



Department of
Social Policy

Social Policy Degree Programmes 2020/21



Welcome



Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Social Policy!

The Department of Social Policy is an internationally recognised centre of teaching and research in social and public policy, ranked 3rd in the world. From its foundation

in 1912, the department has carried out cutting edge research on core social problems and helped to develop policy solutions.

The interests of the Department are varied and include:

poverty and inequality, welfare states and labour markets, social security, family demography and family policies, education policy, migration, race/ethnicity, gender, criminology and criminal justice policy, health and social care, social policy and development, and the role played by non-governmental organisations and civil society.

Our pedagogical approach is research-led and inclusive, focused on policy problems and solutions, using applications from around the world, and maximising opportunities for student learning.

We will equip you with a broad range of knowledge and skills that can be applied in many different settings. Many Social Policy alumni apply their academic training directly, working as policy specialists in the government, NGO, and private sectors.

The high-level analytical and research skills developed by our degree programmes are also highly valued by employers as diverse as management consultancy, media, teaching, and the development sector.

The LSE is a vibrant and exciting place. There is much to enjoy, both academically and socially. There are major public events – lectures, debates and so on – almost every day of the week. Being in the centre of a large capital city, close to the heart of government and all the main media, the LSE is uniquely well-placed to act as a host for many famous and distinguished visitors. You will have many opportunities outside your programme in the Department of Social Policy to learn about social and public policy.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Anne West

Head of Department

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Social policy

... **is concerned** with the ways societies across the world meet human needs for education, work, health, socioeconomic security and wellbeing.

... **addresses** how states and societies respond to global challenges of social, demographic and economic change, and of poverty, migration and globalisation.

... **analyses** the different roles of: national governments, the family, civil society, the market, and international organisations in providing services and support across the life course from childhood to old age. These services and support include child and family support, schooling and education, housing and neighbourhood renewal, income maintenance and poverty reduction, unemployment support and training, pensions, health and social care.

... **analyses** inequalities. It aims to identify and find ways of reducing inequalities in access to services and support between social groups defined by socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, migration status, gender, sexual orientation, disability and age, and between countries.

At LSE, social policy is explicitly international, interdisciplinary and applied.

Some of the department's specialisms include:

Development

"The study of social policy and development introduces students to the concepts, theoretical perspectives, and implementation of social policy in developing countries, considering the role of the state and non-state actors such as NGOs and families. This includes discussion of the challenges of achieving social and human development; conceptualisations and theories of the state, market and civil society as policy actors; citizenship, social justice, and rights based development; comparative approaches to the understanding of poverty, inequality, wellbeing and exclusion; global institutions and the international aid system; and power and the politics of the policy process."

Dr Timothy Hildebrandt, Associate Professor

Inequality

"One of the most dramatic changes in recent years has been the growth in inequalities of income and wealth in many countries around the world. This has profound consequences for many aspects of people's lives – from the life chances of children to differences in how long people from different backgrounds can be expected to live. In response, inequality has rapidly developed as one of the most important areas of study. At LSE, you will be introduced to a range of approaches to analysing inequality, drawing on multiple disciplines. You will develop awareness of different



conceptions of the meaning of inequality and poverty and gain insights into how it varies by gender, race and ethnicity. We will introduce you to different methods for measuring inequality, and the debates about the causes and consequences of increasing global inequality. Inequalities shape the environments within which many practitioners work and the contexts in which policies are formulated, making their understanding crucial for many careers.”

Professor Sir John Hills, Professor of Social Policy

Criminology

“Criminology provides an opportunity to apply concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical analyses from sociology, psychology and law to the subject of crime, social order and the major criminal justice institutions such as the police, courts and prisons. At LSE studying criminology involves exploring how inequalities of class, gender, and race interconnect with patterns of crime and social control. You will investigate policy attempts to control crime through prevention, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation and retribution, engaging with broader concerns about political economy, risk, surveillance, and citizenship. The challenges of how to respond to crime while upholding notions of justice and human rights makes this an exciting area of study.”

