



Health and Social Care special



LSE Health and Social Care (LSEHSC) does not provide medical treatment or assistance with social needs, but it is one of the School's larger research groups. Research is focused around health and social care systems and the policies that shape them. We look at these on a local, national and global level, using conceptual and empirical arguments drawn from across the social science range.

LSEHSC is based in Cowdray House and is part of the Social Policy

Department. We have 45 staff, many visiting academics, and 15 PhD students. Many staff members are involved with teaching, particularly on the three MSc programmes in the health policy field.

LSEHSC came together in 2000 when LSE Health and the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) merged. We have been developing

the Centre since its merger, through the growth of health economics work, bringing together work in many parts of the world, and the continuation of excellent links with policy makers in different countries and different health and social care systems. Research grants since 2000 exceed £9 million, and have led to a variety of outputs.

Some of our work feeds directly into policy. For example, the Centre houses part of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (see over the page), producing detailed assessments of health systems across Europe, as well as publications on comparative policy themes. Another example is research on the future of social care commissioned from PSSRU by the King's Fund. Working with Sir Derek Wanless – who reviewed the future of health care for the Treasury a couple of years ago – our task is to look at the resources needed for high quality social care support and the trends likely to affect future demand for care.

Recently awarded grants from the European Commission will allow the Centre to study health status and living conditions in 28 countries, and to manage a 31-country network which will be gathering data on various economic aspects of mental health. There is considerable interest in our

work on long-term care projections to inform discussion about how to respond to the rapid ageing of European populations. And the OECD has commissioned the Centre to look at how high quality regulation can improve health system performance.

LSEHSC organises a number of networks, including the European Health Policy Group, the Health Equity Network and the Preference Elicitation Group, and a network focused on economic evaluation in social welfare. A more conventional indicator of activity, perhaps, is the published output. Staff have published more than 250 peer-review journal papers since 2001, and over a dozen books, while also editing special issues of journals (such as the latest issue of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*) and launching a new journal, (see below).

If you are interested in our work then please visit our website for more details. We also hold regular Thursday lunchtime seminars throughout the academic year, and host two annual lectures, one of them supported by the Merck Foundation.

Martin Knapp, professor of social policy, chair, and co-director of LSE Health and Social Care

Teaching

This year, over 100 people are studying on the three health MSc programmes in the Social Policy Department – International Health Policy, Health Policy Planning and Financing, and Health Population and Society, and demand continues to grow. Staff at LSE Health and Social Care contribute to the planning and teaching of each MSc. The Centre also organises seminars and discussions on key issues in health and social care which students are encouraged to attend.

Puneet Sandhu, a 2002 MSc graduate, described her experience at LSE: 'My time on the International Health Policy programme at the School provided me with a new way of looking at the challenges in health care policymaking in my own country.'

Students this year are particularly pleased that an increasing number of courses have been using WebCT.

The Centre is very active in the support of PhD students. Several staff members are pursuing part-time PhDs and about 15 full-time students are supervised or attached to the Centre every year.

Current PhD student Charitini Stavropoulou said: 'It's so nice to be based at Cowdray House where there's a friendly research and



Current PhD students, l-r: Jackie Damant, Charitini Stavropoulou, Victoria Serra, Marin Gemmill, and Christina Novinsky

academic environment.' Christina Novinsky, also a current PhD student, said: 'Studying here is a great opportunity to interact with the experts at LSE Health and Social Care as well as the international researchers visiting the Centre and giving seminars.'

New peer-reviewed journal



Adam Oliver, Elias Mossialos and Martin Knapp from LSE Health and Social Care are three of the editors of a new, peer-reviewed journal, *Health Economics, Policy and Law (HEPL)*. To be published quarterly by Cambridge University Press from 2006, the journal is a collaborative effort with five other academic editors from leading universities including Georgetown University, Harvard School of Public Health and UCLA.

