LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

RELATING CULTURES

LSE Gender Institute Literary Festival event

LSE Gendering the social sciences
gender institute PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

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

LSE events

Suggested hashtag for Twitter users: #lselitfest

Class Wars/Culture Wars

1st March 2012

Who makes chavs?

Sue Christoforou

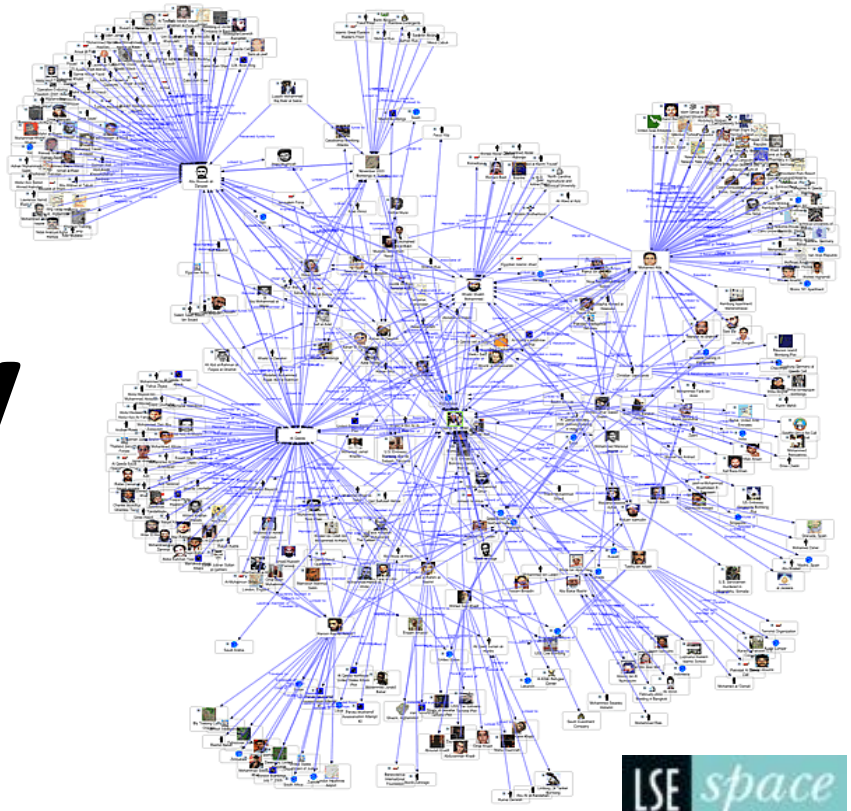
www.equalitytrust.org.uk

The Equality Trust

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Causes of disadvantage

V



LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Professor Sir Michael Marmot, internationally acclaimed epidemiologist

