teens and their caregivers, and that more resources can be dedicated to the delivery and evaluation of parenting programmes to reduce violence against children at scale in Tanzania.

Evidence to Protect Children and Adolescents in Crisis: COVID-19 Parenting

Professor Lucie Cluver

Our COVID-19 parenting resources – with Dr Jamie Lachman and Dr Isang Awah - reached 210 million people, and won an ESRC Impact Prize, Vice-Chancellor’s Innovation and Engagement Award and Oxford University Innovation award. However, in February 2022, we realised the need to provide evidence-based support for parents in the Ukraine war, and were able to bring together UN agencies to reach 11.6 million families in the first weeks of the invasion. We are now working to support those affected by the Pakistan floods, with volunteer support from students. As the lines between research and implementation increasingly cross, we realise the urgent need for a humanitarian response team. In October this year, we brought four UN agencies to Oxford to work on a policy-academic vision to bring evidence-based parenting programmes to every family.

Our work on modelling COVID-associated orphanhood – with Dr Seth Flaxman in Computer Sciences and Dr Susan Hills in DSPI – has expanded, with papers in the Lancet, Lancet Child and Adolescent Health and Pediatrics. These have led to increasing policy attention: a White House memorandum, mention in Biden’s speech at the Presidential COVID summit, a Vatican decree to support orphaned children, and a World Bank Rapid Response fund. This now comes alongside our existing studies: of adolescents living with HIV and adolescent mothers in South Africa with Dr Elona Toska at University of Cape Town: now working with the South African government Department of Basic Education to design their Learner Pregnancy policy. We are also looking to the future – one in which we may need to identify effective services for children and youth in the context of not only pandemics, but also conflict and climate crises.
Millions of adolescents in Ethiopia face disadvantage in multiple areas of their lives. To accelerate adolescent achievement, policies that address multiple challenges simultaneously should be prioritised. As part of the Accelerating Achievement for Africa’s Adolescents project, we evaluate the effects of the Ethiopian Government’s Health Extension Programme (HEP) on multiple indicators of adolescent health and well-being spread across health, gender based-violence, education and employment.

Rolled out in 2003, HEP aims to improve access to essential promotive, preventive, and curative health care across family health, disease prevention and control, and hygiene and environmental sanitation. Community health promotion is a strong focus of the programme, and health workers spend most of their time in the community educating families about immunisation, family planning, malaria, HIV and TB prevention, preparation of nutritional foods, youth reproductive health and premarital HIV testing, female genital mutilation/cutting, and child marriage.

Preliminary findings indicate that support from HEP is associated with better educational outcomes for boys and girls, and additionally in girls, lower risk of early marriage and adolescent pregnancy. These findings fit with key informant interviews with health workers, which highlight their focus on helping parents to understand the health risks of child marriage and the benefits of girls’ education.

The work has been shared with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, UNICEF Ethiopia, and other international organisations. The next steps will be to unpack the mechanisms underlying the observed impacts of HEP, and evaluate possible interactions between HEP and other social programmes rolled out by the Ethiopian government over the same period.
Escalating conflicts and adverse climate events are bottlenecks to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Children and adolescents bear the brunt of this adversity in low- and middle-income counties. In Sudan, for example, unstable electricity due to ageing and inefficient energy generation has significantly disrupted public systems like schools, community centres and hospitals - fragmenting support systems for the Sudanese children and youth.

Further, the carbon-based fossil fuel dependency has taken a toll on both population health and the Sudanese national economy, reinforcing economic poverty traps across the country. This project also looks at the broader impacts of conflict on health and healthcare, with recent findings indicating that ministries of health struggle to maintain their supply chains, programmes, and resources in fragile and conflict-affected settings leading to heightened health risks. It is important to build an evidence base that supports shock-responsive public health systems that can remain intact through humanitarian emergencies and protect the most vulnerable populations.