Dr Coretta Phillips, Associate Professor

Migration

“Migration is a constant in history, but the movement of people today exceeds anything that has been seen before. Migration both separates and connects people and countries across the world. Its study therefore involves consideration of global inequalities and human motivations. The study of migration at LSE is multidisciplinary and policy-oriented. To shed light on migration trends, causes and consequences involves considering how migrants are constructed in law and through social and public policy, and the implications of migrant status and attitudes to migrants for rights, access to services and mobility. You will investigate the complexity of reasons for migration, both internal and international, and how they interact with economic, social and policy environments at both origin and destination, and in both richer and poorer countries.”

Professor Lucinda Platt OBE, Professor of Social Policy

Undergraduate Programmes

BSc International Social and Public Policy L400

International social and public policy studies real world issues such as poverty, social exclusion and global population change.

It is about understanding and addressing social problems in society and examines the formation and implementation of policy, and how this affects people's wellbeing. As a multidisciplinary subject, it draws on theories and expertise from sociology, politics and economics.

The BSc International Social and Public Policy aims to provide a thorough understanding of how policies are formulated and implemented in industrialised societies, transition economies and the developing world. The Department takes a comparative, international and contemporary perspective: investigating the changing role of states, the non-profit sector, the market and informal providers like families and communities in producing social welfare.

You will study a broad range of fields from social, economic and political standpoints. These include health and social care, social security, education, and urban issues as well as cross cutting dimensions like gender, race, international development and the impact of globalisation. You will examine issues such as levels of social security benefits and their eligibility conditions, the nature of private-public partnerships in health service provision, or the mix of local authority schools and academies.

You can also choose to take a specialism in Development which you can qualify for by taking a core specialism module in your second year and conducting your third year dissertation research in relation to development.

Usual standard offer: A-level (AAB), International Baccalaureate (Diploma with 37 points including 666 at Higher level). Other qualifications considered.

Also available as joint honours programmes:

BSc International Social and Public Policy and Economics LLK1

This programme enables you to study a joint honours degree in the closely linked fields of social policy and economics. You will learn how to apply economic concepts to policy issues and about the connections between them. For example, you will consider that it is prosperous economies that can most easily introduce and support generous social policies; but the nature of social policy provision can have substantial impacts on how an economy performs. With your Social Policy courses, you learn about issues facing societies around the world today, such as how best to finance and provide cash benefits, health and social care, and education, housing and social services, and how the issues have been addressed in the past and in different countries. With your Economics courses, you learn about economic success at a national and international level (macroeconomics) and about the interactions of firms, governments, and individuals within countries (microeconomics).

Usual standard offer: A-level (AAB, including an A in Mathematics), International Baccalaureate (Diploma with 37 points including 666 at Higher level (to include Mathematics)). Other qualifications considered.



BSc International Social and Public Policy with Politics LL42

Social policy and politics are closely linked. The social policies you see around you were not created in a vacuum but reflect an accumulation of decisions in which political behaviour by citizens and their representatives, and governments and other organisations at local, national and international levels, have all played key roles.

The programme is designed to provide you with the skills to understand how voters, political parties and politicians, civil servants, different governmental departments and agencies interact, whether proposing, modifying, blocking or implementing policies across the world. You will discuss current and past social policies and the analytical principles underlying them. Areas of study might include levels of social security benefits and their eligibility conditions, the nature of private-public partnerships in health service provision, or the mix of local authority schools and academies.

Our students go on to jobs in the private, public and third sectors, many working at the sharp end of the interactions referred to above.

Usual standard offer: A-level (AAB), International Baccalaureate (Diploma with 37 points including 666 at Higher level). Other qualifications considered.

For full information on undergraduate entry requirements please go to:

lse.ac.uk/ugAdmissionsCriteria

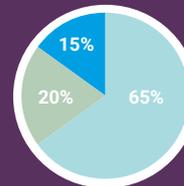


Samiha Begum

“I was always interested in politics, but more interested in change and how to achieve positive social change in society with a specific interest in understanding how to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable groups. I considered social policy to be the most important aspect of governance and knew that studying Social Policy at degree

level would give me the ability to study on a macro level a range of different areas with the opportunity to specialise.

By studying at the LSE in London, you are right in the centre of any huge events or changes. The world changed a lot in the three years I spent at university, and with every policy change, election or crisis I felt like I had a front seat with leading commentators, professionals and academics to help develop my own understandings of it.”