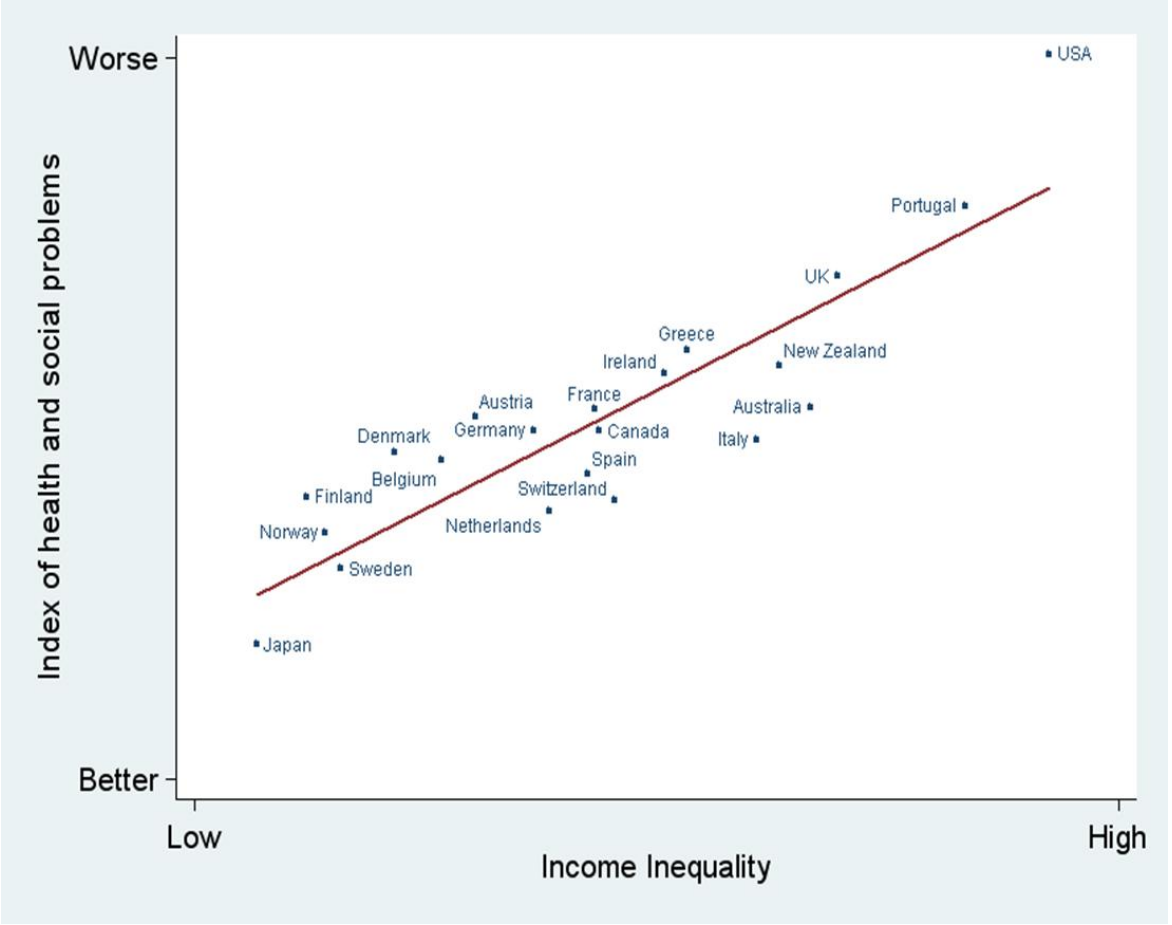
Income inequality is not just about material deprivation however. There is evidence that the degree of **inequality** in society, is having a **harmful effect on health**, not only of the poor, but of **society as a whole**. **Countries**, and areas within countries, **marked by greater inequality have 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.

Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review, 2010

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

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

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett (2009) The Spirit Level

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Drug Use is More Common in More Unequal Countries

Index of use of: opiates, cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, The Spirit Level (2009)

