The London School of Economics and Political Science is a School of the University of London. It is a charity and is incorporated in England as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts (Reg no 70527).

The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances.

Project Management and Editorial Coordination:
Sofía Muñoz González
Project Assistant: Nina Loncar
Design: LSE Design Unit (lse.ac.uk/designunit)
Front cover: Johnny Miller, 2017/18 Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity
www.millefoto.com
@johnny_miller_photography

International Inequalities Institute
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
MISSION STATEMENT

The International Inequalities Institute

The International Inequalities Institute (III) is a centre for rigorous research into the nature, causes and consequences of the multiple inequalities afflicting our world today. Because social, economic, political and cultural inequalities are inherently intertwined, the institute welcomes methods and approaches from across the social sciences and encourages interdisciplinary dialogue. Because those inequalities inevitably cut across national boundaries, our work is international in scope. We believe that rigorous research can and should engage with practice and policy, and we seek to promote linkages between theory, empirics and practice. These are our core values:

- **Rigour**: we seek to promote research of the highest academic standards, all the more so because we intend it to inform practice and the policy debate.

- **Interdisciplinarity**: based at one of the world’s premier social science universities, we believe that bringing together scholarly perspectives from across the social sciences enriches the analysis of inequality in its multiple dimensions.

- **An international scope**: through the ebbs and flows of globalisation, the world is increasingly interconnected and so are its inequalities. We promote research on inequality around the world, ranging from the local to the global in scope.

- **Engagement**: we believe research can be rigorous and intellectually independent while simultaneously informing and being informed by the challenges of practice and policy.

  - As a core part of that engagement, we provide a platform to support students and Atlantic Fellows from across the globe who are passionate about addressing inequality. We learn from their experiences, help them enhance their knowledge and expand their repertoires, and provide them with confidence and support.
Outgoing III Director’s Report

Professor Mike Savage

This summer, I stand down as Director of the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III), after five amazing, if occasionally gruelling, years. I am delighted to do this with the III in the robust shape that it has ever been in. I am confident that we can play a vital role in addressing the ever more obvious challenges that inequality poses to society. I look forward to working with Chico Ferreira, the new Director, and the amazing III team in the future in this endeavour.

My initial Co-Director, John Hills, and myself have been incredibly grateful for the support which we have received from colleagues, students, funders, friends and supporters, both within and outside LSE. Without this support, the III would never have proven to be the powerful presence that it has turned out to be. This support allowed us to turn a vision – that the challenge of inequality was so serious and urgent and that LSE needed to develop an independent institute to address it – into a firm reality, which far exceeds our initial plans. Looking back to when the III was conceived in 2014, I now realise just how hard it is to establish an interdisciplinary institute. The social sciences, at LSE as elsewhere, are so wedded to operating through disciplines that it is incredibly challenging to develop an institutional form. A form which works independently of departments, yet also seeks not to work as an autonomous unit. One which welcomes disciplinary collaboration and cross fertilisation. I am hugely grateful for the support of Atlantic Philanthropies who have provided long-term funding, not only to the Atlantic Fellows Programme in Social and Economic Equity (APSEE), but also core funding to the III itself, running until 2036. They have also endowed the Sen Chair in Inequality Studies, which Chico Ferreira has now taken up. Even more than this funding, I have been struck, time and again, by the generosity of LSE colleagues who have given their time and effort – usually without resources – to make the III such a success.

Me Too and Black Lives Matter have demonstrated how sexism and racism remain brutally visible, and how much more needs to be done to address these structural inequalities.

Professor Mike Savage

In my time as III Director I have seen the inequality clouds darken. Inequality is not simply an abstract topic needing theoretical elaboration or improved measurement tools. It presses down on the lives and experiences of billions of people across the globe. The excesses of wealthy and irresponsible elites have become utterly dysfunctional. A key intellectual inspiration for our work was that economic growth, far from solving social problems, could actually go hand in hand with sharpening divides and divisions. This has certainly been borne out. This was evident at our inception in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash and the way that austerity for many could sit alongside prosperity for a few. The dramatic world events of the past year have powerfully exposed the systematic forces of inequality ever more frighteningly. Me Too and Black Lives Matter have demonstrated how sexism and racism remain brutally visible, and how much more needs to be done to address these structural inequalities. To this extent, the work of the III remains very much in its infancy – we have to be far more effective than we currently are if we are to make a tangible difference. Nonetheless, the range of our work, running from major research projects, through to our high-profile events, engagement programme, and our extensive teaching portfolio, will surely be important resources in this future work.

