

# Barnett House News

MICHAELMAS 2016

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY AND INTERVENTION



Looking at shame: why poverty and social exclusion remain key research themes at the Department





# Message from the Head of Department

It has been another busy year for the Department, and as ever it is difficult to choose what to highlight from the many different activities that have taken place.

We were delighted to see some of our alumni (and others from across the University) at the Meeting Minds weekend last September. This is the first time the department has invited alumni back to Barnett House as part of the Meeting Minds series. This year we are participating again: Fran Bennett (who was honoured with an OBE for services to social sciences in the New Year's Honours List) will be speaking on *Inside the 'black box' of the family*. While this event will have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter, we hope to have seen a few of you back at Barnett House. We also hope to see you at the annual Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture at 5pm on 3 November 2016, to be delivered by Professor Colin Crouch, entitled *Britain, Europe and Social Policy*.

Following our success in REF 2014 described in last year's *Barnett House News*, we have been undertaking various activities to develop the Department, and have made two excellent new appointments to statutory chairs: Professor Jane Barlow and Professor Bernhard Ebbinghaus are both joining the department (see page 4). We are also delighted to welcome Dr Marek Naczyk to an Associate Professorship in Comparative Social Policy. Social policy in Oxford continues to receive recognition; in March 2016 the QS World Ranking by subject were released, and for the first time included social policy. Oxford was ranked third (after Harvard and LSE), which is a wonderful achievement for the Department.

As ever, colleagues across the Department are undertaking exciting research. I only have space here to highlight a few notable successes in grant funding. We were delighted

that Dr Franziska Meinck, who received her doctorate from Barnett House and has since been working with Professor Lucie Cluver, was awarded an ESRC Future Research Leaders Early Career Fellowship (£170k), to develop her work on global child abuse prevention efforts. Professor Lucie Cluver and team continue to develop their work on two major randomised controlled trials and two longitudinal studies in South Africa, supported by a number of funders including the ERC, the Nuffield Foundation, UNICEF and DFID. This team has undertaken significant knowledge exchange activity, supported by ESRC Impact Accelerator Awards, and has been awarded £100k in ERC Proof of Concept Funding to implement their parenting programme across 16 interested lower and middle income countries. Professor Paul Montgomery was awarded £407k by the ESRC for the *Grade Extension for Complex Social Interventions*, to develop his work on improving the reporting of complex interventions (see page 16). Professor Brian Nolan, as part of the Oxford Martin School partnership with Citi, has been awarded £1.4m for a five-year *Programme on Inequality and Prosperity*, to focus and respond to different drivers of economic inequality and the impact on growth and prosperity.

Finally we are bidding farewell to Robert Walker, Chris Wilson and Katherine Gardiner. Robert will retire from his statutory chair, but continues his research. Chris retires from a joint Associate Professorship with the School of Anthropology. Katherine, our Head of Administration and Finance, is moving to a new post with the University's Finance Division. I would like to thank them all for their work and contribution to the Department and to wish them well for the future!

**Rebecca Surender**

## Photo competition winners

**Yulia Shenderovich** (MPhil Evidence-Based Intervention, 2013) was the winner of last year's DSPI Photography Competition.



She says: "This picture was taken near King William's Town in rural Eastern Cape, South Africa. The photo shows some of the team and car 'fleet' of Youth Pulse and Sinovuyo Teen, two of the studies on youth well-being managed by Professor Lucie Cluver and involving a number of current graduate students and alumni researchers from Barnett House as well as many other institutions around the world."

Sinovuyo Teen is a study to develop and evaluate an evidence-based parenting programme for families with 10-17 year-olds. The programme aims to reduce violence inside and outside the home in rural and peri-urban areas of South Africa. Youth Pulse is a longitudinal, mixed-method, community study with a cohort of 850+ HIV-positive adolescents.

You can learn more about the projects at <http://www.youngcarers.org.za>.

DPhil candidate in Social Policy Selcuk Beduk's photo was awarded the second prize. He says: "The infographic is simultaneously drawn by Chris Shipton while listening to a talk on the conceptualization of poverty at the 7th Human Welfare Conference 2014 at GTC".



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# Staff News

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## New appointments



**Professor Jane Barlow** will be the first holder of the statutory Chair in Evidence-Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation. She joins the Department in October 2016 from the University of Warwick, where she was appointed Reader in Public Health in 2005 and Professor in 2008. However, Professor Barlow has a history with Oxford and Barnett House, having taken an MSc in Sociology and completing her DPhil at Oxford. Following this, she was awarded an MRC NHS training Fellowship followed by a Primary Care Career Scientist Award, both of which she held at the University of Oxford.

Professor Barlow's main research interest is in the role of early parenting in the aetiology of mental health problems and in particular the evaluation of early interventions aimed at improving parenting practices of both mothers and fathers and reducing the risk of child maltreatment, particularly during pregnancy and the postnatal period. She has also undertaken extensive research on the effectiveness of interventions in the field of child protection and her research has contributed to global policies on parenting and early interventions. She is currently leading the national evaluation of *A Better Start*, and holds a number of appointments, including Deputy Chair for NICE GDG for Children's Attachment; member of the WHO Guideline Development Group for the health sector response to child maltreatment; Chair of the Child Protection Group for the Pan-Canadian Public Health Guidance on Family Violence; and Chair of the Scientific Committee for BASPCAN Congress 2018; and Editor-in-Chief *Child and Adolescent Mental Health*.



**Professor Bernhard Ebbinghaus** has been appointed as Professor of Social Policy following the retirement of Professor Robert Walker. He takes up his post in January 2017, (although we are very grateful to Bernard for contributing to our courses from October) moving to Oxford from the University of Mannheim, Germany, where he holds the Chair of Macrosociology. He studied Sociology at the University of Mannheim, the New School for Social Research (New York), and the Graduate Institute of European Studies (Geneva). He completed his doctorate at the European University Institute in Florence (PhD 1993), and received his Habilitation at the University of Cologne (2004) while a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG).

In Mannheim, he was Director of the Mannheim Center for European Social Research (MZES); Head of the MZES Research Department A on "European Societies and their Integration"; and Founding Co-Director of the Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences (GESS). He has held guest fellowships and appointments at Harvard's Center for European Studies, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of Luxembourg, among others. His research interests span European labour relations and organized interests, European social policy, labour markets and welfare-state regimes as well as comparative and historical methods. Currently, he leads a comparative project on public attitudes, organised interests and welfare state reforms in Britain and Germany.



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**Dr Marek Naczyk** returned to the Department in August 2016 as Associate Professor in Comparative Social Policy. Marek studied at Sciences Po in Paris and at the Department of Politics at Oxford, before working at Barnett House, first as a researcher with Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, and then holding a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to develop his own research. He subsequently worked at the Centre d'études européennes, Sciences Po, and at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. Ever since he completed his doctoral thesis, his research agenda has focused on the connections between pension reform and the reform of financial systems. Due to this specific research interest, his work is at the crossroads of social policy, comparative political economy and international political economy. This academic year, he will not only contribute to teaching in the MSc in Comparative Social Policy, but is also honoured to replace Dr Stuart Basten as the Convenor of Graduate Research Students. While trying to complete several paper projects, Marek will start writing a book on the role of financial industry lobbies in the diffusion of "defined-contribution" (often called "money-purchase") pension plans from the United States to different parts of Western Europe

**Methods Hub** – an exciting recent development has been the appointment of two Postdoctoral Research Fellows in Qualitative and Quantitative Methods respectively. This builds on a long-held aim to build and develop greater methods expertise within the Department. Charlotte Haberstroh and Thees Spreckelsen were appointed to the two posts, and over the last year have been developing the activities of the Hub. So far

these have included an inaugural series of seminars in Trinity Term, offering staff and students the opportunity to explore particular methods. For the next academic year, they are working on a programme for new DPhil students, to strengthen their background methods training, as well as continuing to offer a programme of seminars, providing methodological support to researchers, and contributing to the department's research methods training. Charlotte has particular interest in comparative political economy of education, while Thees focuses on social research methods, especially quasi-experimental designs and EU migration.