www.equalitytrust.org.uk

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett (2009) The Spirit Level

More Adults are Obese in More Unequal Rich Countries

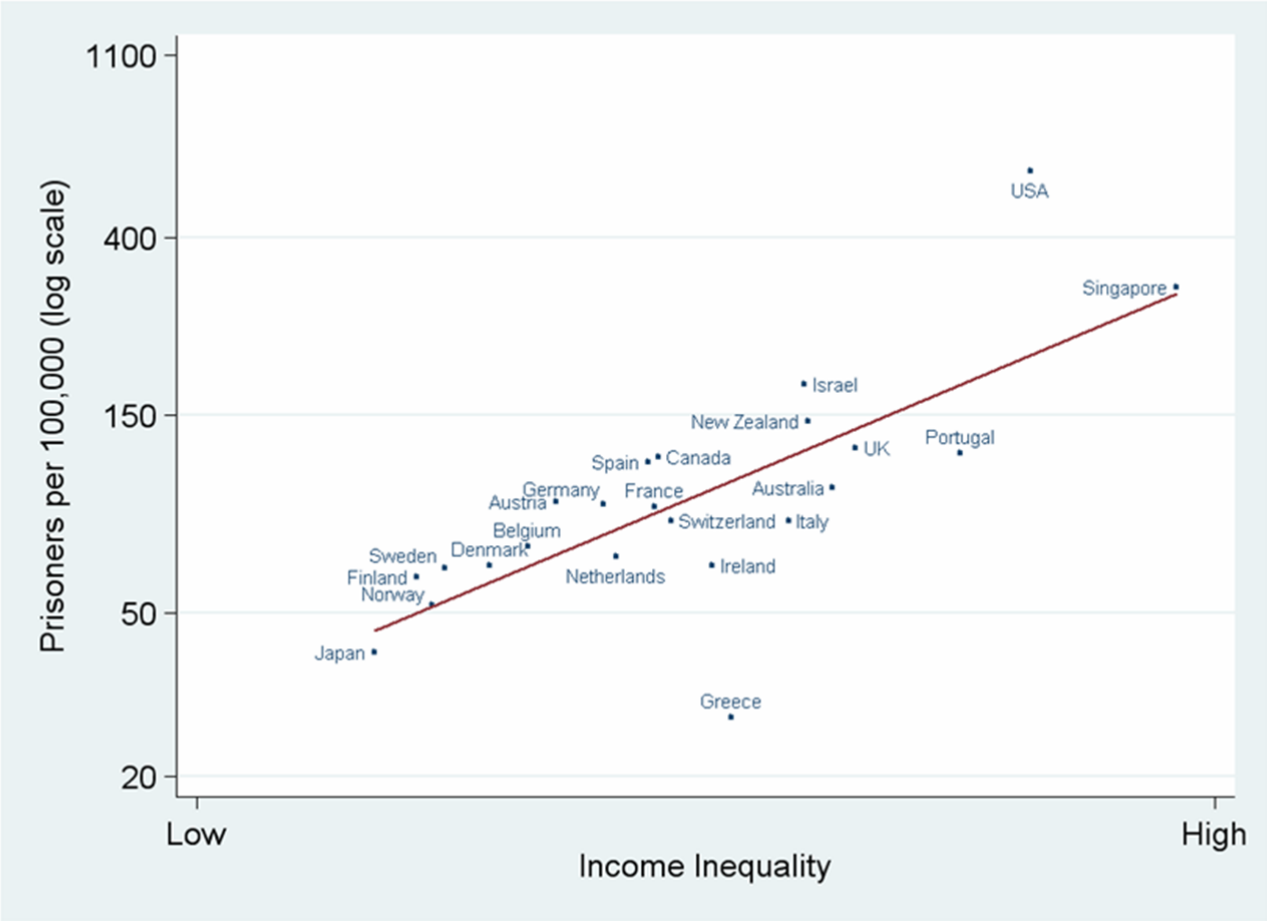
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, The Spirit Level (2009)

www.equalitytrust.org.uk

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett (2009) The Spirit Level

Rates of Imprisonment are Higher in More Unequal Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, The Spirit Level (2009)

www.equalitytrust.org.uk

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett (2009) The Spirit Level

Teenage Birth Rates are Higher in More Unequal Rich Countries

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, The Spirit Level (2009)

www.equalitytrust.org.uk

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Source: Wilkinson & Pickett (2009) The Spirit Level

= Systemic cause of poor health and social outcomes

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

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

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

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

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

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

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Estimated Total Overpayments in 2010/11