It is important to build an evidence base that supports shock-responsive public health systems that can remain intact through humanitarian emergencies and protect the most vulnerable populations.
In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, 62% of our overall research submissions were categorised as 4*, the highest score available, for research quality that is ‘world-leading in terms of originality, significance, and rigour’. The research assessed in the submission contributes to a diverse range of fields within social policy, including poverty and social inequality, child and family welfare, violence prevention, political economy and welfare states.

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021 we ranked second overall in Social Policy and Administration, and first in the UK.

We are immensely proud of the outstanding efforts of our staff, researchers and students, who all contribute to an environment where these levels of excellence can be achieved and maintained.
Over two million young people are better protected from risks of HIV and AIDS, after the University of Oxford combined ‘cash with care’ in poverty alleviation programmes - which was so impactful, it became a ‘templated’ approach for global and national policies. Social scientists saw risk behaviours fall by 50-70%, non-adherence to life saving drugs fell from 54-18%, and rates of unprotected sex fell from 49% to 3%. The results led to similar ‘cash and care’-led approaches being introduced within adolescent policy and service delivery by agencies across the world – including the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), UNICEF, UNAIDS and national governments including South Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, research was so impactful, it was deemed to support delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As a result, lead researcher Professor Lucie Cluver was invited to join the Advisory Board of the US government’s $1 billion flagship HIV-prevention programme – which saw new HIV diagnoses fall by 25-40% in the areas it was implemented. Her team were also invited to write the South African National Adolescent and Youth Health Policy 2017-2022.

It is of paramount importance to us that our research makes a tangible impact on the everyday lives of people around the globe. These case studies, prepared for the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, provide a glimpse of the work we undertake and the scale of its impact.

Cash Care: Transforming HIV outcomes for Adolescents in Africa through Social Protection

Social scientists saw risk behaviours fall by 50-70%
Preventing Child Abuse Globally through Research-driven Parenting Programmes

Researchers prevented 81,000 cases of severe child abuse after co-creating evidence-based parenting programmes which were so effective, content was replicated in 24 countries and 22 languages. Among the results was a 28% fall in abusive parenting of young children, and a 45% drop in physical and emotional abuse of teenagers. In response, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations (UN) included the programmes in their global policies and websites, and content was endorsed by UNICEF, USAID, CDC and Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

Teens and Screens – Shaping Policy and Public Debate

Social scientists helped to ‘bust a decades-long myth’ that ‘screen time’ is inherently damaging to children – with insights helping to shape the UK government’s Online Harms White Paper – the blueprint for online policy. Research was cited by three branches of government - The UK Chief Medical Officer (UKCMO), the Digital, Culture, Media and Sports Committee (DCMS), and the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee (HCSTSC) – which dubbed it ‘the best quality’ work available of its kind. Meanwhile, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) used Oxford’s research to inform its new guide to screen time, targeted at paediatricians and parents.
Celebrating the impact of our staff

Staff Honours and Awards

Professor Lucie Cluver
Professor Lucie Cluver was invited onto the Advisory Board of the US government’s flagship HIV-prevention programme, DREAMS, as a result of her landmark research Cash Care: Transforming HIV outcomes for adolescents in Africa through social protection, which assessed how government support programmes improved social and health outcomes for young people affected by HIV and AIDS. Professor Lucie Cluver was also awarded the Prize for Excellence in Research Related to the Needs of Children and Adolescents at the 2022 International AIDS Conference for her work with the UKRI GCRF Accelerate Hub.

Dr Mark Fransham
Dr Mark Fransham received the 2022 SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence for his paper Social Polarisation at the Local Level: A Four-Town Comparative Study on the Challenges of Politicising Inequality in Britain. He served as co-author along with Insa Koch, Sarah Cant, Jill Ebrey, Luna Glucksberg and Mike Savage.

Dr Ben Chrisinger
Dr Ben Chrisinger was named as an Associate Editor with peer-reviewed journal Preventing Chronic Disease, produced by the US-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr Chrisinger was invited to be Associate Editor to produce articles and bring subject matter expertise to the Board.