Undergraduate Students

- Home Students
- EU Students
- International Students

Undergraduate Programmes continued

Our undergraduate courses (modules) give you a thorough understanding of the fundamental features of social and public policy and cover real world issues in many fields. There are both core (compulsory) courses, as well as options from a wide range of areas.

We have included some examples below. For full information on all of our courses you can visit lse.ac.uk/calendar

Understanding International Social and Public Policy

The course introduces students to the study and practice of international social and public policy. It considers how and why societies organise to address social needs, with reference to policy and academic debates across so-called developed and developing country contexts. In the first half of the course, we consider different approaches to conceptualising the organisation of activities to address social needs. We examine the development of and changes to welfare systems and strategies in different contexts, and the roles and relationships of the state, market, civil society and families, drawing on selected country case studies. In the second half, we examine how individuals are positioned in different ways in welfare systems and strategies (e.g. as citizens, consumers, activists), with reference to different policy agendas and institutional reforms, and to the implications for the agency of people in addressing social needs.

Sociology and Social Policy

Why are women paid less than men? Does the neighbourhood where you live matter for your life chances? Do we live in a meritocracy? Is it more important who you know or what you know? How are ethnic inequalities perpetuated? This course explores classical and contemporary sociological theories and research that have addressed such questions. We look at concepts relating to class, status and social mobility, gender and the domestic division of labour, socialisation, identity, discrimination, urbanisation and neighbourhood effects, and social capital. Based on key readings and practical exercises, we debate how well these theories and concepts are supported by current evidence.

Social Economics and Policy

This course provides an introduction to the economics of social policy and the economics of income distribution. The course begins by introducing basic economic concepts and principles and discussing their application to different social policy areas, including childcare, education, health care, social care, housing and the environment. Key concepts include supply, demand and elasticities, externalities and market failure, private insurance and social insurance. The course goes on to analyse the distribution of household income and the drivers of poverty and inequality, including unemployment, low wages and wage inequality. It covers concepts of human capital and productivity and looks at a range of policy responses, including minimum wage legislation, trade union policy, government economic management, taxation and the social security system.

Migration: Current Research, Critical Approaches

This interdisciplinary course addresses contemporary global migration issues with reference to both developing and developed country contexts and to different patterns and forms of migration. The course examines the relationship between migration and social and public policies, including the implications for how migrants and migration are conceptualised, for inequalities in the movement of people, for welfare systems, and for the impacts of migration in countries of origin and destination. It draws on current approaches to researching migration, and considers the implications of those approaches.

Psychology of Crime and Criminal Justice

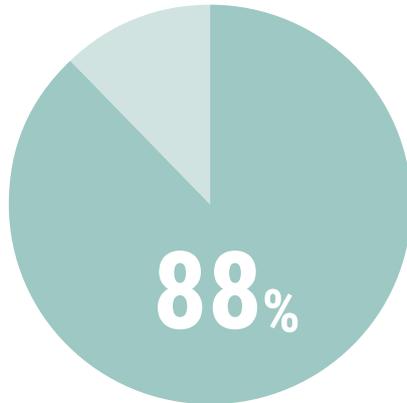
The course examines the contribution that psychology has made to our understanding of crime and criminal justice. It explores what psychological theory and research have to tell us about the causes of crime and the ways in which we respond to such behaviour. Particular attention is paid to the development of individual criminality and criminal careers; drug and alcohol related crime; varieties of criminal behaviour including violence, sexual crime and stalking; mental disorder and crime; victims and public attitudes towards punishment; offender profiling and criminal investigation; eye witness testimony and legal decision making; rehabilitation and imprisonment.



Undergraduate Career Destinations

International Social and Public Policy

Our Social Policy graduates:



**in work or further study within
6 months of graduation.**

Top Employer Industries: Investment banking; Accounting; Education and teaching; NGOs and charities; Public Sector and Government

Top employers

Amazon UK
Cabinet Office (UK)
Cambridge Associates
Childhood Trust
Civil Service
Department for Business Innovation and Skills (UK)
Department for Work and Pensions (UK)
European Youth Forum
Goldman Sachs
Government Digital Service
Harvard Business Schools
Home Office (UK)
House of Commons (UK)
Islington Council
KPMG
Momentum Campaign
National Center for Child Health and Development (Japan)
Nuffield Trust
Royal Society for Public Health
Sainsbury's
UBS
UK Parliament





Postgraduate Programmes

MSc International Social and Public Policy

You can choose to pursue your studies towards either:

- **The general MSc ISPP or a subject specialism in:**
- **Development**
- **Migration**
- **Non-Governmental Organisations**
- **Research**

The MSc International Social and Public Policy (ISPP) addresses how states and societies respond to global challenges of social, demographic and economic change, and of poverty, migration and globalisation. It is underpinned by the LSE approach to social and public policy that is explicitly international, interdisciplinary and applied.