Estimated overpayments in 2010/11	Expenditure	Fraud & Error		Fraud		Customer Error		Official Error		Last measured
Continuously reviewed										
Income Support	£7.9bn	4.4%	£350m	2.4%	£190m	1.1%	£90m	0.9%	£70m	Oct 09 - Sep 10
Jobseeker's Allowance	£4.5bn	6.5%	£290m	4.1%	£180m	0.3%	£20m	2.1%	£100m	Oct 09 - Sep 10
Pension Credit[1]	£8.3bn	6.0%	£500m	2.3%	£190m	1.7%	£140m	2.0%	£170m	Oct 09 - Sep 10
Housing Benefit[2]	£21.6bn	4.4%	£960m	1.3%	£290m	2.6%	£560m	0.5%	£110m	Oct 09 - Sep 10
Incapacity Benefit[3]	£5.6bn	2.4%	£130m	0.3%	£20m	0.9%	£50m	1.2%	£70m	Oct 09 - Sep 10
Instrument of Payment			£0m		£0m					Oct 09 - Sep 10
Occasionally reviewed										
Disability Living Allowance[4]	£12.0bn	1.9%	£220m	0.5%	£60m	0.6%	£70m	0.8%	£90m	Apr 04 - Mar 05
Retirement Pension[5,6]	£69.9bn	0.1%	£100m	0.0%	£0m	0.1%	£60m	0.1%	£40m	Apr 05 - Mar 06
Carer's Allowance	£1.6bn	5.5%	£90m	3.9%	£60m	1.0%	£20m	0.6%	£10m	Apr 96 - Mar 97
Interdependencies[7]			£40m		£10m		£10m		£20m	Apr 10 - Mar 11
Unreviewed										
Unreviewed (excl. CTB)[8,9]	£17.2bn	2.3%	£390m	0.9%	£160m	0.6%	£100m	0.8%	£130m	
Council Tax Benefit[10]	£5.0bn	4.0%	£200m	1.2%	£60m	2.3%	£110m	0.5%	£30m	Oct 09 - Sep 10
Total[11]	**£153.6bn**	**2.1%**	**£3.3bn**	**0.8%**	**£1.2bn**	**0.8%**	**£1.2bn**	**0.5%**	**£0.8bn**	
Range[12]		(1.9,2.5)	(2.9,3.8)	(0.7,1.1)	(1.0,1.6)	(0.7,1.0)	(1.0,1.6)	(0.4,0.8)	(0.7,1.2)	

Fraud=£1.2bn

DWP 12 July 2011
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/nsfr-final-120711.pdf

“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

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

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

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

The Cost of Tax Abuse

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

	Country	GDP	Population	GDP per head of population	Size of Shadow Economy	Tax burden - overall %	Gov't spending as % of GDP	Size of Shadow Economy	Tax lost as a result of Shadow Economy
		US$'m		$	%	%	%	US$'m	US$'m
1	United States	14,582,400	312,582,000	46,651	8.6	26.9	38.9	1,254,086	337,349
2	Brazil	2,087,890	190,755,799	10,945	39.0	34.4	41	814,277	280,111
3	Italy	2,051,412	60,705,991	33,793	27.0	43.1	48.8	553,881	238,723
4	Russia	1,479,819	142,914,136	10,355	43.8	34.1	34.1	648,161	221,023
5	Germany	3,309,669	81,724,000	40,498	16.0	40.6	43.7	529,547	214,996
6	France	2,560,002	65,821,885	38,893	15.0	44.6	52.8	384,000	171,264
7	Japan	5,497,813	127,720,000	43,046	11.0	28.3	37.1	604,759	171,147
8	China	5,878,629	1,339,724,852	4,388	12.7	18	20.8	746,586	134,385
9	United Kingdom	2,246,079	62,300,000	36,053	12.5	38.9	47.3	280,760	109,216
10	Spain	1,407,405	46,162,024	30,488	22.5	33.9	41.1	316,666	107,350

Tax evasion=£69.9bn

The Tax Justice Network (2011) The Cost of Tax Abuse
www.tackletaxhavens.com/Cost_of_Tax_Abuse_TJN_Research_23rd_Nov_2011.pdf