In a market where health journals tend to focus on particular sub-disciplines of research such as health policy, health economics, and health services management, *HEPL's* distinguishing asset is its multi-

disciplinary approach. As Adam explains: 'For a long time, international trends in health care have highlighted the confluence of economics, politics, legal considerations and other influences on the policy process. The aim is to produce a high quality, international journal that addresses topical health policy issues from these perspectives, particularly as we found that there is a strong demand for a scholarly journal adopting this approach.'

HEPL will publish both theoretical and applied work in the form of original research articles, debate, essays and reviews. The definition of health policy is broad. It includes factors that affect health but which also transcend health care, as well as factors that only indirectly affect health – such as legal and economic considerations in medical research.

For further information and instructions for contributors, see: www.cambridge.org/journals/hep or email: hepl@lse.ac.uk

Health Economics conference

The fifth European Conference on Health Economics was hosted by LSE Health and Social Care last September.

As the largest biennial European gathering of health economists to date, more than 600 delegates, including many leading health scholars in Europe and beyond, came to LSE to take part in the four day event.

The School accommodated over 80 presentations a day across five parallel streams on all aspects of health economics.

The plenary sessions were highly engaging affairs. Choosing topics with a slightly more philosophical bent than is usual at health economics gatherings, Bo Rothstein, August Röhss Professor in Political Science at Göteborg University, Sweden, spoke on *The Universal Welfare State and Social Capital*, while Lord Richard Layard, LSE, lectured on *Happiness and Public Policies*.

One of the event's highlights was the conference dinner, attended by Professor Julian Le Grand (pictured), former chairman of LSEHSC and health policy adviser to the prime minister. The then minister of health for England, John Hutton, delivered a pre-dinner address on the challenges facing European health care systems.



New modular MSc

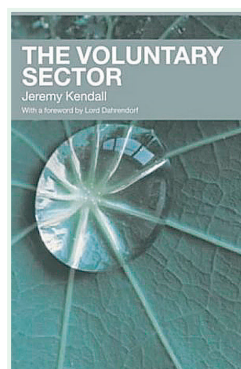
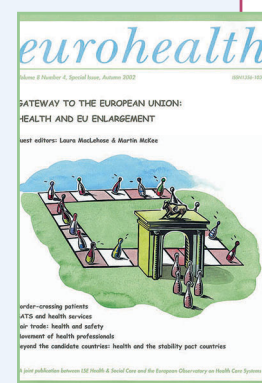
A new MSc, to be launched in 2007, will provide postgraduate training in health economics, policy and management for people who are already employed at a senior level in their chosen career but who do not have the time to devote themselves to 'full time' academic study.

The MSc is aimed at individuals in government, industry and the health care services sector. For further information, email: e.a.mossialos@lse.ac.uk

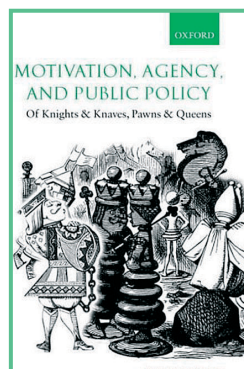
Publications

In-house publications include

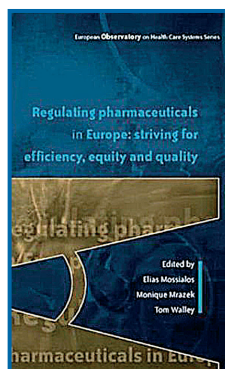
- *eurohealth* (quarterly)
- *Euro Observer* (quarterly)
- *PSSRU Bulletin*
- *Mental Health Research Review*
- *LSEHSC Discussion Papers*



The Voluntary Sector
JEREMY KENDALL
Routledge, 2003



Motivation, Agency and Public Policy: of knights and knaves, pawns and queens
JULIAN LE GRAND
Oxford University Press, 2004



Regulating Pharmaceuticals in Europe: striving for efficiency, equity and quality
ELIAS MOSSIALOS, MONIQUE MRAZEK, TOM WALLEY, EDS
Open University Press, 2004

Health policy research

Health policy research at the Centre, under the leadership of Professor Elias Mossialos, has both UK and international perspectives. LSEHSC is a founding member of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (see box). It operates through four ‘hubs’ in Brussels, Copenhagen, Berlin and London, with a staff of nearly 30, including seven based in Cowdray House. The Observatory’s activities focus on evidence-based health policy making through the analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe.