Incoming Director’s Report

Professor Francisco H G Ferreira

Growing up in São Paulo, Brazil during the 1970s and 1980s it was hard not to develop an interest in inequality. Brazil was then one of the most unequal unequal countries in the world and it remains among the top 10 today. On a personal level, I remember being struck by the permanence – the durability – of those stark inequalities. It was clear, even to a boy, that the children selling chewing gum on the other side of my parents’ car window would lead lives – whole lives – very different from my own.

The injustice of that kind of inequality has shaped my interests and my work ever since. After working with an adult literacy programme, using Paulo Freire’s method in a São Paulo slum (Vila dos Jardins), I was fortunate enough to earn a scholarship to come to study economics at LSE. I was able to learn from some of the best minds working on issues related to poverty and inequality – including Tony Atkinson, Frank Cowell, and Nick Stern. Frequent visitors included Philippe Aghion, François Bourguignon, Amartya Sen and Frances Stewart. Fellow PhD students – permanent or visiting – included Daron Acemoglu and Thomas Piketty. Already then, LSE was a crucible of ideas for understanding – and transforming – inequality.

What a great privilege – and challenge – then, to have the opportunity to return to LSE almost exactly 25 years later, to join an interdisciplinary institute dedicated entirely to studying and fighting inequalities, in its multiple dimensions. Unfortunately, in this quarter century that challenge has only grown more urgent. Although global income inequality has most likely been declining in this period – as LSE Centennial Professor Branko Milanovic has documented – income gaps have grown within many countries. In the Global North, inequality has grown in most countries. In some, like the United States, it has risen so markedly that it threatens to unwind the existing social contract and rip through the social fabric. New work using tax data and other sources, has placed the top of the income and wealth distributions under the microscope. In some countries, the documented rising economic oligarchies threaten social cohesion and even the integrity of political democracy.

Even as economic inequalities rise in many places, some of the world’s most salient and egregious inequalities are not purely income based. The brutal killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis earlier this summer, and the huge public response through the Black Lives Matter protests in the United States (and beyond), have reminded us of the deep-seated and highly-durable racial and other ascriptive inequalities around the world. Of course, they had never really gone away and they are by no means exclusive to the United States. Police brutality against Afro-Brazilians may be less well-documented and less widely publicised, but it is – I suspect – at least equal in horrific magnitude to its North American counterpart. Caste and religious inequalities in India – while arising in different historical and cultural contexts – are equally unfair, violent, and demeaning. Like racial inequalities in countries with a heritage of slavery, caste and religious discrimination in South Asia can be harnessed by political forces with disastrous consequences. They also powerfully intersect with gender inequality, engendering multiple deprivations.

Twenty-five years ago, we were unaware of climate change. Today, climate change and inequality (broadly defined) are two of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Naturally, they are intertwined: climate change will not be – indeed already is not – distribution-neutral. It will affect countries differently, and it will affect different people within each country differently. Changes in crop patterns are likely to threaten the livelihoods of some of the world’s poorest people – many of whom are subsistence farmers in countries ill-prepared to provide alternative sources of employment.

Even as economic inequalities rise in many places, some of the world’s most salient and egregious inequalities are not purely income based.

Professor Francisco H G Ferreira
As with global warming and intensifying natural disasters, there was an initial tendency to think of the COVID-19 pandemic as a “great leveller”, killing rich and poor indiscriminately. It is now abundantly clear that this is far from the truth. The pandemic has killed differently across age, gender, racial and income groups. Poorer people, living in more cramped conditions and – in many countries – with less access to clean water and sanitation, have been disproportionally affected. They also have fewer savings, and often hold jobs that cannot be done remotely and in isolation. This has exacerbated inequalities in the loss of both lives and livelihoods.

The analytical and policy challenges we face at the International Inequalities Institute are therefore momentous. This is why I am particularly fortunate to “inherit” the III in such excellent shape from Mike Savage, who has been a superb leader of the institute since he co-founded it with John Hills five years ago. At a time of considerable uncertainty in the UK higher education sector as a whole, the III is fortunate to benefit from a secure funding core, owing to the generosity of the Atlantic Foundation. Even more importantly, we are endowed with a wonderful team and fabulous collaborators from across the School and beyond. Under Armine Ishkanian’s able leadership, we host the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme, of which we are now welcoming a fourth cohort. These fellows are leading practitioners and activists who face inequality “at the coal face” in their daily work. The intermingling of their practical experience and perspectives on the scholarly work of LSE’s researchers is one feature that makes the III unique. We are also proud to contribute to the curriculum of the master’s in Inequality and the Social Sciences programme, run by the Sociology Department. We also host our own vibrant doctoral seminar programme, as well as a very popular programme of public events – currently moved online.

We also have three thriving research themes already in operation. Mike Savage himself leads the Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice theme, which has generated various new findings on wealth inequality in the UK just over the past 12 months. Their work contributes to the design of radically well-informed proposals for progressive tax reform in this country. This coming academic year, Neil Lee is taking over the leadership of the Jobs, Cities and Economic Change theme from David Soskice, the institute’s outgoing Research Director. David has been a pillar of the III since its inception, both as a scholar and as a friendly mentor to many of our younger colleagues. I am delighted that he will retain his office at, and remain closely involved with, the institute. We are also extremely fortunate that Alpa Shah has agreed to lead our Economies of Care theme – whose importance is highlighted during these difficult times – following Beverley Skeggs’ departure to Lancaster University. To these three, Armine Ishkanian and Ellen Helsper are adding a fourth theme, dedicated to the study of the Politics of Inequality from the bottom up.

In the years to come, even as we continue to consolidate these streams of work, we will also invest in new programmes on inequality of opportunity and intergenerational mobility, as well as on some of the challenges highlighted above, such as climate change. We will also build on existing and new partnerships with colleagues in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, extending the range of our work in the Global South. I look forward to working with all of my wonderful colleagues at the III – and indeed at LSE more broadly – to ensure that we do our part to better understand and fight unfairness and injustice.
Last summer, the III developed three distinctive research themes in order to make decisive contributions to academic and political debates around key inequality issues. In this annual report, I am delighted that you can read several accounts written by III colleagues on their findings from a range of exciting projects, which form part of our “Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice” theme, which I coordinate. This theme is inspired by research insights from economics, anthropology, political science and sociology, which emphasise that inequalities associated with wealth and debt dwarf income inequality. They have major implications for many other inequalities—such as those concerning the racial wealth gap, or gender inequality. Yet it is striking that wealth inequality has nonetheless been under-researched compared to numerous other issues and needs more extended comparative study.

Over the past year, we have made great strides forward. The piece, by economist Arun Advani and lawyer Andy Summers, discusses their path-breaking work using UK taxation data, in a “Preston model”. This model seeks to renew co-operative wealth-building models, most famously in the British context “the Preston model”. This model is part of institutions reconsidering their own historical and contemporary locations as a means of self-critique and of questioning the critical potential of arts institutions but also outline an emergent institutional politics which acknowledges the way that inequalities are sustained and accumulated over long periods of time and is committed to addressing “historic wrongs”. In developing the concept of an “institutional politics of place”, we argue that this geographical sensitivity is part of institutions reconsidering their own historical and contemporary locations as a means of self-critique and of subverting universalising narratives that mask dominant power. Beyond these two key outputs, we are currently working on another journal article which analyses the ways in which social elites exert and sustain their power through their ownership of institutions.

It is important to recognise that wealth inequality can be challenged, and there are important projects seeking to do exactly this. In a similar vein, sociologist Katharina Hecht reports on a project funded by the Sutton Trust reflecting on whether, in Britain, the elite are “pulling away” as their wealth has increased. The answer is “yes”—but in opaque ways which often stop them from being directly recognised as such. This partly reflects the way they are bound up with geographical shifts, in which wealthier areas, especially in London, stand out, and through their relationship with attaining high qualifications.

