

Introduction

Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK

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Third Peter Townsend Memorial Conference
Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK



The Problem

“The government’s draft child poverty strategy is a missed opportunity. The farce of ministers proving unable to agree on how to measure poverty after rubbishing existing measures is particularly lamentable.

The government’s approach falls far short of what is needed to reduce, yet alone end child poverty in our country. Our new research shows that the gap between the objective of making child poverty history and the reality is becoming ever wider.

This is not just an issue for the current government. Politicians from all parties say they are committed to the 2020 targets. Willing the ends without the means today merely becomes a broken promise tomorrow.”

Alan Milburn – Chair of the independent Social Mobility and Child Poverty (SMCP) Commission (9th June 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/social-mobility-and-child-poverty-commission>

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Programme

Thursday 19th June

10.00 *Registration and Tea/Coffee*

First Session: *Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK: Advancing the State of the Art*

10:30 Introduction: Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK David Gordon

10:50 Developing Measures of Poverty & Exclusion in the 21st Century: Focus Groups, Cognitive Testing & Expert Review [Eldin Fahmy](#)

11:10 Life on a Low Income in Austere Times: Precarious budgets and diminishing services [Simon Pemberton](#), [Eileen Sutton](#), [Eldin Fahmy](#) and [Karen Bell](#)

11.40 *Tea/Coffee*

Second Session: *The Necessities of Life in the UK*

12.10 The Changing Necessities of Life: 1983 to 2012 [Stewart Lansley](#) and [Joanna Mack](#)

12:35 [What do Children Need?](#) [Gill Main](#)

13:00 *Lunch*

Third Session: *The Extent of Poverty in the UK*

14:00: How Many People are Poor and Deprived and How Do We Know? David Gordon

14:20 Social Exclusion in the UK [Ruth Levitas](#)

14:40 How Many Poor and Deprived Children are there in the UK? [Jonathan Bradshaw](#)

15:00 Poverty and Exclusion in Scotland [Nick Bailey](#), [Glen Bramley](#) and [Maria Garmon](#)

15:20 Poverty and Exclusion in Northern Ireland [Mike Tomlinson](#)

15:45 *Tea/Coffee*

Fourth Session: *How bad is poverty for your health?*

16:15 Poverty, Exclusion and Health and Disability in the UK [Pauline Heslop](#)

16:40 Concluding Remarks

17.00 *Finish*

Friday 20th June

9.30 *Arrival and Tea/Coffee*

9.50 Welcome

David Gordon

Fifth Session: *Why Don't People Just Stop Being Poor?*

10:00 Every Penny Counts: Family Life on a Low Income

Mary Daly and Grace Kelly

10:20 Life on a Low Income in Austere Times:
Impact on relationships

Simon Pemberton, Karen Bell,
Eldin Fahmy and Eileen Sutton

10:40 Explaining Poverty to the Public

Joanna Mack

11:00 Community Engagement in Challenging Times

Gabi Kent

11:20 *Tea/Coffee*

Sixth Session: *Living Standards in the UK*

11:50 A UK Living Standards Index

Demi Patsios, Paddy Hillyard
and Marco Pomati

12:10 Poverty and Services, Neighbourhoods & Housing

Glen Bramley and
Kirsten Besemer

12:30 Poverty, Employment and Working Conditions

Nick Bailey

12:50 *Lunch*

Seventh Session: *Family poverty*

13:40 Poverty and Gender

Esther Dermott and
Christina Pantazis

14:00 Poverty and Parenting

Esther Dermott and Marco Pomati

Eighth Session: *Demography of Poverty*

14:20 Poverty and Ethnicity

Christina Pantazis and
Saffron Karlsen

14:40 Poverty and Youth

Eldin Fahmy

15:00 Poverty and Older People

Demi Patsios

15:20 *Tea/Coffee*

Ninth Session: *Key Issues*

16:00 Rural Poverty in Scotland

Maria Gannon, Nick Bailey
and Glen Bramley

16:20 Poverty, Debt and Financial Exclusion

Kirsten Besemer and Glen Bramley

16:40 Fuel Poverty

David Gordon

17:00 Concluding Remarks



PSE UK

Web Site <http://www.poverty.ac.uk>

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

**Townsend Centre
for International
Poverty Research**



SECOND UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR THE
eradication of poverty
(2008 – 2017)

Web Site <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/poverty>



PSE ^{UK}

Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK





Many people have worked on the PSE Project



People to thank...