The MSc International Social and Public Policy

- provides students with advanced postgraduate education in social & public policy and how it relates to social problems across high, low and middle income countries and transnationally;
- enables students including those with professional backgrounds in social & public policy to engage in new ways of thinking about how best to meet human needs and increase wellbeing;

- equips students with core understanding of central issues of social and public policy development, of the inequalities in policy drivers and outcomes, and of the interrelationship between the state market, family and NGOs / civil society in provision, organisation and funding;
- provides students with the opportunity to specialise in areas of specific interest in social and public policy.
- Equips you with transferable and highly marketable research skills and an in-depth understanding of social and public policy.
- Equips you to evaluate, commission or lead your own research, for example through continuing academic study or employment in an international organisation, government, NGO, public body or the private sector. (Research specialism)

This programme equips students to work in social & public policy fields in government, NGOs, international organisations, private sector providers or in academia. More information on the career destinations of social policy graduates can be found on page 20.

Minimum entry requirements: undergraduate degree (UK: 2:1 or overseas equivalent) in a relevant social science. Professional experience is advantageous. Standard level of English.

Research specialism: Social science background and/or work experience in the social policy field advantageous but not essential.

Postgraduate Programmes continued

LSE-Fudan Double Master's in International Social and Public Policy

This exciting, new double degree programme is designed for students interested in the MSc International Social and Public Policy, but who also desire an even more internationalised experience by studying in two contrasting country contexts (UK and China) over two years.

It will provide you with systematic understanding of international social and public policy that is broadly relevant and appropriately nuanced for countries in the Global North and the Global South, such as China; identify the multifaceted sources of social problems and how various

stakeholders, governments and non-governments alike, attempt to address them. You will also familiarise yourself with different theoretical frameworks and critically assess and apply such lenses to help explain current problems and issues of import to social policy scholars and practitioners. The course is designed to develop students' knowledge and appreciation for different research skills, techniques and methodologies prevalent in the studies of social and public policy, as well as to develop the practical ability to apply them.

The programme is structured as follows:

In year 1, you will pursue the MSc in International Social and Public Policy at LSE in London, followed by a Masters in Management in Public Policy at Fudan University in Shanghai. Upon successful completion of the 2-year programme, you are awarded two Master's degrees – one from LSE and another from Fudan University.

The first year at LSE will introduce you to the key ideas, concepts, and theories for the study of international social and public policy.

The second year at Fudan is composed of core courses (with an emphasis on social policy and processes in China), basic courses (on Chinese government and governance and Chinese language), and electives courses (with an emphasis on social policy issues of particular import to China and the developing world generally).

All instruction, both at LSE and Fudan, is in English. However, you will have the opportunity to do Chinese language study during both years of the programme.

Minimum entry requirements: undergraduate degree (UK: 2:1 degree or overseas equivalent) in a relevant social science. Higher level of English required.



MSc Criminal Justice Policy

The MSc Criminal Justice Policy offers an exciting opportunity to learn how concepts and theoretical perspectives from criminology, sociology, law and psychology to the subjects of crime, social order and criminal justice institutions.

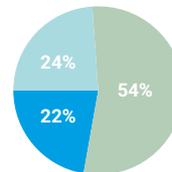
It will provide you with the intellectual tools, from theory, empirical research, and policy analysis, to engage with current debates within criminology and criminal justice. You will also familiarise yourself with the ways in which historical and international comparative perspectives help us to understand current trends. The teaching is provided by internationally renowned criminologists in the Departments of Social Policy, Law and Sociology.