Professor Brian Nolan and Dr Juan C. Palomino
Professor Brian Nolan and Dr Juan C. Palomino contributed to a special edition of the Journal of European Social Policy, entitled Social Policy and Wealth. This special edition was guest edited by Professor Nolan, who also co-wrote the introduction, How wealth matters for social policy.

Dr Jamie Lachman and Dr Lucie Cluver
Dr Jamie Lachman and Professor Lucie Cluver won awards for their Parenting for Lifelong Health suite of parenting programmes providing ‘playful parenting emergency resources’ during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting 197.8 million families globally and helping to reduce violence against children and improve child wellbeing. They received the Economic and Social Research Council Panel’s Choice award, given to researchers whose work has made an outstanding difference to society and the economy. They were among the recipients of the OVO Excellence in Impact Award, recognising social scientists whose research has achieved excellent economic and social impact. They also won the COVID-19 Response category in the Vice-Chancellor Innovation Awards 2022.

Dr Laura Sochas and Dr Naomi Muggleton
Dr Laura Sochas won a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship and Dr Naomi Muggleton secured a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Professor Frances Gardner
Professor Frances Gardner was awarded the prestigious Academy of Social Sciences Fellowship, which recognises excellence and impact in the social sciences. Professor Gardner’s research focuses on the development and testing of parenting interventions for reducing child behaviour problems and violence against children, with projects across the world. The Academy champions the vital role social sciences play in education, government and business, and Fellows are recognised for the excellence and impact of their work and their wider contributions to the social sciences.

Professor Brian Nolan and Dr Juan C. Palomino
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Dr Laura Sochas and Dr Naomi Muggleton
Dr Laura Sochas won a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship and Dr Naomi Muggleton secured a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
DSPI academics and students are frequently published in the media, as they provide research findings, comment and analysis on topical issues, drawing on their specialist knowledge to bring depth and objectivity to current debates. In this section, we provide a selection of the year’s output.

In the Media

Professor Jane Barlow offered her expert opinion to the New Scientist in an article examining how higher US welfare benefits seem to protect children’s brains. She said: ‘The research now clearly shows social adversity can become biologically embedded during the prenatal period and early years of a child’s life as a result of the way in which they impact the neurological development of the child.’

Fran Bennett joined the panel of Radio 4’s The Briefing Room to give her expert opinion on the theme of Universal Credit: The Challenge Ahead. Fran joined David Aaronovitch and his guests to evaluate how well Universal Credit has been helping those in and out of work and what the uplift had achieved for families and single person households.

‘What is the effect of pandemics on partisan perceptions of government competence?’ was the question posed by Dr Tim Vlandas in an article he co-authored for the Swiss Political Science Review. The report assessed how voters’ evaluations of the government’s handling of the economy and health were affected by four key events: the first UK COVID-19 death, the first national lockdown, Boris Johnson’s hospitalisation and the Dominic Cummings scandal.

Postdoctoral Researcher Dr Will Rudgard advocated continued government investment in female health visitors in Ethiopia to carry on ‘transforming the lives’ of young women in the country, as co-author of a Journal of Adolescent Health article exploring the impact of an important health extension programme in the east African country.

Work by Dr Jamie Lachman and his team on the Global Parenting Initiative received attention in the media, reporting the £11 million grant award by The Lego Foundation. Dr Lachman said: ‘We are delighted to be embarking on this playful learning journey with the LEGO Foundation and our partners. This ambitious research initiative aims to have a fundamental impact on child learning and violence prevention through the scale-up of evidence-based playful parenting programmes in the Global South.’

Dr David Humphreys and Dr Michelle Degli Esposti examining the impact of a series of controversial changes to self-defence laws in the US, made headline news in The Washington Post. The article explored how ‘stand your ground’ laws may have led to hundreds of additional homicides every year in the US, based on the findings of the study carried out by Dr Humphreys and Dr Degli Esposti. Dr Humphreys said: ‘Justifications for ‘stand your ground’ often centre around these laws having some protective effect on public safety and deterring violence. There doesn’t seem to be any evidence to show that, and we only seem to see the opposite effect.’