UK and International

Advisory Groups

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Data collection, analyses, project management



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Organisations



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Bridges Programmes	Glasgow
Loretto housing association	Glasgow
One Parent Families Scotland	Glasgow
Poverty Alliance	Glasgow
Poverty Truth Commission	Glasgow
Queen's Cross Housing Association	Glasgow
South Side housing Association	Glasgow
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Gloucestershire
The Family Haven	Gloucestershire
GL Communities	Gloucestershire
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	Gloucestershire
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PSE Research Team



People to thank...

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The research grant

- Funded by the ESRC
- The UK's largest ever research project on poverty, social exclusion and living standards
- Started April 2010
- Ended March 2014

The research aims

1. To improve the measurement of poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and standard of living.
2. To measure the change in the nature and extent of poverty and social exclusion over the past ten years.
3. To produce policy-relevant results about the causes and outcomes of poverty and social exclusion.

Every decade since the late 1960s, UK social scientists have attempted to carry out an independent poverty survey to test out new ideas and incorporate current state of the art methods into UK poverty research.

- 1968-69 *Poverty in the UK* survey (Peter Townsend and colleagues),
- 1983 *Poor Britain* survey (Joanna Mack, Stewart Lansley)
- 1990 *Breadline Britain* survey (Joanna Mack, Stewart Lansley)
- 1999 *Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey* (Jonathan Bradshaw and colleagues) and its 2002 counterpart in Northern Ireland (Paddy Hillyard and colleagues)
- 2012 *Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK*



Survey Data

Omnibus Survey: Necessities of Life – A systematic random achieved sample of adults (16+) of over 1,900 interviews in Britain and Northern Ireland.

Main Survey: Poverty & Social Exclusion – A follow-up survey to the 2010/11 Family Resources Survey (circa 47,000 households). The main survey in Britain has an achieved sample of over 4,000 households and 9,500 individuals – with approximately 1,000 households in the ‘ethnic’ strata and 1,000 households in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, the achieved sample was just under 1,000 households and over 2,000 individuals.

The survey was divided into a household questionnaire which was answered by the Household Reference Person (HRP) and an individual questionnaire which was answered by all adult household members (aged 18 and over).



Qualitative Data

British Impoverishment Study, The qualitative study, Life on a Low Income in Austere times sought to provide insights into the experiences of poverty during the recent recession and ongoing programme of austerity. The project collected 62 video/audio testimonies during 2012-2013, in Birmingham, Glasgow and Gloucestershire.

Northern Ireland Family Solidarity Study, a qualitative survey of 50 parents to explore the role of family in coping with poverty.

The study had a material focus – examining the extent to which resources are transferred among family members (both nuclear and extended) - and it also explores family cultures and relationships as factors affecting poverty and social exclusion. This helps to understand the extent and limits of family solidarity



Dissemination

A major website – www.poverty.ac.uk

Full results of the 2012 Survey

Comparisons with the earlier surveys in 1983, 1990 and 1999

Development of new graphic visualisation tools enabling access to more complex datasets and richer comparisons between datasets across time

Video clips of what it means to live in poverty for key groups in 2012 (e.g. young, elderly, unemployed, disabled) and comparisons from the two broadcast documentary series accompanying the 1983 and 1990 surveys (*Breadline Britain* and *Breadline Britain in the 1990s*) to illustrate changing circumstances and attitudes

Survey Development

Rigorous qualitative & quantitative methods were used in developing and analysing the survey questionnaire;

- 1) Systematic literature reviews
- 2) Focus groups
- 3) Expert review
- 4) Cognitive interviews
- 5) Survey pilots
- 6) Behaviour coding

As far as possible comparability was maintained with UK & EU official poverty measures.

The Bristol Social Exclusion Matrix (B-SEM)