Other staff changes: there have been a number of changes on the Admin Team this year. Bryony Groves, Gemma Roche and Gail Stevens have gone to pastures new, and we welcomed Robin McGahey, Elizabeth Iles and Vinayak Kozhikotte to replace them respectively. Dom Juiwong also joined the team in November 2015. Three Departmental Lecturers also joined the Department in October 2015: Daniel Michelson (who has now gone to a new job in Goa), Elizabeth Nye and Kathryn Oliver.

**And finally...** congratulations to Sarah Hoeksma, Franziska Meinck and Thees Spreckelsen who completed the Invncbl Challenge at Margam Park in Port Talbot – a gruelling 10km obstacle course which requires climbing, crawling, swimming, running, carrying of logs, hanging off monkey bars, eating mud and enduring the perpetual cold and wet of the Welsh outdoors. They successfully completed the course, raising over £550 for Marie Curie UK, a charity providing care for the terminally ill.

# Student news

## Words from our scholarship recipients



### Barnett scholar

**Craig Carty** is a member of Green Templeton College writing a doctorate in Social Intervention under the supervision of Professor Lucie Cluver. His research interrogates the effectiveness of interactive, mobile technologies that monitor patient outcomes in low-resource settings. To examine the multiple elements of tech-centric implementation science, he is developing, testing and evaluating a “serious game” mobile application tailored for adolescents living with HIV. Beyond this, his research seeks to re-engineer health management to support enhanced patient tracking and introduce the concept of digital adherence. “The Barnett Scholarship has afforded me the opportunity to undertake targeted research on advanced mobile health interventions for adolescent HIV positive populations in Southern Africa. It’s a dream project for me, one that builds on the work done to strengthen digital health infrastructure across the region.” The tool will allow for clinical monitoring, social world creation, goal planning, peer chat and real-time health information feedback.

### Centenary scholar

**Amalee McCoy** is a recipient of the Centenary Scholarship and a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Intervention. In 2015, she completed the MSc course in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation in the Department, and holds MA degrees in Southeast Asian Studies from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and in Child and Adolescent Welfare from Charles Sturt University. Amalee previously worked in the fields of child welfare and protection for 15 years at the regional, national and local levels in Asia and the Pacific, including for UNICEF, the UN Economic and Social Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Plan International, and ECPAT International, where she has focused on policy advocacy, legal reform, research and programme management. Amalee’s doctoral thesis focuses on the conduct of a feasibility study of an evidence-based parenting intervention to prevent violence against children in Thailand, in partnership with Thai parenting experts and government policymakers.





“The Barnett Scholarship has afforded me the opportunity to undertake targeted research...” *Craig Carty*



## 2015–16 Prizes and awards

Supporting graduate students continues to be a priority for the department. For entry in 2016, the Centenary Scholarship has been awarded to Julius Wersig who will be studying a DPhil in Social Policy.

This year we are delighted to have entered a new partnership with Nuffield College, and established a co-funded scholarship: the Barnett House–Nuffield Joint Scholarship, which will enable a student to study at both institutions. The first holder of this new scholarship will be Caspar Kaiser, who has completed the MSc in Comparative Social Policy this year and starts a DPhil in Social Policy in October 2016.

We also have had the opportunity to work with an alumnus of Corpus Christi this year who has funded a scholarship for entry in 2016 in memory of his father. Alessio Cuzzo (MSc Comparative Social Policy) has been awarded the Oxford Renato Morelli Graduate Scholarship in Social Policy.

### The George and Teresa Smith Awards and the Barnett Prize

Each year the department awards three prizes to outstanding students.

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 at Oxford. In 2015, the George Smith Award was won by Minna Nurminen, and the Teresa Smith Award was won by Matthew Fowle.

The Barnett Prize recognises the best paper submitted by a graduate research student. In 2015–16 the prize was awarded to two students:

Julie Hennegan: *Measuring the prevalence and impact of poor menstrual hygiene management: a quantitative survey of schoolgirls in rural Uganda*

Elona Toska: *Is knowledge power? HIV-status disclosure and protective sexual practices among adolescent girls and boys in South Africa*



# Reports from our Postdoctoral Research Fellows

In recent years the Department has prioritised funding to set up Postdoctoral Research Fellowships, which provide the opportunity for Fellows to develop their research portfolios, while enjoying membership of the Department and academic life in Oxford. We are now bidding farewell to our 2015 Fellows, Patty Leijten and Stephanie Thomson, and will be welcoming Alexi Gugushvili and Franziska Meinck who take up Fellowships in October 2016.



Patty Leijten

## Patty Leijten

This Fellowship has given me the opportunity to develop my own distinctive line of research on how parents shape their children's behaviour. It has provided me with the academic environment, support, and mentors that early career researchers need to start their own future research group.

My research blends traditional intervention science and theoretical developmental science to improve the effectiveness of parenting interventions for reducing disruptive child behaviour. More specifically, my work aims to identify the specific parenting behaviours that shape (non-) disruptive child behaviour and improve the reach and effectiveness of parenting interventions for families from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The departmental Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention is one of the best centres in the world for building this research. It brings together a group of interdisciplinary researchers with a shared passion for improving our understanding and rigorous evaluation of interventions. I was lucky to share with several of them an enthusiasm for parenting research and child development. This unique

combination of researchers' different scientific and cultural backgrounds, but shared research interests, has taught me so much. Combined with a culture that is as friendly as it is ambitious, the Centre offers a great work community.

Some highlights of my time at Barnett house were working on projects that were exciting in terms of asking new research questions (e.g. which discrete parenting behaviours actually cause child compliance?), trying out new methods (e.g. individual participant-level meta-analysis), and bringing together researchers from across the globe (e.g. work on the transportability of parenting interventions across countries and cultures). In addition to my research, I had the opportunity to teach students about my core research interests, and to cultivate their enthusiasm for rigorous intervention science. I can only hope that these students, who will move on to be the new generation of academics and policy makers in this field, learned as much from me as I learned from them.

This Fellowship laid the foundation for many of my current research projects and international collaborations. I will soon move on to a position at the University of Amsterdam, but I will always be grateful for my time at Barnett House. I am thankful for the Fellowship, as it allowed me to pursue high-quality research as an early career academic. I'm also indebted to my colleagues, whose inspiring collaboration made my research better than I could have ever achieved alone, and whose mere presence made the experience so much more fun.

## Stephanie Thomson

This Fellowship has been an opportunity for me to pursue a new, small piece of independent research and contribute to the Comparative Social Policy course through teaching and supervision of students. The Department has been an intellectually stimulating place to work and I have benefitted greatly from my interactions with colleagues – in both formal settings (such as colloquia) and less formal





Stephanie Thomson

ones. During the Fellowship, I have also had the chance to consolidate my previous work and have published two co-authored book chapters, presented a paper at the ESRC Research Methods Festival and prepared two articles for submission to journals.

In my research, I am exploring whether secondary schools in England can be classified into meaningful types by considering similarities/differences in their intakes and some school-level factors such as those relating to staffing. The Department for Education groups secondary schools together (into evenly-sized groups) and designates them as 'similar' based only on the average Key Stage 2 scores of the students. I suggest that this classification ignores important contextual information about the children attending each school and levels of resource available within each school. As a result, when groups of 'similar' schools are compared again at the end of Key Stage 4, the variation in average attainment is typically very large. This is presented as a problem for the schools themselves to solve. I suggest, instead, that schools can be more usefully grouped together by studying the types of intakes they have and the wider area in which they work.

I aim, in my typology, to create unevenly-sized groups of schools they are similar in some meaningful way. I use data from the National Pupil Database and analyse this using both cluster analysis and fuzzy-set ideal type analysis (fs/ITA). The latter is part of a range of configurational comparative methods which use set theory and Boolean algebra to analyse complex relationships in datasets. I used these methods in my doctoral work and have contributed to the wider discussion about their applicability, strengths and limitations. I am also an experienced teacher of these methods and was able to integrate this into my Fellowship by teaching some introductory and practical sessions and offering guidance to students planning to use these methods in their theses.