Research undertaken by Dr Ben Chrisinger argued that public health could be improved if planners and health authorities worked closer together, in an article published in the Journal of the American Planning Association. Dr Chrisinger argued that ‘social, economic, and political choices make neighbourhoods, but are often missing from planning-health collaborations’, concluding that a planning and public health agenda in the UK targeting structural factors was desperately needed.
Events

The academic year saw a rich and varied schedule of events, reflecting our commitment to collaboration and engagement across academia and beyond.

Highlights of this year included a fascinating Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture given by Baroness Minouche Shafik, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, a hugely successful annual Symposium held at Nuffield College and a wide range of fascinating talks from high-profile academics and speakers from leading universities across the world.

2021
SIDNEY BALL MEMORIAL LECTURE

"What We Owe Each Other: A New Social Contract"
Baroness Minouche Shafik DBE

Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, Author of ‘What We Owe Each Other: A New Social Contract’

Our Events Series

Our busy calendar of talks is centred around our three key events series:

Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture
Barnett House instituted a special annual lecture soon after it was founded in 1914, and from 1920 these were named after the first chairman of the Barnett House Committee, Sidney Ball. The event continues to be a highlight of the DSPI calendar, bringing a distinguished speaker to Oxford every autumn to discuss key themes in social policy and intervention.

Seminar Series
Our seminars bring top researchers from around the University and the world to talk about their work. The seminars run in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms.

Departmental Colloquia
Our Departmental Colloquium is an opportunity to hear about a specific area of DSPI research, and to discuss it with colleagues from across the department. The Colloquia run fortnightly in term time and are primarily for our own students and staff.
Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture
The Sidney Ball Memorial lecture is a highlight of the DSPI calendar and this year we were honoured to welcome Baroness Shafik, a leading economist, whose career has straddled public policy and academia. She was appointed Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science in September 2017. The Baroness talked about her new book, *What We Owe Each Other: A New Social Contract*, in which she drew on evidence from across the globe to identify key principles for a social contract for every society. The social contract governs all aspects of society, from politics and law to our families and communities. She argued that accelerating changes in technology, demography, climate and global health, would reshape our world in ways we have yet to fully grasp. The fascinating lecture is available on our YouTube channel.
Appendix

Our Staff

Academic and Research-Related Staff

Dr Isang Awah
Senior Advocacy Officer, Global Parenting Initiative

Leo Azzollini
Postdoctoral Research Officer

Professor Jane Barlow
Head of Department & Director of Research
Chair in Evidence-Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation

Selçuk Bedük
Departmental Lecturer in Comparative Social Policy

Professor Erzsébet Bukodi
Deputy Head of Department
Professor of Sociology and Social Policy

Francisco Calderon
Data Manager

Rafael Carranza
Postdoctoral Research Officer

Jenny Chen-Charles
Research Coordinator

Dr Benjamin Chrisinger
Associate Professor of Evidence-Based Policy Evaluation
EBSIPE Admissions Tutor

Dr Rossella Ciccia
Associate Professor of Social Policy

Professor Lucie Cluver
Professor of Child and Family Social Work

Professor Mary Daly
Course Director - Comparative Social Policy
Professor of Sociology and Social Policy

Stephanie Eagling-Peché
Research Manager

Dr Mark Fransham
Senior Departmental Research Lecturer in Quantitative Methods

Professor Frances Gardiner
Professor of Child and Family Psychology

Louise Gordon
Project Manager - Written Materials Specialist

Dr Ohad Green
Postdoctoral Research Officer

Dr Qing Han
Postdoctoral Research Officer

Dr David Humphreys
Director of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor of Evidence-Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation

Mona Ibrahim
Research Officer

Alex Jenkins
Research Facilitator

Jonathan Klapwijk
Research Assistant

Dr Jamie M. Lachman
Senior Research and Teaching Fellow, Wolfson College

Dr Marek Naczky
Director of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor in Comparative Social Policy

Professor Brian Nolan
Director of Employment, Equity and Growth Programme
Professor of Social Policy
Senior Research Fellow, Nuffield College