You will consider challenging questions such as: How can we explain the significant crime drop seen in most Western nations in recent decades? What can government or other agencies do to reduce fear of crime? Should people go to prison for public protection or as punishment? Will reduced government spending on the police lead to an increase in crime? How can political economy and cultural analysis account for variations in penal policy across states?

You will also be able to attend the Mannheim Centre for Criminology's seminar series and events. You will leave the programme with critical thinking, analytical, problem-solving, and communication skills.

Graduates usually move into careers in the criminal justice professions, policy work or research in governments and charities, or into academia.

Minimum entry requirements: undergraduate degree (UK: 2:1 or overseas equivalent) in a social science or law, or in another field with relevant practitioner experience. Standard level of English.

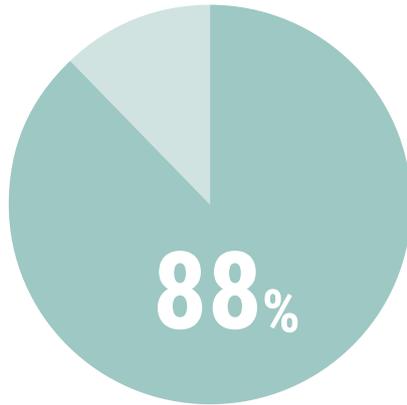


Postgraduate Students

- Home Student
- EU Student
- International Students

Postgraduate Career Destinations

Our Postgraduates:



in work or further study within 6 months of graduation.

Top Employer Industries: Consultancy; Research; Education and Teaching; NGOs and Charities; Public Sector and Government

Example employers

ActionAid UK

Amnesty International

Bank of Ningbo

Busan Development Institute

Centre for Economic Research, Pakistan

Department for Work and Pensions, UK

European Commission

Ghana Centre for Democratic Development

Google

Government of Canada, Employment and Social Development

Government of Chile, Ministry of Social Development

Government of Turkey, Ministry of Development

HM Civil Service

House of Lords, UK

HSBC

Inter- American Development Bank

Korea Foundation for International Healthcare

KPMG

Law Commission

Mexican Social Institute

National Commission for the Protection of Children's Rights

NATO

New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD)

PwC

Texas Access to Justice Commission

The Legislative Bureau of the House of Representatives

United Nations

World Vision International



Research Programmes



Research Degree Programmes

The MPhil/PhD programmes in the Department of Social Policy aim to provide research students with the skills and competencies that will enable them to successfully undertake original primary research in the broad fields of either social policy or demography. In the first year students follow a compulsory seminar course (covering the MPhil/PhD process, ethics, risk, research skills etc.). They must also present their work to fellow students and staff, prior to upgrade to PhD status which follows a formal assessment of their proposed doctoral research. Students may attend courses in the Methodology Department. There is also a seminar course for second and third year students; the key element of this involves third year PhD students presenting their work to fellow students and staff in advance of submitting their third year review.

Throughout the programme, students meet regularly with their supervisor(s) to discuss and gain feedback on their work. At the end of the programme, the student submits a thesis; this must form a distinct

contribution to knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power. There is a diverse cohort of students carrying out social policy research on topics including disadvantage and inequalities, international development, criminal justice, family policies, education policy and demography population studies.

Destinations of former PhD students have included research and lecturing positions at UK universities and overseas institutions (in North and South America, Europe, China and East Asia) along with employment with World Bank, UK government (E.g. Ministry of Justice, Home Office, HMRC) and the US government.

Master's degree marks equivalent to an LSE high merit grade, preferably in Social Policy, Public Policy or other relevant discipline, with an overall average of 65 per cent in their MSc (or equivalent) and 65 per cent in their dissertation (or equivalent).

Visiting Research Students

Visiting research students are normally PhD students registered at overseas universities who wish to undertake some aspect of their research in the UK. Students may spend up to 9 months in the Department of Social Policy. A supervisor is assigned to every student and advice and direction offered as necessary. The student can also take up to four full unit taught courses, but examinations are optional, and grades do not contribute towards a degree.

Master's degree marks equivalent to an LSE high merit grade, preferably in Social Policy, Public Policy or other relevant discipline, with an overall average of 65 per cent in their MSc (or equivalent) and 65 per cent in their dissertation (or equivalent).

LSE Careers



LSE Careers is here to help guide you through the careers maze with a comprehensive range of careers and employment services.