The Observatory produces comprehensive health systems profiles of European countries as well as a special series of studies published by Open University Press focussing on:

- funding and regulation of health care systems
- mental health
- pharmaceuticals
- hospitals
- primary care

Reaching the international policy community is also an important part of the Observatory’s remit; large scale dissemination of its studies, reports

and policy briefs is achieved via its dedicated website (www.observatory.dk) and several workshops for policy makers, particularly in eastern Europe, are organised annually.

- The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies is a partnership between:
- LSE Health and Social Care
 - WHO Regional Office for Europe
 - World Bank
 - Soros Foundation (Open Society Institute)
 - European Investment Bank
 - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
 - Governments of Belgium, Finland, Greece, Norway, Spain and Sweden, the Veneto Region of Italy

Other health policy research includes undertaking studies for several governments and international organisations such as the European Commission.

The governments of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Sweden have all turned to LSEHSC researchers for guidance on their health policies, resulting in some significant reforms.

Moreover, staff members, including Anna Dixon, Julien Forder, Julian Le Grand, Ray Robinson and Sarah Thomson, have influenced NHS policy developments in the UK, advising the Department of Health and the Prime Minister’s Office.

The focus of future research will continue to be policy oriented and includes the impact of private medical insurance on access to care, inequalities in health, the impact of user charges on equity of health care, public health policies of the European Union, politics and health system reform, and funding and paying for health care.

Health economics

Professor Alistair McGuire leads the Centre in its theoretical, methodological and applied research in health economics. The aim is to maintain methodological advances while applying high quality research to specific areas.

- Applications of innovative methodology include:
- econometric work on hospital cost functions
 - non-parametric and parametric estimators of medical treatment costs under conditions of censoring
 - work on flow models of hospital demand
 - the application of panel data estimators in the area of mental health.

Research programmes within this stream focus on:

- UK health care financing and equity
- pharmaceutical policy, economics and regulation
- preference elicitation
- economic evaluation in health care and health care technology diffusion.

Among others, Jose-Luis Fernandez and Maria Raikou have been recognised for their expertise in modelling health care treatment costs alongside clinical trials. The Centre has been involved in a number of individual projects considering the cost effectiveness of specific health care interventions –

screening for ovarian cancer, diabetes, and prostate cancer – as well as using large observational databases to analyse the impact of health care technology on health care expenditure.

Other health economics areas for which the Centre is building an increasing reputation include Adam Oliver’s work on experimental economics applied to the valuation of health states, and Panos Kanavos and Joan Costa-i-Font’s econometric analysis of medicines.

The pharmaceutical industry is also one of the major sectors to be investigated from a health economics and policy perspective at LSEHSC. With a donation from the Merck Trust, experts at the Centre have looked into the impact of different regulatory strategies on pharmaceutical pricing policies.

A number of staff are contributing to the forthcoming International Health Economics Association (IHEA) conference in Barcelona this July, including a session on technology diffusion organised by Alistair McGuire. Further information from <http://healtheconomics.org>

Social care and mental health

Social care and mental health research at the Centre, led by Professor Martin Knapp, is built around the work of the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU).

The Unit, which operates from three bases (LSE and the universities of Kent and Manchester) is one of the best known social care research groups internationally.

The Centre has also built up a reputation for its leading work on mental health economics. Once again, projects range from the methodological to the applied, both in the UK and abroad, with policy analysis the core concern.

Research programmes within the social care stream focus on:

- long-term care finance
- social care commissioning and performance
- direct payments to social care users
- interventions to reduce unplanned hospital bed use
- evaluating care for older people.