Dr MaryJane Nweje
Policy Engagement Officer

Dr Juan C. Palomino
Postdoctoral Research Officer

Professor Aaron Reeves
Course Director - Evidence-Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation
Professor of Sociology and Social Policy

Dr William Rudgard
Postdoctoral Researcher

Dr Laura Sochas
Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

Dr Rebecca Surender
Senior Research Fellow

Dr Inge Vallance
Senior Research Project Manager

Dr Ben Verboom
Departmental Lecturer

Dr Tim Vlandas
Course Director for Comparative Social Policy
Associate Professor of Comparative Social Policy

Camille Wittesaale
Project Manager

Dr Eve Worth
Postdoctoral Research Officer

Paula Zinser
Research Assistant
**Professional Services Staff**

**Laura Ainsworth**  
Human Resources Officer

**Sherif Akil**  
IT Service Desk Analyst

**Simon Aylott**  
Acting Buildings, Facilities and Events Manager

**Sophie Gibbons**  
Head of Administration and Finance

**Rukshana Hussain**  
Human Resources Assistant

**Mili Kalia**  
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Officer

**Amanda Maffett**  
PA to Head of Department & Head of Administration/Finance

**Robin McGahey**  
Academic Administrator

**Andrew Orchard**  
IT Systems Officer

**Bernadette Parsons**  
Projects and Finance Assistant

**Susan Sentance**  
Finance Manager

**Teena Stabler**  
Academic Admissions Officer

**Olivia Thornton**  
Research and Finance Officer

**Kathy Walker**  
Departmental Finance Officer

**Adrian Wilson**  
Academic Administrator

**Associate Fellows & Members**

**Paul Anand**  
Associate Member

**Anders Bach-Mortensen**  
Carlsberg Foundation Visiting Fellow

**Fran Bennett**  
Associate Fellow

**Dr Bastian Betthäuser**  
Associate Member

**Rachel Bray**  
Associate Member

**Dr Tania Burchardt**  
Associate Member, London School of Economics

**Marisa Casale**  
Associate Member

**Elaine Chase**  
Associate Member

**David Coleman**  
Associate Fellow

**Dr Philip Davies**  
Associate Fellow

**Sharon Dawe**  
Associate Member

**Michelle Degli Esposti**  
Associate Member

**Dr Ivana Dobrotić**  
Associate Member

**Dr Sylvie Dubuc**  
Associate Member, University of Reading

**Professor Bernhard Ebbinghaus**  
Associate Fellow

**Joe Feyertag**  
Associate Member

**Sean Grant**  
Associate Member

**Dr Yulia Shenderovich**  
Associate Fellow

**George Smith**  
Associate Fellow

**Teresa Smith**  
Associate Fellow

**Janina Steinert**  
Associate Member

**Claudia Stoicescu**  
Associate Member

**Dr Elona Toska**  
Associate Member & Professor Emeritus

**Erdem Yoruk**  
Associate Member

**Dr Antonina Santalova**  
Associate Member

**Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser**  
Associate Fellow

**Dr Robert Walker**  
Professor & Professor Emeritus

**Mavis Maclean**  
Research Associate

**Professor Paul Montgomery**  
Associate Member

**Dr Matthew Morton**  
Associate Member

**Dr Aoife O’Higgins**  
Associate Member

**Marija Pantelic**  
Associate Member

**Dr Elizabeth Peretz**  
Associate Fellow

**Ceridwen Roberts**  
Research Associate
**Our Graduates**

### Doctoral

- **Camila Mella San Martin**
  - **College**: St Catherine’s
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Policy
  - **Thesis Title**: De facto Dignity: Perceptions and Experiences of People in Poverty in Punjab, India

- **Mengyao Lu**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation
  - **Thesis Title**: Building the evidence base for school-based child sexual abuse prevention programs in China: Findings from a mixed-methods study

- **Sunwoo Ryu**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation
  - **Thesis Title**: Childcare policy reform in 21st century South Korea

- **Priyanka Bawa**
  - **College**: St Catherine’s
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Policy
  - **Thesis Title**: Between persistence and change in Latin America: Did the recent expansion of higher education reduce educational inequality by social origins?