But the significance of wealth inequality isn’t just economic or through shaping small affluent elites: there are much wider spill-over effects. Sociologist Kristina Kolbe reports on a project with myself, Nicola Lacey and Chris Upton-Hansen on “Art and inequality”, which explores how the art market is increasingly driven by wealth inequality, precisely because of the investment premium which art can command. This process is shaping the strategies of gallery directors, curators, and artists in affecting the public and critical role of art as it becomes subservient to commercial interests. However, we show that curators are being creative and dynamic and are far from being rolled over by the forces of wealth investment.

Another issue is that wealth inequality has no upper limit. There is a ceiling for the highest paid earners—even though this is much higher than many of us would like. Top levels of wealth inequality have taken on an almost stratospheric quality. High incomes can be defended meritocratically in terms of the skills and capacities of top earners. However, it is hard to know how much wealth can be justified when it may be inherited or is unearned income. Sociologists, Fabien Accominotti and Jonathan Mijic, have therefore been looking at how richness can be justified, more specifically the conditions under which such inequalities can be tolerated, even justified.

It is important to recognise that wealth inequality can be challenged, and there are important projects seeking to do exactly this. Anthropologist Luna Glucksberg reports on her research, funded by the Baer Foundation, examining “local wealth-building models”, most famously in the British context the “Preston model”. This model seeks to renew co-operative principles in order to build up local supply chains, and hence reduce the hold of financial capital. She shows that this model, even in its infancy, is having positive effects and offers important resources for future action.

I hope you will enjoy reading about these projects, which give an indication of the work we are supporting, and which we are now building on. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more about any of our work.
Deliberating Inequality: understanding the social formation of beliefs about inequality

Originally published in Advantage, the magazine of the CAGE Research Centre. Reproduced with permission.

Looking at official inequality statistics, the past decade was bad, but it was bad for everyone. As income growth flattened, so too – it is often said – did income inequality. We were “all in it together”, to use the famous phrase. But official inequality statistics exclude “irregular receipts”, in particular capital gains. Once these are added to incomes, the share of resources going to those at the top actually grew substantially, while average incomes stagnated.

The 10 years since austerity began have not been easy ones. Productivity, wage growth, housing and crime have all worsened, with very real consequences for people’s lives. Income inequality, however, seemed to buck the trend. Whether measured by the Gini coefficient or by top income shares, inequality apparently did not get any worse. But as Aaron Levenstein put it, “Statistics are like [swimsuits]. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital.”

In this case, the key concealment is that official income inequality statistics have excluded so-called “irregular receipts”, particularly, capital gains (profits received on the sale of assets). When capital gains are included, the picture changes considerably. Capital gains significantly supplement the highest incomes, and this form of remuneration has steadily increased since 2010, allowing those at the top to weather austerity relatively comfortably. Far from being constant, over the past 10 years inequality has been rising.

The tax system heavily favours capital gains, which are taxed at a lower rate, from six to eight per cent, compared with income, which at the top is typically taxed at 47 per cent but can be as high as 28 per cent. The tax system heavily favours capital gains, which are treated as an “irregular receipt”. In 2011, that difference was only 17 per cent. Looking at even smaller and better-off groups, the effects are even larger: for the top 0.1 per cent share grew at an even faster rate, from six to eight per cent.

Including capital gains, the top one per cent of UK adults had an average total remuneration of £397,000 in 2018, compared with an average income of only £307,000, a 28 per cent difference. In 2011, that difference was only 17 per cent. Looking at even smaller and better-off groups, the effects are even larger: for the top 0.1 per cent (around 5000 people), including capital gains adds (on average) £62 per cent on top of incomes in 2018, compared with 32 per cent in 2011.

Figure 1. Aggregate capital gains each year 1997 to 2018

Whether this remarkable rise in aggregate gains matters for inequality depends on how these gains are distributed. If they are distributed in exactly the same way as income, then inequality would be the same when measured with total remuneration (income plus capital gains). But they are not.