We cater our services to match LSE student makeup, keeping undergraduates and postgraduates in mind as well as UK and international students, people with previous job experience, and those looking to change careers. And no matter where you want to work, we can support you. We also have bespoke services for students with disabilities and PhD students, including dedicated careers consultants.

In addition to this, we also work closely with the Department of Social Policy to offer undergraduate and postgraduate students a series of bespoke events.

Our support services include:

- Career planning
- Experience and employability
- Finding a job
- Applications and interviews

Contact LSE Careers

Call: 020 7955 7135

Email: careers@lse.ac.uk

LSE Careers online website: lse.ac.uk/careers

Twitter: [@LSECareers](https://twitter.com/LSECareers)

Facebook: [/LSECareers](https://www.facebook.com/LSECareers)

Blog: blogs.lse.ac.uk/careers

Our Alumni



Emily Murrell Undergraduate Alum

I thoroughly enjoyed my degree, in particular the poverty and social exclusion module I chose in my second year and the compulsory international and comparative social policy module in my third year.

On a practical level it taught me about how our political system works, how policy is created/reviewed and about the challenges our society faces. On a personal level, it gave me the confidence and ability to negotiate, influence others and communicate in an effective manner verbally and in writing. My degree certainly gave me the knowledge, network and skills I needed to pursue a successful career in the British Government. I currently work as Senior Policy Advisor in the Cabinet Office in the European and Global Issues Secretariat as a permanent UK Civil Servant. My job primarily involves protecting the UK's interests on climate and energy policy in the EU and internationally.



Hannah Harniess Postgraduate Alum

I have loved my time at LSE. As a working mother of three, I was apprehensive about embarking on a master's degree and meeting the high standards expected by the School. However, the Department has been incredibly supportive and enabled me to excel despite the challenges

I faced. My experience at LSE has given me skills which will benefit me for life. As a clinician I have many years' experience of frontline healthcare, however through my study at LSE I have been able to look critically at health and social policy and grapple with the drivers of the current population health challenges we face. The School motto of 'rerum cognoscere causas' has permeated my learning experience and I have graduated with the skills to confidently contribute to high level debate regarding the future of our healthcare system. The master's programme has given me the opportunity to move into a leadership position within the NHS and I am thriving on translating the knowledge and skills learnt at LSE into practice.



Dr Louise Caffrey MPhil/PhD Alum

The PhD in social policy from the LSE gave me a qualification from a highly prestigious university, which has served me very well in my career, but the experience went far beyond this. Researching under the supervision of a world-leading expert in child protection in a department filled with prestigious academics and students from around the world was the most intellectually enriching experience of my life. Since my PhD, I have been working as a postdoctoral research fellow in King's College London, where I continue to work on research relevant to my PhD and where I lecture on post-graduate courses and supervise master's students' dissertations.



LSE Lecture Series

LSE hosts a public lecture programme featuring over 200 events each year, where some of the most influential figures in the social sciences can be heard. lse.ac.uk/Events/Search-Events



LSE Students' Union (LSESU)



The LSE Students' Union is a not-for-profit organisation run by LSE students, for LSE students. Their aim is to help you make the most of all the life-changing experiences open to you during your time at university.

Having been a part of the LSE since 1897, all LSE students automatically become LSESU members when they enrol. Members join one of the UK's most active Unions, and make it whatever they need it to be. Students can become a member of a society, join a sports team; campaign on things that matter to them; have fun at student club nights; or simply enjoy refreshments in not-for-profit cafes and bars in the award-winning Saw Swee Hock Student Centre, located right at the heart of campus.

lsesu.com/



lse.ac.uk/socialpolicy

@LSESocialPolicy



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London School of Economics
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How to Apply

Undergraduate

lse.ac.uk/undergraduate

Postgraduate

lse.ac.uk/graduate

Why is **inequality** increasing?

What kind of care do we need for our **ageing population**?

Do cash **benefits** discourage work?

What challenges does **globalisation** pose for social policies?

Can we eliminate **child poverty**?

What is the effect of war and famine on **fertility rates**?

What causes reductions or increases in **crime**?

What causes **riots**?

How can we measure the **wellbeing of society**?

Who benefits and who loses from **immigration**?