- **Matthias Haslberger**
  - **College**: Nuffield
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Policy
  - **Thesis Title**: Technological Change and Labour Market Institutions and Their Effect on Employment, Wages, and Inequality

- **Zuyi Fang**
  - **College**: St Antony’s
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation
  - **Thesis Title**: Patterns and Drivers of Over-time Transmission of Inequality in Germany and the UK

- **Nhat an Trinh**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Policy
  - **Thesis Title**: Parenting for Lifelong Health for Young Children in Latin America: a preliminary cultural adaptation

- **Vittoria Bagliieri**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation
  - **Thesis Title**: Should rent allowances and income transfer programs go together? Comparing the effectiveness of two rental subsidy schemes for low-income tenants in Italy

- **Yanelle Cruz Bonilla**
  - **College**: Lincoln
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Comparative Social Policy
  - **Thesis Title**: Latínx Immigrants and the Social Safety Net: Understanding barriers to social aid access before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Jiayun Wang**
  - **College**: Green Templeton
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Comparative Social Policy
  - **Thesis Title**: Policy Entrepreneurship in Subnational Policy Innovation in China: A Comparative Study of Two Cities’ Long-term Care Insurance Policy

- **Sarah Ang**
  - **College**: Linacre
  - **Award Programme Title**: MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: Health, precarious work, and labour market dualization: the relationship between precarious employment and health in 20 countries

- **Inés Sanguino Martínez**
  - **College**: St Hilda’s
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: A Systematic Review of the Effectiveness of School-Based Interventions for Increasing School Completion and an Exploration of the “Culture of Grade Repetition” in Spain

- **Katharina Merkel**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: Evaluation of Conflict and Stabilisation Interventions: A Meta-Evaluation of Interventions to Reduce Conflict and Violence in Fragile and Conflict-affected States

- **Mengyao Lu**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation
  - **Thesis Title**: Evaluation of Conflict and Stabilisation Interventions: A Meta-Evaluation of Interventions to Reduce Conflict and Violence in Fragile and Conflict-affected States

- **Enoch Ampomah**
  - **College**: Trinity
  - **Award Programme Title**: MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: Risk and Protective Factors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa

- **Mark McKibbin**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: The Effectiveness of Anti-stigma Interventions for People with Mental Illness in China: A Systematic Review and A Meta-Analysis

- **Yuwei Wang**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: The Effectiveness of Anti-stigma Interventions for People with Mental Illness in China: A Systematic Review and A Meta-Analysis

- **Enrico Benassi**
  - **College**: Reuben
  - **Award Programme Title**: MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: Employment Protection Legislation and Labour Market Inclusiveness: A Quantitative Analysis

### Master’s

- **Maira Alvarez Loyo Barcenas**
  - **College**: St Hilda’s
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: Parenting for Lifelong Health for Young Children in Latin America: a preliminary cultural adaptation

- **Katharina Merkel**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: Evaluation of Conflict and Stabilisation Interventions: A Meta-Evaluation of Interventions to Reduce Conflict and Violence in Fragile and Conflict-affected States

- **Megan Whitaker**
  - **College**: St Hilda’s
  - **Award Programme Title**: MPhil Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
  - **Thesis Title**: Revisiting the ‘Peerage Paradox’: The Persistence of Health Inequalities between the British Peerage and the General Population from 1550-1899

- **Sunwoo Ryu**
  - **College**: Wolfson
  - **Award Programme Title**: DPhil Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation
  - **Thesis Title**: Childcare policy reform in 21st century South Korea
Aya Fujita  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
Effectiveness of School-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Interventions for Refugee and Internally Displaced Children in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Manzer Imam  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
A Qualitative Systematic review exploring the Barriers and Facilitators to participation in Participatory Development Projects in low- and middle-income countries

Aditi Mehta  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
The effects of a UK welfare reform, Universal Credit, on smoking behaviour: a longitudinal controlled study

Miranda Scarlata  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
The impact of drug possession decriminalization in the state of Oregon on property crime arrests

Yuwen Yan  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Comparative Social Policy  
**THESIS TITLE**  
Job Insecurity in the European Union: The Impact of Company Closures and Labour Market Policies

Theresa Burget  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Comparative Social Policy  
**THESIS TITLE**  
Labour Market Policies.