# Recent Events

## The Annual Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture

was delivered by Professor Phyllis Solomon (University of Pennsylvania) on Monday 12 October 2015 in the Lecture Theatre at Rewley House. Phyllis spoke on *Anti-Deinstitutionalization and Anti-Institutionalization for Persons with Severe Mental Illnesses: Finding Common Ground*.

As she explained, in the US and the UK, there are currently two diametrically opposed policy positions being promoted for the care and treatment of persons with severe mental illness, anti-deinstitutionalisation and anti-institutionalisation. Both share the same goal of ensuring the best quality of life for those with severe psychiatric disorders, but the pathways to achieving this goal are very different and have resulted in much contention. Each espouses a different belief system regarding this population and their presumed capabilities, and varying emphasis on maximising protection of the community versus protection of individual rights, resulting in contrasting mental health policies and practice orientations.

Phyllis explained the history from which these positions evolved, consequent views, and policies and practices that emerged from the differing attitudes, culminating in a proposed practice approach that when supported by appropriate policy offers a more balanced approach to serving adults with mental illness – navigating risk management that preserves freedom and opportunities of risk while affording mutually satisfactory "risk control".



# Poverty and Social Exclusion

Poverty and social exclusion have been key areas of the Department's research and teaching for many years. Indeed, the history of Barnett House, published for its centenary year, confirms that poverty was one of the central concerns in terms of social enquiry and action from the beginning.

More recently, contributions to deepening and extending our knowledge of poverty and social exclusion have been made by many individuals and teams within the Department. Just to name a few, one team collaborated on a review of evidence about social exclusion amongst families and children for the UK government in the early 2000s; another group developed the Index of Multiple Deprivation for the UK government, and followed this up with similar indices for other administrations; and other colleagues applied the 'socially perceived necessities' method of analysing poverty to South Africa for the first time.

Some of these staff have now left to pursue these interests elsewhere, but research on poverty and social exclusion is still alive and well in the Department. Most importantly, perhaps, there is a continuous stream of DPhil students pouring their creative energies into searching out the



answers to relevant research puzzles. Currently several students are investigating the links between poverty and shame, whilst others are teasing out the complexities of multidimensional measurement of poverty, or exploring the relationship between the design of public spaces and social exclusion.

A number of staff conduct research into these areas. In addition to Professor Robert Walker, profiled below, Professor Mary Daly's recent research with others has ranged from theorising and empirically investigating the policies of the European Union to combat poverty and social exclusion to in depth qualitative interviews to inquire into the nature and experience of family life on a low income. Fran Bennett, a part-time Senior Teaching and Research Fellow (and independent consultant), has recently co-authored with Mary Daly an evidence and policy review of gender and poverty for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and is also, like her, a member of the European Social Policy Network which monitors social inclusion and social protection in European Union countries for the European Commission. We were delighted that Fran received an OBE for services to social science in the 2016 New Year Honours List.





# Professor Robert Walker and his work on poverty and shame

Professor Robert Walker retires in September 2016 after an illustrious career culminating with his statutory chair at Barnett House and Fellowship at Green Templeton College to which he was appointed in 2006. Prior to this, he was Professor of Social Policy at the University of Nottingham and before that Professor of Social Policy Research, Loughborough University where he was Director of the Centre for Research in Social Policy. He was a Member of the statutory UK Social Security Advisory Committee for 10 years until 2012 and chaired the Academic Advisory Committee during the design and launch of the ESRC UK Household Longitudinal Study. He is currently a member of the Expert Advisory Group for the evaluation of Universal Credit.

Robert has prioritised the use of high quality research to inform the political process and to improve policy with the goal of enhancing all our lives. He has had a longstanding interest in policy evaluation, pioneering the use of mixed methods as early as the 1970s and 1980s, but his main contributions have been in the areas of poverty and social exclusion. In particular, he led thinking on the consensual measurement of poverty, poverty dynamics and the conceptualisation and measurement of multidimensional poverty. During his time at Barnett House he has demonstrated, with Mark Tomlinson, how structural equation modelling can be used to capture changes in the multiple dimensions of poverty and, with Elaine Chase, productively interrogated the idea of Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen that people living in poverty inevitably experience shame.

Aided by a series of three ESRC awards, and with colleagues in China, India, Norway, Pakistan, South Korea, Uganda and the United Kingdom, he showed that the emotional experiences of poverty tend to be similar across cultural traditions, political landscapes and levels of material well-being. This experience of poverty-related shame can have negative consequences which go far beyond material and physical well-being and can lead to mental health difficulties and even to suicide.

Shame, it is suspected, reduces a person's agency and increases social exclusion, processes which, in turn, may contribute to the perpetuation of poverty and curtail economic development. Anti-poverty policies, therefore, may ease or exacerbate these processes depending on how they engage with poverty-related shame. Robert has argued that if shame in relation to poverty were indeed universal, this would enhance scope for reciprocal policy learning and possibly create a basis for building popular support to tackle global poverty through promoting human dignity. One tangible outcome is that the research led directly to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) including the principle that governments should have respect for the rights and dignity of people covered by social security and social assistance provisions in

Recommendation 202 on social protection, approved by 184 countries in June 2012.



CSP class with Robert

In an interview by David Farrow (UNC-Chapel Hill student), Robert said: *"I was born an optimist and an enthusiast; this makes me perhaps naïve, but certainly eternally hopeful. I see the goodness in the people that I meet and share in their humanity. I interpret the horrors that we inflict on others as aberrations. I know that change is possible. You do too. We have all seen it, positive and negative, some of which can readily be attributed to human action and even, sometimes, to human intent. My optimism leads me to think of governance as a good but to recognise that good governance is difficult. I see the 20th Century as the century of national governments and believe that only global governance can adequately address the issues that now confront us in the 21st Century. I would love one day for it to be said of me that I made a difference. I therefore have to keep on trying."*

Robert's efforts were recognised in the 2012 New Year Honours List in which he was awarded an MBE for services to social policy research.

Although Robert formally retires this September, he continues research on the multidimensionality of poverty working with Fran Bennett, Paul Dornan, Olya Homonchuk and ATD Fourth World to develop a participative method meaningfully to define and measure the United Nation's concept of 'poverty in all its forms'. With Elaine Chase and collaborators in Uganda, India and China he is also aiming to establish whether that by shame-proofing policies, that is by adopting designs that explicitly promote dignity, it is possible not only to enhance individual well-being but also to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programmes.

And not content with continuing his research, Robert is also embarking on a Masters course in popular cinema. We wish Robert the very best in his ongoing endeavours and, perhaps, his new career!



# Research Spotlight



## Mary Daly - Professor of Sociology and Social Policy

My work focuses on families and family policy. I am especially interested in family policy from a comparative perspective – this is one of the courses that I teach and I also have a number of current or recently completed research projects on family policy and how it varies across countries. One of the angles from which I have recently studied family policy is parenting support. This, a growth area in social policy, I have researched in both a European context in a four-country study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, and a global context (in work funded by UNICEF). I am also very interested in the relationship between families and poverty and especially in the way that family practices, relationships and responsibilities – as people understand them but also as state policies frame them – affect the risk and experience of low income and poverty. This is quite an under-researched area but one that can open up questions for new empirical research, for policy making and also for theorising.

One of the projects I am working on now – together with Mireia Borrell Porta – involves the construction of an indicator set and data base on family policy in England since the 1990s. The overall objective of the project, funded by the John Fell Fund, is to develop a conceptual framework for family policy and to assemble evidence on key family policy developments. This is being organised in a database which we plan to make available through the University's new web platform (Oxford Mosaic). The overall aim is to update thinking and practice on how to define, conceptualise and measure family policy and to put together, with England as a case study, an up-to-date set of indicators and evidence.