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

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

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

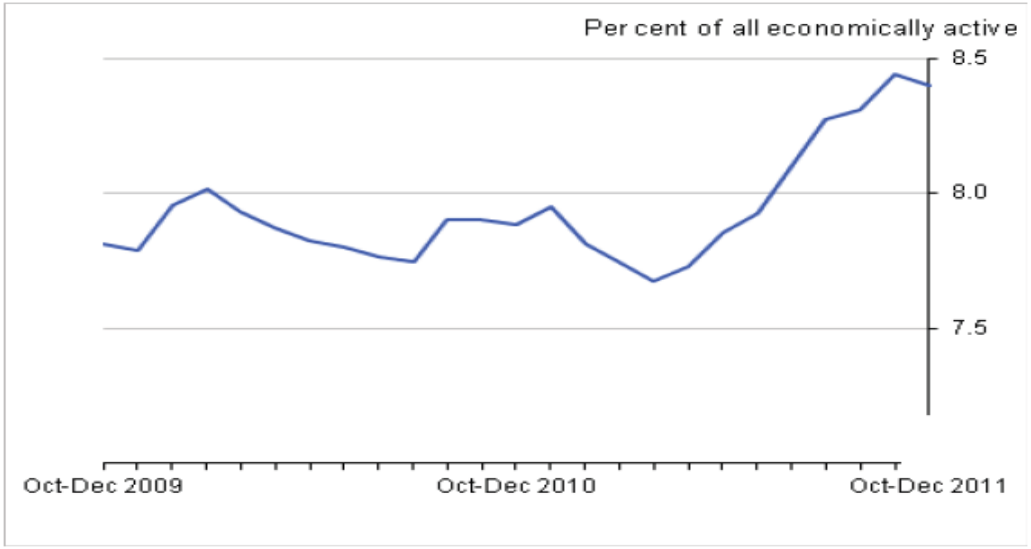
“So we've got to **make sure people have got the right skills**, that they don't see a risk in moving into employment and that this is not just a choice but it's actually the route they are going to take. So **I don't think it's a lack of jobs at the moment**, I think it really is **making sure that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

UK unemployment stuck at 17-year high as economy flatlines

The Guardian 15 February 2012

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Unemployment rate (aged 16+), seasonally adjusted



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

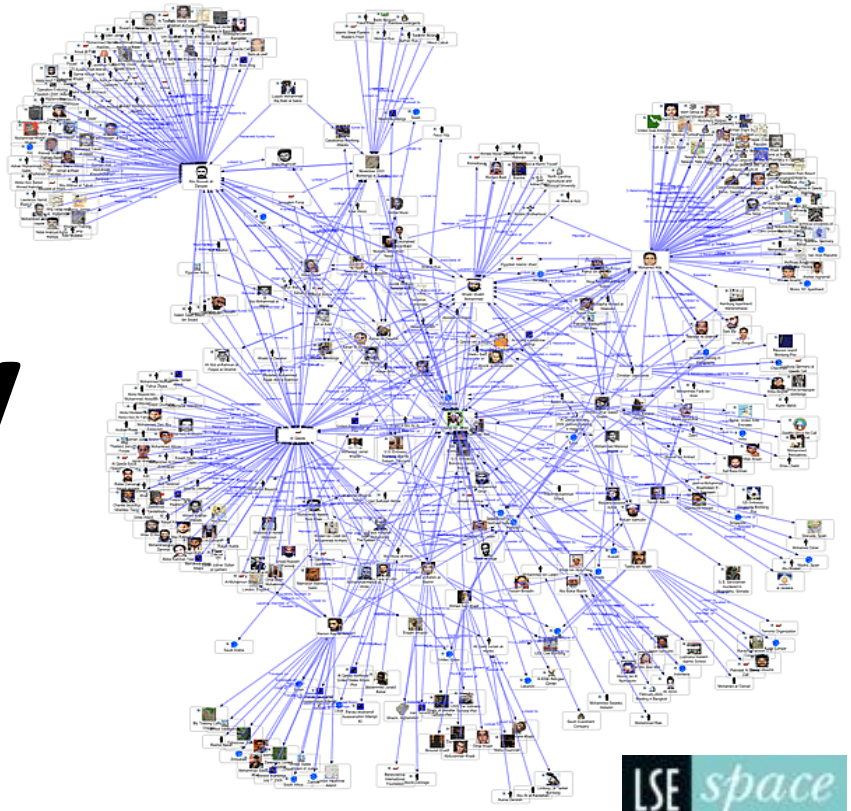
"The unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent of the economically active population, up 0.1 on the quarter. There were **2.67 million unemployed people**, up 48,000 on the quarter. The unemployment rate has **not been higher since 1995**."

Labour Market Statistics: February 2012 ONS 15 February 2012

LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

Causes of disadvantage

V



LSE space for thought LITERARY FESTIVAL

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