Bridget Geyer  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
The Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Child Health Outcomes

Eva Klotz  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
Effectiveness of approaches to increase shared treatment decision-making with persons with psychosis - A systematic review

Sara Merner  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
Effectiveness of bundled economic-plus interventions versus economic interventions on women’s agency outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

Ishaan Sethi  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva  
**THESIS TITLE**  
How do cognitively divergent adults experience and perceive their usage of assistive technologies to manage their symptoms? A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

Eden Amare Yitbarek  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
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Lisa Mail  
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Associations between partner leave-taking behaviour and primary parent mental health and wellbeing outcomes – a scoping review

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Job Insecurity in the European Union: The Impact of Company Closures and Labour Market Policies

Liam Doherty  
**AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE**  
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**THESIS TITLE**  
The structural and institutional determinants of British and Irish disability benefit reform, a congruence analysis
Master’s (continued)

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COLLEGE: Linacre
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Divergent Approaches to Regulating Platform-Mediated Short-Term Rentals in London and New York

Eugenia Leproni
COLLEGE: Green Templeton
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Understanding the Matthew Effect in childcare policy in France and in Germany

Tommaso Sacconi
COLLEGE: St Antony’s
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Age, class and institutions in shaping welfare attitudes: an exploratory analysis in 22 countries

Xavier Haendler
COLLEGE: Green Templeton
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Mental Healthcare in OECD States: A Typology based on Societal Recognition, Public Provision and Nature of Treatment

Lauren Howarth
COLLEGE: Linacre
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Restricting Rights?: the role of political competition and economic growth in shaping British and Irish welfare policies for immigrants

Trevor O’Connor
COLLEGE: St Cross
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Schools, Salaries, and Segregation: A Comparative Analysis of the Unequal Distribution of Teacher Experience in the US

Priscilla Samey
COLLEGE: St Cross
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: A Refuge for Refugees? A Cluster Analysis of United States’ Refugee Resettlement Policy

Adriana Oseguera Gamba
COLLEGE: Lincoln
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THESIS TITLE: The Developmental Effects of Earmarked Intergovernmental Transfers in Mexico

Divya Vatsa
COLLEGE: Wolfson
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: How Non-Traditional Non-State Actors Impact the Framing and Politics of the Immigration-Welfare Nexus: A Look at the Role of Professional Football Clubs during the 2015 European Refugee Crisis

Aliki Karnavas
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AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Regional unemployment, regional inequity, and support for universal basic income: A multilevel logistic regression analysis

Brian Reyes
COLLEGE: Green Templeton
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Place Matters: Examining Working Poverty Risk across US States and Labor Markets

Milda Vencute
COLLEGE: Linacre
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Convergence of disability policy: Influence of international organisations in Sweden and the UK

Sophie Weeden
COLLEGE: St Catherine’s
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Class, Continuity and Change: The distinctive social policy discourse of British and Scottish Labour parties

Erin Williams
COLLEGE: St Catherine’s
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Does Promoting Fathers to Carers Promote Women to Managers? Assessing the Impact of Paternity Leave Generosity on Share of Female Managers across Europe

Kai Xing Yap
COLLEGE: Linacre
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Comparative Social Policy
THESIS TITLE: Long-term care regimes, household type, and happiness amongst the elderly: A Quantitative analysis of 23 countries over 5 time points

Rai Sengupta
COLLEGE: Trinity
AWARD PROGRAMME TITLE: MSc Evidence-Based Soc Int and Pol Eva
THESIS TITLE: Investigating the pathways through which cash transfers influence Intimate Partner Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs): A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis