LSE Gender Institute Literary Festival event

Class Wars/Culture Wars: Owen Jones and the chavs

Sue Christoforou
Policy Analyst and Campaigner

Professor Mary Evans
Centennial Professor, Gender Institute, LSE

Owen Jones
Author, Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class

Professor Diane Perrons
Chair, LSE

Suggested hashtag for Twitter users: #Lselitfest
Class Wars/Culture Wars
1st March 2012

Who makes chavs?

Sue Christoforou
www.equalitytrust.org.uk

The Equality Trust

LSE space for thought
LITERARY FESTIVAL
Causes of disadvantage
Income inequality is not just about material deprivation however. There is evidence that the degree of inequality in society, is having a harmful effect on health, not only of the poor, but of society as a whole. Countries, and areas within countries, marked by greater inequality have not only worse health but a higher rate of crime and other adverse social outcomes. Both poverty and inequality may be important for social cohesion, life opportunities and health.
Index of:
- Life expectancy
- Math & Literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homicides
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness – incl. drug & alcohol addiction
- Social mobility

Health and social problems are worse in more unequal countries

Drug Use is More Common in More Unequal Countries

More Adults are Obese in More Unequal Rich Countries

Rates of Imprisonment are Higher in More Unequal Countries

Teenage Birth Rates are Higher in More Unequal Rich Countries

Systemic cause of poor health and social outcomes
You will feel the full force of the law.

And if you are old enough to commit these crimes, you are old enough to face the punishment, says Cameron

The Telegraph 9 August 2011
I think we all do stupid things when we’re young, says Cameron

BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme 2 September 2011
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SaZUYa5r28

Bullingdon Club antics were nothing like the riots, says Cameron

The Guardian 2 September 2011
Help us stop £1.5bn benefits scroungers

“The Sun is declaring war on feckless benefits claimants to slash the £5BILLION wasted in Britain’s shambolic handouts culture.

Hundreds of thousands of scroungers in the UK are robbing hard-working Sun readers of their cash.

They cannot be bothered to find a job or they claim to be sick when they are perfectly capable of work because they prefer to sit at home watching widescreen TVs — paid for by YOU.

Our campaign aims to crack down on fraud and has the backing of Prime Minister David Cameron.”

The Sun 12 August 2011
SUNDAY EXPRESS

WAR ON THE SCROUNGERS

FREE SUMMER BULBS
£20

MANSIONS FOR SCROUNGERS

DAILY MAIL

WIN UP TO £100,000
WITH OUR NEW LUCKY LINES GAME

DAILY EXPRESS

4M SCROUNGING FAMILIES IN BRITAIN

BLITZ ON FAMILIES RAKING IN BENEFITS

LSE space for thought

LITERARY FESTIVAL
## Estimated Total Overpayments in 2010/11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated overpayments in 2010/11</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Fraud &amp; Error</th>
<th>Fraud</th>
<th>Customer Error</th>
<th>Official Error</th>
<th>Last measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuously reviewed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Support</td>
<td>£7.9bn</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>£190m</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>£90m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobseeker's Allowance</td>
<td>£4.5bn</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>£180m</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>£20m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Credit</td>
<td>£6.3bn</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>£190m</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>£140m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Benefit</td>
<td>£21.6bn</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>£290m</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>£580m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incapacity Benefit</td>
<td>£5.6bn</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>£20m</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>£50m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrument of Payment</td>
<td>£0m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occasionally reviewed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Living Allowance</td>
<td>£12.0bn</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>£60m</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>£70m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Pension</td>
<td>£69.9bn</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>£0m</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>£60m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carer's Allowance</td>
<td>£1.6bn</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>£60m</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>£20m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdependencies</td>
<td>£40m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unreviewed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreviewed (excl. CTB)</td>
<td>£17.2bn</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>£160m</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>£100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Tax Benefit</td>
<td>£5.0bn</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>£60m</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>£110m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£153.6bn</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>£1.2bn</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td><strong>£0.8bn</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Range</strong></td>
<td>(19,2.5)</td>
<td>(29,3.8)</td>
<td>(7,1.1)</td>
<td>(10,1.6)</td>
<td>(7,1.0)</td>
<td>(4,0.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fraud=£1.2bn**

DWP 12 July 2011
“On Monday [6th Feb 12], Mr Cameron held a private meeting with his Business Advisory Council and is understood to have been warned about the potential danger of the ongoing "banker bashing".”

The Telegraph 8 February 2012

“We draw a distinction between sorting out the mess in the banking system and this relentless attack on anyone who makes any money out of a successful business and out of successfully employing people.

“That is dangerous for Britain because it will mean people are put off coming here and setting up businesses.”

The Telegraph 15 February 2012
George Osborne pledges battle against 'anti-business culture' amid bonus row

“There are those who are trying to create an anti-business culture in Britain – and we have to stop them. At stake are not pay packages for a few but jobs and prosperity for the many.”

The Guardian 7 February 2012
The Cost of Tax Abuse

The top ten countries losing to tax evasion in absolute terms are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>GDP</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>GDP per head of population</th>
<th>Size of Shadow Economy</th>
<th>Tax burden overall %</th>
<th>Gov’t spending as % of GDP</th>
<th>Size of Shadow Economy</th>
<th>Tax lost as a result of Shadow Economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>14,582,400</td>
<td>312,582,000</td>
<td>46,651</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>1,254,086</td>
<td>337,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2,087,890</td>
<td>190,755,799</td>
<td>10,945</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>814,277</td>
<td>280,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2,051,412</td>
<td>60,705,991</td>
<td>33,793</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>553,881</td>
<td>238,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,479,819</td>
<td>142,914,136</td>
<td>10,355</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>648,161</td>
<td>221,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3,309,669</td>
<td>81,724,000</td>
<td>40,498</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>529,547</td>
<td>214,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2,560,002</td>
<td>65,821,885</td>
<td>38,893</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>384,000</td>
<td>171,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>5,497,813</td>
<td>127,720,000</td>
<td>43,046</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>604,759</td>
<td>171,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>5,878,629</td>
<td>1,339,724,852</td>
<td>4,388</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>746,586</td>
<td>134,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>2,246,079</td>
<td>62,300,000</td>
<td>36,053</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>280,760</td>
<td>109,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1,407,405</td>
<td>46,162,024</td>
<td>30,488</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>316,686</td>
<td>107,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tax evasion=£69.9bn

Minister for disabled people: there is no shortage of jobs
Maria Miller blames unemployment on people's unwillingness to apply for work

“If you actually look at the facts and the figures, there's 400,000 jobs at any one point in jobcentres. I was up in the Wirral on Friday talking to one of our local jobcentres there and there isn't a shortage of jobs. What there can be is a lack of an appetite for some of the jobs that are available.”

The Guardian 6 February 2012
“So we've got to make sure people have got the right skills, that they don't see a risk in moving into employment and that this is not just a choice but it's actually the route they are going to take. So I don't think it's a lack of jobs at the moment, I think it really is making sure that we've got people knowing where those jobs are.”

UK unemployment stuck at 17-year high as economy flatlines

The Guardian 15 February 2012
The unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent of the economically active population, up 0.1 on the quarter. There were 2.67 million unemployed people, up 48,000 on the quarter. The unemployment rate has not been higher since 1995.

Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

“The unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent of the economically active population, up 0.1 on the quarter. There were 2.67 million unemployed people, up 48,000 on the quarter. The unemployment rate has not been higher since 1995.”
Causes of disadvantage
Class Wars/Culture Wars
1st March 2012

Who makes chavs?

Sue Christoforou
www.equalitytrust.org.uk