## John Haskey - Associate Member

John Haskey recently contributed a chapter entitled: Marriage rites: trends in marriages by manner of solemnisation and denomination in England and Wales 1841-2012 to a book entitled "*Marriage Rites and Rights*" (*Marriage Rites and Rights*, Joanna Miles, Perveez Mody, and Rebecca Probert, eds. Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2015).

In it, he has charted the history of marriage in England and Wales from the start of national registration and assembled a number of historical series of marriage statistics, estimating numbers where the data were missing (mainly during the two World Wars). As well as tracing the growth in civil marriages, which were first introduced in 1837 (apart from, briefly, during the Commonwealth period), he also analysed the patterns of religious marriages by denomination, seeking to identify the possible factors influencing the observed patterns and trends and discussing their possible impact. In most recent times, civil marriages in Approved Premises, which were made possible by the Marriage Act 1994, have grown to account for 85 per cent of all civil marriages. Also, civil marriages as a whole, that is, those in Approved Premises and Register Offices combined, currently form 70 per cent of all marriages, the largest proportion recorded since 1841.



In a paper, entitled: Civil partnerships and same-sex marriages in England and Wales: a social and demographic perspective, published in *Family Law* in January, John Haskey charted the development of civil partnerships since their introduction in December 2005, and the advent of same-sex marriage in March 2014. Civil partnerships could, for the first time, be converted to same-sex marriages later that same year, in December. Initially, when civil partnerships were introduced, there was a surge in numbers, but a corresponding surge was not observed with the advent of same-sex marriage. When the possibility of converting civil partnerships to same-sex marriages became available, though, there was

a considerable backlog effect, with many civil partners taking advantage of the new facility.

As well as presenting and interpreting the observed trends, the paper also relates them to the changing patterns of attitudes both to homosexuality and towards homosexuals being able to marry. Although greater choice has been made available for same-sex couples, that is both civil partnerships and same-sex marriage, opposite sex couples have only the option of traditional marriage, and it has been canvassed that civil partnerships should be available to them too. Same-sex marriages, and conversions of civil partnerships to same-sex marriages, have, however, yet to settle into regular (seasonal) patterns, and further changes may be considered when this happens.



**Brian Nolan - Professor of Social Policy and Director of the EEG Programme**

Income inequality has risen markedly in many rich countries in recent decades, with growth not feeding through to middle and lower-income households, so the need for more inclusive growth is coming centre-stage. This is the focus for the Employment, Equity and Growth research programme being carried out at DSPI and the Institute for New Economic Thinking by a research team led by Brian Nolan. It is investigating why inequality has been on such an upward curve, how it affects growth and opportunity, and what policy and institutional responses are required to produce a better, fairer growth model. Analysis of experiences across the OECD countries over the last 30 years shows that the USA is a clear outlier in terms of the extent of stagnation in middle incomes and increase in inequality; the UK also now has much higher

inequality than in the late 1970s, but saw substantial real income growth at and below the middle up to the mid-2000s.

There has been wide variation within the conventional groupings of countries in terms of “varieties of capitalism” or “welfare regimes” – no regime consistently performs best in generating real incomes gains for middle and below households. Importantly, higher levels of redistribution are not statistically associated with lower growth. In the UK polarisation of jobs among men has been particularly pronounced in the North of England, driven by the decline in industrial jobs, while the share of female employment in upper parts of the earnings distribution has risen markedly. The hypothesis that higher income inequality reduces social mobility across generations is also being studied across 30 European countries using consistent data from the European Social Survey (ESS).

*Additional funding has recently been secured for the associated Oxford Martin Programme on Inequality and Prosperity, described at <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/research/programmes/inequality-prosperity/about>.*

### **Elizabeth Nye - Departmental Lecturer in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation**

Supporting children’s positive development during the pre-school and primary school years is of crucial consequence for long-term social, academic, and professional outcomes. However, children identified with conduct, emotional, and hyperkinetic disorders present complex challenges for educators, including strategies for effective behaviour management. Elizabeth Nye’s research is centred on school-based interventions both to improve child mental health and support teacher professional development. She has applied mixed methods to combine evidence from effectiveness trials and on user experiences to build a more comprehensive understanding of how academic research can be meaningfully applied in



situations for educators working in schools day-to-day. Currently, Elizabeth is collaborating with colleagues at Exeter on how educators support children identified with special educational needs in mainstream classrooms and with colleagues at LSHTM and KCL on stigma related to targeted mental health interventions in schools.

### **Kathryn Oliver – Departmental Lecturer in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation**



Trying to understand how evidence may have influenced a policy decision is like trying to pick out the noise of a single instrument from a whole symphony orchestra – or maybe trying to understand how changing single notes here and there can affect the whole sound. This complex challenge is at the heart of Kathryn Oliver's research,

which focuses on understanding the relationships between evidence and policy. Her research has identified the main barriers and facilitators to the use of evidence in policymaking, and on understanding the role of individuals and networks in public policy making. A new study is exploring how policy makers and academics define and evaluate the unintended or adverse consequences of health policies, using this as a way of gathering perceptions about the mechanisms which underpin social policies and interventions. Finally, she is working with colleagues at Sheffield and Stirling on a series of projects looking at the role of experts in the Brexit debate, on science advice systems across the world, and on the credibility of expert knowledge in the policy world.

### **Rebecca Surender – Associate Professor of Social Policy, Head of Department, Advocate for Diversity**

High blood pressure (hbp) is a leading modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular diseases and is associated annually with more than nine million deaths worldwide, with 80 per cent of the global burden being in low and middle-income countries. Effective use of proven treatments for hbp, is challenging for many patients, particularly those living in poverty or stressful conditions. Missed appointments for collection of medicine and doctor visits and challenges with taking lifelong treatment lead to poor patient outcomes and additional costs on health services.

Mobile devices are a simple, cost effective and promising approach to delivering health interventions to patients with hbp and this research, led by Dr Rebecca Surender and Dr Andrew Framer (of the Department of Primary Health Care) was driven by a need to understand the process and wider impact of using this innovative technology. The study (funded by the Wellcome Trust and John Fell Fund) examined the extent to which prompts and interventions via phone messaging could improve clinic visits and treatment uptake, in one low-resource setting in South Africa. It took the opportunity offered by a clinical trial in a primary care clinic in Cape Town, to carry out a qualitative evaluation of the trial outcomes. It explored participants' experiences and responses to the messages, and identified barriers and facilitators to delivering the intervention, as well as provider perceptions.

Findings suggest that while complex interactions of psycho-social stressors and poor health service delivery remain significant challenges to treatment adherence behaviours, repeated messages delivered on patients' phones, were effective and helpful in improving their attitudes, motivation and adherence behaviours. Moreover, the findings begin to identify for whom and what core elements of the text message intervention appear to work best in a low-resource operational setting and identified potential causal pathways in which the intervention had its impact.

The project has led to a larger comparative study funded by the UK Medical Research Council to further develop, scale up and evaluate this intervention in South Africa and Malawi.





# Life after DSPI

George Smith  
reflects on  
his research



In the late 1990s the Social Disadvantage Research Centre (SDRC) in the department pioneered the use of administrative data in the UK (that is, data routinely collected for administrative rather than research purposes). In 2000 this formed the basis for the first Index of Deprivation for England which was adopted by central government as the official measure of local deprivation, as it covered all parts of the country at a very local level using identical data. Further indices quickly followed for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, using similar methodologies and, in a related development, deprivation indices were developed for South Africa and Namibia. Over time these indices have been improved and updated by SDRC in Oxford for England in 2004, 2007 and 2010. By the mid-2000s the English index was being used to distribute (differentially) around 1%+ (c £5b) of total government social expenditure.

In 2003 the first University 'spin-out' company from the University's Social Sciences Division was established to develop the use of administrative data. Since then OCSI ([www.ocsi.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ocsi.ox.ac.uk)), based in Brighton, has continued to work for local and national governments, health authorities, housing associations and voluntary organisations with tailored packages drawing on the vast range of geocoded administrative data now increasingly available in the UK and elsewhere.

In 2013 OCSI won the contract to update the English Index of Deprivation for central government. The team

included many who had worked on earlier versions with the SDRC in Oxford. The Indices of Deprivation 2015 are now formally identified as 'National Statistics' by the UK Statistics Authority, and highlighted as a case study of good practice in quality assuring administrative data. The methods used broadly follow the approach developed by SDRC at Oxford in 2000, though the data is now far better and more detailed.

National data on 37 different items are collected and allocated through geocodes to 32,844 local areas with populations of c1500 people. The data are grouped into seven domains (Income, Employment, Health, Education, Crime, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment). All the data are released at local level on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>; and local areas can be combined into virtually any geography required. In June 2016 the English Indices of Deprivation 2015 (<http://indicesofdeprivation.co.uk>) were runners up in the Royal Statistical Society Awards for Excellence in Official Statistics, surprisingly perhaps as the Welsh Index of Deprivation – a development by the Welsh Assembly of the SDRC version of the 2000s – had won the same RSS award the previous year.

The RSS judges' citation for 2016 reads 'the English Indices of Deprivation is always an impressive piece of work. The 2015 version featured exemplary user engagement, with strong quality assurance overcoming many challenges



# Methodological projects

Professor Paul Montgomery



There has long been a need to develop a new reporting guideline for randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of social and psychological interventions, in addition to a methodology for rating the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations for these interventions.

Two research projects tackling these issues have recently emerged from the Department, CONSORT-SPI: A CONSORT Extension for Social and Psychological Interventions, and a GRADE Extension for Complex Social Interventions. 'CONSORT-SPI' was a two year ESRC project, completed in February 2015, and the 'GRADE Extension' is a new project, funded by several collaborators including the ESRC, which will run until June 2018.

## 'CONSORT-SPI'

Principally investigated by Professor Paul Montgomery, with key research collaborators Sean Grant, Evan Mayo-Wilson, Geraldine Macdonald, Susan Michie and David Moher, 'CONSORT-SPI' (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials for Social and Psychological Interventions) was developed to challenge the assessment of interventions within the fields of Criminology, Education, Social Work, Psychology and Public Health. These interventions can have interacting components at several levels, with multiple and variable outcomes that require sophisticated assessments and analyses. Poor reporting hinders proper critical appraisal and subsequent synthesis of trials in systematic reviews, which impedes the effective transfer of research evidence to policy and practice decision-making.

RCTs are not, as the CONSORT-SPI development team acknowledge, the only valid method for evaluating preventive and other psychosocial interventions. But they

"Consort-SPI has been a great project to do, and will have a significant impact on a range of disciplines. To get high quality trial reporting will help not only researchers, but also policymakers in their decision making. It has been fun to work with so many brilliant people from across the world, and from a range of subject areas - and I hope that the new GRADE project will be equally good!"

*Prof Paul Montgomery*

## Designing new guidelines

The project researchers argued that the focus needed to be on issues concerned with “internal validity” – the extent to which results may be influenced by bias. Information about randomisation procedures is often lacking, and studies often fail to make clear whether those assessing outcomes were “blind” to whether data was gathered from intervention or control group participants. Information on the validity and

reliability of measures used to assess subjective outcomes, such as changes in behaviour, is also needed, especially if they are not already well known.

They also suggest that existing CONSORT guidelines do not pay enough attention to “external validity” the extent to which study results apply in other settings or populations. To be truly useful to policy makers and practitioners,

RCT reports should describe the key components of interventions, how they should be delivered, and a “theory of change” concerning their relationship to the outcomes being targeted.

It is also important that reports say how the planned interventions were actually implemented and received by participants – which may not always be as they were designed.



are one type of study that would benefit from better reporting. Success in developing new guidelines for trials will hold implications for the way that other research findings are reported as well.

The five-phase project culminated with simultaneous publication of the CONSORT-SPI guideline in many journals, guideline endorsement by journals and funding organisations, presentations at conferences and organisational meetings, and a dedicated website allowing feedback about the guideline.

### GRADE Extension for Complex Social Interventions

This international collaboration, once more principally investigated by Professor Paul Montgomery, with Research Officer Ani Movsisyan and a series of international co-investigators including Sean Grant, Eva Rehfuess, Eric von Elm, Susan Norris and Geraldine Macdonald, aims to develop a methodology for rating the quality of the body

of evidence for social interventions with the consideration of the complexities in the programmatic, implementation and contextual aspects of these interventions.

### Background

It is now standard practice for decision-makers to draw on systematic reviews as the superior source of evidence to inform decision-making regarding effective interventions. Social interventions, commonly applied within the disciplines of International Development, Psychology, Education, Social Work and Welfare, Criminology and Public Health, are most frequently complex. They may involve a number of interacting components, multiple outcomes, and diverse delivery formats. In addition, they are most often amenable to contextual factors and intervention implementation issues. In this light, recent scientific debates promote adoption of the complex system perspective when thinking about the design and evaluation of these interventions.



"The entire movement of evidence-based practice is increasingly contested for its narrow rationale and instrumental framework of evidence generation and use in decision-making. As discussed in many instances, the question facing practitioners and decision-makers is not merely 'what does the best available evidence say I should do', but rather 'what is it best to do, for a specific case, at a specific time, given the specific circumstances'. This calls for systemic approaches in research and practice and re-defined forms of more relevant and contextualised evidence production. As Karin Knorr-Cetina once said 'the practical success of science depends upon the scientist's ability to analyse a situation as a whole, to think on several different levels at once, to recognise clues, and to piece together disparate bits of information than upon the laws themselves'. In this light, the 'GRADE Extension' project aims to provide a harmonised guidance for assembling and assessing different types of available evidence, when thinking about the quality of the body of evidence for social interventions as a step forward in advancing systems approach to systematic reviews and context-specific evidence production".



Ani Movsisyan

*Ani Movsisyan*

**For the research synthesis endeavours to be effective in guiding policy and practice, they must utilise adequate methodology that reflects the unique features of these interventions.**

The most prominent system to guide evidence-informed decision-making has been developed by the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation Working Group (GRADE) in clinical medicine. The approach provides a systematic and transparent process of rating the "best-available evidence" to inform recommendations for policy and practice.

Having been endorsed by more than 80 organisations worldwide, including the Cochrane Collaboration and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the applicability of the GRADE approach outside of clinical practice has been questioned, in part because of differences of the evidence base in biomedical and social practice domains. Therefore, many researchers argue that GRADE does not provide a systematic approach to capture a wide range of evidence important for social interventions, including evidence on intervention implementation, mechanisms and contexts. The objectives of the 'GRADE Extension' project are to develop an extension to this approach. These include:

- By way of systematic searches in scientific databases and expert consultation, the project team will identify the current standards in use for assessing the quality of the body of evidence on the effects of social interventions and explore areas that need to be modified in the GRADE approach for these interventions.
- With the coordination of a Steering Committee of leading experts in the field, the project team will organise an international online panel involving multidisciplinary expertise to further examine areas for GRADE modifications and measure the level of agreement for them.
- Following the online expert panel, a consensus meeting will be hosted with a select group of participants to finalise and build consensus for the GRADE extension.
- Throughout all the phases of the project, the project team aims to closely collaborate with the GRADE Working Group to assure the project output is an official extension to the GRADE approach.

On completion, these two methodological projects will have gained new ground in the field of Social Intervention, improving both reporting and investigative standards within the field.

# Focus on...

## Barnett Papers in Social Research

The Barnett Papers in Social Research give Graduate Research Students and faculty members as well as distinguished visitors to the DSPI the opportunity to “pre-publish” high quality research on the department’s web pages in a timely manner. Collaborative and transdisciplinary papers are highly encouraged.

The following article was written for online magazine *‘The Conversation’* based on the findings in Barnett Paper No 11, which was entitled: 2016: No 11: Thees Spreckelsen and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser: *Dimensions of labour market integration among young EU migrant citizens in the UK*

## How **integrated** are young EU migrants into the UK workforce?

By Martin Seeleib-Kaiser and Thees Spreckelsen

Migration and the principle of free movement within the EU is one of the main issues in the debate over whether Britain should remain in the EU. Polls suggest that the public is very sympathetic to the idea that the UK should restrict immigration and that it is the source of numerous problems. But why is this? And are these fears justified?

There is a great deal of heat generated in the media on this subject, but very little of it is based on fact. Our research intends to contribute some evidence to this debate. We studied the levels of young people migrating to the UK from across the EU and elsewhere, their qualifications and what kind of jobs they did when they arrived.

We found that young EU migrant citizens are well integrated in the UK labour market. They have higher employment rates, work longer and are less likely to receive jobseeker’s allowance than their UK peers.

Nevertheless, we can also clearly identify differences in the pay and conditions they will accept. Wages of young EU migrant citizens from central and eastern European countries are often lower and the contracts are more likely to be precarious. Plus these workers are very often overqualified for the jobs they are doing.

We focused on six different groups of young people in the UK. Everyone in the study was aged between 20 and 34 (60% of all migrants who had arrived in the UK in the last five years are in this age group). Specifically we focused on those who had been born outside the UK with no UK citizenship and resident in the UK for one year or more, having arrived in the UK within the past five years. Our analysis is based on pooled data from the UK Labour Force Survey (2010–2014), a large quarterly survey of the UK resident population.

We split them into the following groups: central and eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia); Bulgaria and Romania; southern European countries (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain); remaining EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland and Sweden); and migrants from the rest of the world.

### High employment

Overall, EU migrant citizens have relatively high employment rates. Young migrant workers from central and eastern Europe (CEE) have an employment rate of 82%, compared

# How **integrated** are young EU migrants into the UK workforce?

*continued*



Thees Spreckelsen and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser

with an employment rate of 73% among young people born in the UK. While workers born in Britain on average worked a 40-hour working week, most EU migrant citizens worked at least one hour more per week.

Our analysis shows that while 8.5% of those born in the UK were unemployed between 2010 and 2014, just 5% of those from CEE said they had been without a job during that time in the UK. Moreover, the probability of receiving jobseeker's allowance is about 20% among unemployed EU migrant citizens and 38% among young British.

## Minimising skills shortages

Free movement of workers also contributes to minimising skill shortages. EU migrant citizens from CEE are much more likely than UK nationals to work in manufacturing, thereby positively contributing to the much-heralded "rebalancing of the UK economy". Young people from Bulgaria and Romania are more likely than any other group to work in construction, thereby minimising the shortage of construction workers and positively contributing to the building of much-needed housing and infrastructure. Somewhat more surprising, especially if compared to the oft-used image of poverty migration, young EU migrant citizens from Bulgaria and Romania are as likely to work in financial services as UK youths.

## Highly qualified

Many of the EU migrant citizens are highly qualified. Recent young European migrant workers from CEE are often overqualified for the jobs they are working in. But young migrants from the rest of the EU and outside Europe did better than expected in the jobs they secured when matched with the median for qualifications held by others in the same occupation.

## Paid less

On average young migrant citizens from CEE as well as Bulgaria and Romania are paid around one-fifth less than their UK peers in gross hourly wages. Meanwhile, other EU migrant citizens do much better: those from southern Europe receive comparable rates to UK peers while those from the rest of Europe (mostly from France and Germany) having on average more than 20% higher hourly wages than their UK peers. Workers from the EU were overall more likely to be employed on a fixed-term contract or by a temping agency.

Overall, young EU migrant citizens are well integrated into the UK labour market. But there are significant differences when it comes to how much their pay and skills match – and migrants from CEE countries and Bulgaria and Romania are at a disadvantage on this front.

The reasons why – whether it is discrimination against hiring eastern Europeans or a failing on their part – are questions for future research to address. What is clear in the context of the EU referendum debate, however, is that EU migrant citizens contribute to an overall high employment rate and the diverse workforce in the UK, by providing much needed skills in various sectors of the economy.

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*Taken from this online article with Martin Seeleib-Kaiser's permission <https://theconversation.com/hard-evidence-how-integrated-are-young-eu-migrants-into-the-uk-workforce-56714?platform=hootsuite>*







# China's Two-Child Policy

By Stuart Gietel-Basten

In 2016, China moved to implement a national two-child policy. This news gained enormous attention in the media worldwide. The stories in the press suggested that the relaxation of family planning restrictions would lead to a baby boom which would, in turn, tackle the country's rapidly ageing population. This is grounded on the assumption that the family planning restrictions (erroneously called the 'one-child policy') operates like a kind of dam; holding back fertility. By enacting a reform to the policy, the government is 'opening the floodgates', albeit in a controlled way. This view also relates to the reasons why earlier reforms had not lifted restrictions altogether – that there were significant concerns over a large-scale baby boom which would destabilise demand for public services.

Generally, my research explores the causes and consequences of very low fertility in Asia. In recent years, however, I have been focussing much more intensively on the situation in China and on fertility preferences in particular. By looking at ideal, intended and actual fertility, and the reasons for any differences between them, we can learn a lot about the landscape of childbearing in a particular country. In China, for example, we might expect people – especially in rural areas – to want more than one child. As such, looking at these preferences can give us a clue as to what might happen in the event of a change in policy – such as the switch to the two-child policy.

I have just completed an ESRC-funded project exploring fertility preferences in China.

Literature reviews are often the first part of any research project. In terms of Chinese fertility preferences, however, the literature in English is very limited. In Chinese, however, there are many dozens of studies which have been



published over the past three decades. Working with colleagues at Renmin University of China and the Central University of Finance and Economics, we produced meta-reviews of ideal family size in China from 1980 to 2015. In these studies, we found that the ideal family size had fallen significantly, and that the one-child family had essentially become normalised. Interestingly, there was a convergence between rural and urban areas, with citizens in both areas wanting fewer children even when they were entitled to have more than one.

The second phase of the project sought to validate these findings by exploring in more depth the preferences of couples who were already entitled to have a second child. This was done by both statistical analysis of existing surveys and qualitative interviews among couples in Beijing. The study was a comparative one with the same questions asked in Taipei. This was designed to identify the similarities between the two cities with and without restrictions on childbearing.

The results of the various exercises showed that low fertility in China – especially in urban areas – is largely a voluntary choice. The cost of raising children, especially relating to a lack of adequate childcare and affordable kindergartens, coupled with the 'dual demand' upon women in terms of work and childcare were more profound reasons for limiting family size than policy restrictions. This evidence therefore suggested that a large, prolonged baby boom would be unlikely.

These research findings were communicated to the Chinese Government over the course of the project, during which I have developed a close relationship with the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

# Fifty years on: Barnett House in 1965-66



In 1966 Barnett House was a young department in University terms: in 1960 it had become a full University department, the Department of Social and Administrative Studies, and had been in its current location in Wellington Square for ten years. Barnett House was still very small, with just six academic members of staff plus the director, Chelly Halsey. It was a time of development, however, preparing for the significant expansion that was to take place in the late 1960s.

In *Barnett House News 2015* we started a new feature, celebrating Barnett House fifty years ago. Sarah Vincent, our Communications and Alumni Relations Officer, delved into the archives to find out what was happening in 1966, and found the following report was sent out to the Old Students' Association in the 1966-67 report (aka the Green Book). She found the following message from the Director, A.H. Halsey, which gives a flavour of what was happening in Barnett House fifty years ago:

*In 1965/66 we completed our plans in detail for a new graduate diploma in Social and Administrative Studies, open to high honours graduates and running for two years. The first students will enter on the new course in October 1967. The old diploma is to be renamed Diploma in Social and Administrative Studies for Mature Students and will be open to non-graduates reading for two years in much the same way as before. The object of the new graduate diploma is to recognise the changed nature of the student body and the contribution that the department can make to the modern social welfare professions. This means in particular that Child Care and Probation officers will receive a two-year training, as will those intending to take up careers as Personnel Managers in industry. There will also be a possibility of switching to the B. Phil in Sociology in Hilary Term of the first year for those who want and are suited to pursue an academic career in teaching or research. It will also be possible for B. Phil students in Sociology to switch the other way in order to become professional social workers.*



*During the session Mr. R. Martin was elected to replace Mr. Collison who went to the Chair of Sociology at Newcastle. Mr Martin therefore becomes University Lecturer in Sociology with a fellowship at Jesus College. Mr. Tajfel is on leave at the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioural Sciences at Palo Alto in California. During 1965/66 Mrs Parker's book on Local Health and Welfare Services was published by Allen & Unwin. Mr. Fox continued his industrial studies at BMC. Mr. Michael Mann went on with his study of the social consequences of moving a factory from Birmingham to Banbury, Miss J. Packman completed her Ph.D thesis on the child welfare services, and the departmental study of co-ordination of welfare services in Coventry was continued.*

*During the year 1965-66, the Department had forty-one students under its care.*

*I was appointed to advise the Secretary of State for Education on educational research and related matters. This takes me to Whitehall for at least a day a week.*

A.H. Halsey



# BARNETT HOUSE OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NOSTALGIA



"Fear not to sow because of the birds"—CANON BARNETT.

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1965-6

- 1 A.H. Halsey
- 2 Masaharu Kurata introduces 'GO' to Oxford.
- 3 Barnett House Students' Association
- 4 Masaharu Kurata's letter to Sarah

**Masaharu Kurata, a Japanese student who started the Diploma in Social Studies in 1966 recounts his time at Oxford in a letter to Alumni Officer Sarah Vincent.**

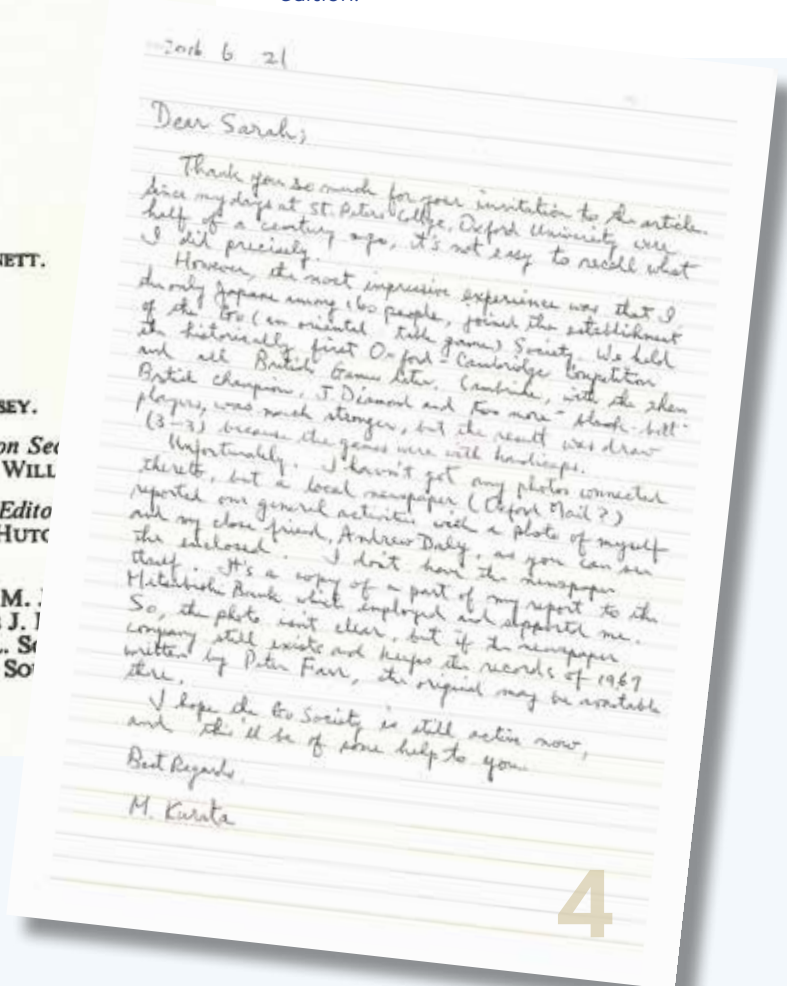
Dear Sarah,

Thank you so much for your invitation to the article. Since my days at St. Peter's College, Oxford University, were half a century ago, it's not easy to recall what I did precisely.

However, the most impressive experience was that I, the only Japanese among 160 people, joined the establishment of the Go (an oriental table game) Society. We held the historically first Oxford-Cambridge Competition and all British games later. Cambridge, with the then British Champion, J. Diamond, and two more "black-belt" players, was much stronger, but the result was a draw (3-3)

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Sadly, we don't have any pictures of the 1966 class. However, we would love to hear from former staff and students from 1966 – if you have any photos or memories to share, please email [alumni@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@spi.ox.ac.uk). Next year, we will be featuring 1967. Please send us your photos and memories in readiness for next year's edition.



4

because the games were with handicaps.

Unfortunately, I haven't got any photos connected thereto, but the Oxford Mail reported on general activities with a photo of myself and my close friend, Andrew Daly. I don't have the newspaper itself. It's a copy of a part of my report to the Mitsubishi Bank which employed and supported me.

So, the photo isn't clear, but if the newspaper company still exists and keeps the records of 1967 written by Peter Farr, the original may be available there.

I hope the Society is still active now, and this'll be of some help to you.

Best regards,

M. Kurata



# Where are they now?



“As an emergency room doctor, I frequently bear witness to the dramatic ways in which circumstances in the community can shape health and disease. Barnett House gave me the tools to reach beyond the four walls of the hospital and help change those circumstances.”

## Aakash Shah

In 2012, Aakash completed an MSc in Comparative Social Policy with the support of a Rhodes Scholarship. His thesis examined the impact of coverage expansions on emergency room use by the previously uninsured in the United States. Using Massachusetts – which achieved near-universal coverage in 2006 – as a case study and states like New Jersey for comparison, he found that coverage expansions reduced the use of emergency rooms for non-emergencies like the common cold by the previously uninsured.

The findings were of immediate importance to legislatures in several states, which at the time were debating whether to expand Medicaid based partly on its impact on emergency room use. Recognising that insights from research do not catch the eyes of legislators passively, Aakash reached out to New Jersey Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg to share his findings. She invited him to serve as her healthcare policy advisor and went on to successfully champion the effort to expand Medicaid in New Jersey despite significant political headwinds.

Aakash then worked closely with the state legislators and policymakers to further ensure access to care. In negotiations over the realignment of the New Jersey’s medical education and healthcare system,

he worked with others to ensure that the state’s largest charity care provider – an urban hospital with nearly 90,000 emergency room visits a year – was not left financially adrift. In response to a promising new healthcare delivery model for complex patients cycling through emergency rooms, he worked with others to advocate for the legislative and gubernatorial approval needed for such initiatives – known as “hotspotting” – to be piloted throughout the state.

Building on those experiences, in 2015, Aakash became the Founder and Executive Director of Be Jersey Strong, a grassroots movement to train students to serve as community health workers. In just a few months, Be Jersey Strong recruited over 500 students – two-thirds of whom spoke a second language with over 50 languages represented between them – to help inform over 12,000 New Jerseyans of their health insurance options. In terms of boots on the ground, the initiative represents one of the largest and most diverse efforts to connect the uninsured to coverage in the nation. It has garnered local and national attention, including being honored by President Barack Obama and the White House for its impact.

Alongside his work on access to care, Aakash obtained his MD from Harvard Medical School and currently works as an emergency room doctor at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

“...the initiative represents one of the largest and most diverse efforts to connect the uninsured to coverage in the nation. It has garnered local and national attention, including being honored by President Barack Obama and the White House for its impact.”



## Andrew Cozens CBE

I look back fondly on my two years at Barnett House where I trained as a social worker from 1979–81. The combination of academic rigour, led by AH Halsey, and robust professional values grounded in evidence, appealed to me greatly. My tutor, Juliet Cheetham, exemplified this, among many other fine staff from whom I learnt so much.

I was very fortunate also to be part of the first intake of graduates to the newly founded Green College, where a number of staff had linked college fellowships. There was a great sense of possibility about stronger relationships between social work and medicine that helped shape my subsequent career interests.

After Oxford, I took up my first social work post in North Yorkshire, in the then newly opened Selby coalfield. This coincided with the miners' strike and our local approach to community social work that I continue to draw ideas from.

I spent 15 years in all in North Yorkshire, including a four-year spell setting up North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations. I ended up as deputy to the

director of social services.

In 1996, in my 40th year, I took up my first director of social services post in Gloucestershire. After four happy years there, I moved to Leicester City Council in a role that included being the deputy chief executive where I still live.

I had always been active in my professional association, and was elected President of the (then) Association of Directors of Social Services in 2003/4. My term coincided with significant professional challenges and new legislation that split social services across two government departments and into children's and adults' services. I was honoured to be awarded a CBE for services to social work in 2004.

I enjoyed working at a national level and was very pleased to land the role of Strategic Adviser for children's, adults and health services at the Improvement and Development Agency for local government in London. The Agency was part of the Local Government Association and my role included supporting its influencing work with government on social services, particularly adult social care. Here I helped shape key new legislation.

I left the LGA in 2012 and have been working independently since on policy and improvement in social care and health across the public, voluntary and private sectors.

One of my longstanding interests has been improving the profile and support for carers. I served as trustee and vice chair of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers for many years, and was the first Chair of Carers Trust from 2012 – 2016 after PRTC merged with Crossroads Care. I continue to serve in a number of trustee roles in the sector.

My time at Barnett House there channelled my urge to change the world for the better and provided the platform for almost 40 years of commitment to social work and social care.

## Robyn O'Connor

I completed my MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention in 2014, having gained the support of several sponsors to fund my studies. Prior to that, I had obtained a Law degree at QMUL and was a support worker in East London.

Initially I stayed on at the University of Oxford to work as a Research Assistant with Professor Lucy Bowes (Department of Experimental Psychology). Our project sought to understand why some

maltreated children are particularly vulnerable to depression and suicidal tendencies later in life, whilst others appear resilient.

I then led a research project under the Ending Gang and Youth Violence agenda at the Early Intervention Foundation, one of the Government's 'What Works Centres'. Commissioned by the Home Office, I co-authored two publications: a practical guide on commissioning and evaluating youth mentoring programmes, and a rapid review of interventions delivered in the UK and abroad.



Following that, I joined the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as a Government Social Researcher. I provided crosscutting analysis to support policy development within the Integration and Faith and Community Rights divisions, using specialist software to create infographics for policy colleagues, senior officials and external stakeholders.

A particular highlight of my time there was helping to design and manage a multi-site randomised

controlled trial of a community-based English language programme, for which I received an Exceptional Performance Award. It involved collaborating with the Behavioural Insights Team and my MSc course director, Professor Paul Montgomery, in his capacity as a member of the Cross-Whitehall Trial Advice Panel.

**“Now, I work at the heart of Government as a Senior Social Researcher with the Cabinet Office.”**

My career path has undoubtedly been shaped by the knowledge and training I received at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. The course went beyond how to conduct ‘gold standard’ research in academia by emphasising the realities of designing and evaluating complex social interventions in the real world, in imperfect environments, with often vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups. Because of this, I’ve been able to help shape Government policies and create change in local communities.

## Jamie McLaren Lachman

Jamie completed his MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention in 2011 and has just finished his DPhil in Social Intervention as a Clarendon Scholar in 2016. Working with Professors Lucie Cluver and Frances Gardner, his research focused on the development and pilot evaluation of an evidence-informed, locally relevant parenting programme to reduce the risk of violence against children aged two to nine in low-income communities in South Africa. He was a recipient of the Barnett Prize for Best Paper, a bursary scholar at the Global WHO and University of Cambridge Global Violence Reduction Conference, and Donald J. Cohen Fellowship recipient at the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP) in Durban, South Africa.

Building on the research started during his DPhil, Jamie is currently working as a research officer in the department with Professor Gardner on three postdoctoral projects 1) *Malezi ne Kilimo – Skilful Parenting and Agribusiness Child Abuse Prevention Study*, a pilot cluster randomised controlled trial

in rural Tanzania (Co-I); 2) *Parenting for Lifelong Health – Philippines*, an adaptation and pre-post pilot of the programme he developed during his DPhil (Co-PI); and 3) *Optimising Parenting Interventions*, a Fell Funded pump-priming project to develop a factorial design study in Cape Town by testing active parenting programme components based on effectiveness, cost efficiency, and scalability (Co-I).

Jamie also serves on the steering committee of Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH), a research collaboration led by the World Health Organization



**“The Department of Social Policy and Intervention at Barnett House is a unique place that applies the most rigorous scientific methods to addressing real-world challenges facing families, communities, and governments around the world. I am extremely grateful for the collaborative working environment that it fosters, and its support in encouraging the early career development of researchers.”**



and UNICEF committed to building and disseminating evidence of effectiveness of a suite of freely available parenting programmes in low- and middle-income countries. He has been actively supporting the scale up of parenting programmes in over 10 countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia.

Jamie is also the director and founder of Clowns

Without Borders South Africa, an arts-led non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families affected by crisis ([www.cwbsa.org](http://www.cwbsa.org)). He is also a storyteller, banjo-player, songwriter, mindfulness based stress reduction facilitator, and clown. Always looking for laughter in the life's simplicity, Jamie strives to live each day fully with compassion and amazement.

"Selection for a Home Office Bursary to study at Barnet House and St Peter's College for an MSC in Applied Social Policy and a Professional Qualification in Social Work was a key milestone in my journey to becoming an all age safeguarding specialist within Local Government. The "excellent" rating Barnet House held for its delivery on Social Work Education and Training was evident in the quality and expertise of the academic tuition and the range of field work experiences available to students from the Department. The international student body added a further dynamic to the overall learning experience and personal development I gained during my two years at Barnet House and the University of Oxford."



## Peter Charlesworth

Peter completed his MSC in Applied Social Policy and the Diploma in Social Work in 1995. Peter had been offered a Bursary to study and train at Barnett House and had selected the course as it was one of only a few that was rated as 'excellent' by the Home Office bursary scheme. Having studied a first degree in Sociology and Social Administration at the University of Warwick prior to attending Oxford, Peter found he was well prepared for the intensity and engagement of study at Barnett House. Peter was part of a small cohort of students who were part of the Prison and Probation Service option in terms of the Diploma in Social Work and was supervised during the two years by Dr Colin Roberts, who at that time was a leading researcher in evidence-based interventions in offender management and support. Peter recalls in detail the impact of understanding "criminogenic" need in working with individual offenders and went on to be a keen supporter of what was then referred to as the "what works" approach to Probation Service and offender management interventions.

Peter's dissertation was entitled *Offender Through Care* and sought to evaluate the qualitative impact of behavioural interventions and Probation Service through care during the time serving prisoners were approaching the final twelve weeks of sentence. The fieldwork aspect of this dissertation was completed at HMP Oxford and HMP Bullingdon

during Peter's extended second year placement. HMP Oxford at that time was a pre-release prison for those transferred from the wider Oxfordshire dispersal prison estate with many of those there taking part in day to day activities, employment and education outside of the prison. Peter recalls that he and a colleague established an effective resettlement support group, drawing upon the evidence of academic research emanating from Barnett House. Some 44 people were able to go on and benefit from the four week program. Of course HMP Oxford has long since closed and accommodation there now is rather more boutique.

Peter continues to practice as a HCPC registered Social Worker today within a Local Authority and has developed his career to be a Designated Safeguarding Specialist, particularly in relation to Adult Safeguarding and has contributed actively to both regional and national developments including statutory reforms. Peter also plays an active part in delivering child protection services within the same local authority.

More recently Peter has been actively involved in developing local responses to new facets of both adult and child safeguarding and has acquired considerable knowledge and experience of safeguarding in relation to the government's Prevent agenda and the engagement of existing statutory services to promote individual resilience and community cohesion.

# 2016 photo competition