Adelina Comas-Herrera, Raphael Wittenberg, and Linda Pickard, are providing evidence-based projections to UK and other European governments to help shape policy decisions for long-term care services and financing. The research on direct payments, co-

ordinated by Vanessa Davey, has included a UK-wide survey to better understand how social care service users can take control of the purchasing of services.

- The mental health economic stream includes
- studies of the adulthood economic consequences of mental health problems in childhood
 - links between mental illness and social exclusion
 - examination of inequalities and inequities in access to services
 - evaluation of the Scottish suicide prevention strategy
 - research on secure units
 - evaluations of new treatments
 - a number of policy analyses and evaluations across Europe.

Andrew Healey’s work on adulthood economic consequences found that behavioural (mental health) problems in childhood have many adverse impacts on employment and income by age 30. The one exception is that 10 year olds who exhibit antisocial behaviour have higher than expected earnings.

Spotlight on emeritus professors



Professor Bleddyn Davies, founder of PSSRU in 1974, is renowned for his outstanding contribution to the field of long-term care for older people.

A new volume of papers, *Long-Term Care: matching resources and needs* (Ashgate 2004), presented at a

Festschrift conference held at the School, has been compiled in his honour. It includes nine further

chapters, bringing together in one volume papers by scholars and practitioners from many countries including the UK, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Sweden and the USA.

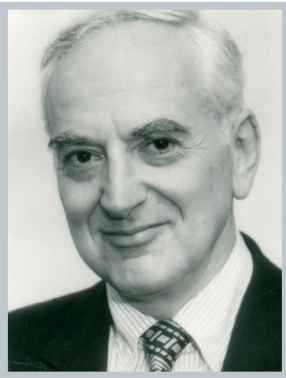
Tony Warnes of the University of Sheffield said: ‘This book hails from the foremost British long-term care research group. It provides invaluable, original and authoritative information for policy makers and managers in the field.’

Professor Walter Holland has had an exceptional career in public health medicine and epidemiology.

He was awarded the Europe et Médecine Prize of the Institut des Sciences de la Santé and nominated as ‘Hero of Public Health’ by John Hopkins University. One of his major recent projects was the co-

ordination and editing of *Development of Epidemiology* to mark the 50th anniversary of the International Epidemiological Association.

His latest book, *Screening in Disease Prevention: what works?*, co-authored with Susie Stewart, will be published later this summer.



Seminars

Graham Wallas Room, 12.30-1.45pm

02 June Richard Saltman: *Recent and Proposed Reforms in Social Health Insurance Systems*

09 June Allyson Pollock: *NHS plc*

16 June Stephen Morris: *The Impact on Obesity on Employment*

From October, speakers will include Aki Tsuchiya, Barry McCormick, Alan Maynard, Peter Smith, Nikolas Rose, Martin Roland and Karen Dunnell

For full details, please see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/LSEHealthandSocialCare/

Networks

LSE Health and Social Care established and supports a number of international and UK research networks.

- **European Health Policy Group** is run by Gwyn Bevan and provides a forum for 280 health policy analysts, political scientists and economists from across Europe to meet and discuss health care systems.
 - **Health Equity Network** brings together over 700 members, facilitating the discussion, dissemination and promotion of equity objectives in health care.
 - **European Health Policy Research Network** unites a number of centres of excellence across Europe.
 - **Mental Health Economics European Network** of 17 European countries has extended to 31 countries with a major new grant from the EC.
 - **Preference Elicitation Group** was co-founded by Adam Oliver in 2002 and already has almost 200 members including economists, psychologists, behavioural scientists, philosophers and policy makers.
- For further information, please see the LSEHSC website.

Cowdray House



Contact details

LSE Health and Social Care is located in Cowdray House on Portugal Street, just behind the Economists Bookshop.

General enquiries should be directed to the Secretariat, J407, Cowdray House or tel: 020 7955 6840.

For further information on staff, research activities, publications, annual lectures and seminar programmes, see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/LSEHealthAndSocialCare

For information on the Social Policy Department, please tel: 020 7955 7345 or see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/socialpolicy