Using confidential administrative data from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) covering all tax filers between 1997 and 2018, our research shows that taxable capital gains are extremely concentrated. In 2018, the top 5000 individuals ranked by capital gains (0.01 per cent of UK adults) received 54 per cent of all taxable gains; by contrast, the comparable figure for taxable income is just two per cent. Figure 2 shows the distribution of capital gains among those with more than £100,000 in gains. Even within this (very rich) group, the concentration at the very top stands out. The top, 1000 received at least £6.9 million each in capital gains, averaging £14 million. Inequality in capital gains is substantially higher than in income.

But we should also think about the persistence of capital gains. If capital gains are concentrated but go to a different set of people each year, then from a lifetime perspective their impact may average out. Indeed, the idea that receiving capital gains is a rare event is part of what has motivated its exclusion from usual income statistics – they are treated as an “irregular receipt”. Our research shows that for a substantial minority of the UK’s richest individuals, capital gains are not a rare event, but a regular part of how they receive their remuneration. Figure 3 illustrates that one third of those who received gains in 2018 also received at least this much, on average, over each of the preceding four years. Amongst those whose gains over £100,000, one in six had received over £500,000 in total, in the five-year period since 2013.

Having seen that capital gains have grown over time, are highly concentrated, and are also persistent for some, it is natural to ask what this means for our understanding of inequality. Figure 4 shows how shares of total income and total remuneration (income plus gains) have changed over the past 20 years. The top panel shows the share for the top one per cent of UK adults (roughly half a million people); lower panels repeat this for the top 0.1 and 0.01 per cent.

Looking only at incomes between 1997 and 2018 we see a familiar story: the top one per cent share has hovered consistently at around 14 per cent for the past decade, rising slightly between 1997 and the 2008 financial crisis, but hardly increasing since. But when we look at total remuneration including capital gains, we see a very different story. Not only is the top one per cent share of remuneration much higher than the income share, but since 2011 it has been increasing. Between 2011 and 2018 the top one per cent share of total remuneration rose by more than three percentage points from 14 to 17 per cent; the top 0.1 per cent share grew at an even faster rate, from six to eight per cent.

Figure 2. Distribution of capital gains in 2018 among those receiving more than £100K in gains

III RESEARCH THEMES: Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice

Deliberating Inequality: understanding the social formation of beliefs about inequality

SUPPORTED BY LSE STICERD AND III

In this project we ask: how do people form beliefs about the extent and causes of income and wealth inequality? While a growing body of experimental work has focused on the role of information in shaping inequality beliefs, this work is too often forgetful of the fact that in actual social situations, individuals process information about the social world through deliberation and conversation. What happens in these conversations is what may make this information “stick” or not, and what might ultimately shape what people believe about the world.

Here we aim to reintroduce this collective dimension in understanding how information about inequality influences people’s beliefs about it. We focus both on descriptive beliefs (what people think inequality looks like and where they think it comes from) and normative beliefs (what they think it should look like).

Our main concern is with understanding the formation of inequality beliefs as a social process: how do discussions affect what people think about inequality? How are these discussions altered by the introduction of factual evidence? Does the social makeup of discussion networks shape discussions altered by the introduction of factual evidence? Affect what people think about inequality? How are these beliefs formed?

Our main concern is with understanding the formation of inequality beliefs as a social process: how do discussions affect what people think about inequality? How are these discussions altered by the introduction of factual evidence? Does the social makeup of discussion networks shape discussions altered by the introduction of factual evidence? Affect what people think about inequality? How are these beliefs formed?

RESEARCH TEAM:

Fabien Accominotti (LSE Sociology), Tania Burchardt (LSE Social Policy), Katharina Hecht (University of Pennsylvania / III), Alex Mann (LSE Social Policy), Jonathan Mijis (Harvard Univ / III) and Kate Summers (LSE Methodology)

Capital Gains and Hidden Inequality

BY ARUN ADVANI AND ANDY SUMMERS

Figure 1. Aggregate capital gains each year 1997 to 2018

Figure 2. Distribution of capital gains in 2018 among those receiving more than £100K in gains

Figure 3. Average total remuneration during the past 20 years
Austerity was socially and economically painful for most people, but not for everyone. Although conventional wisdom is that everyone suffered with stagnating incomes during austerity, this masks a big shift in the way that the richest received their remuneration. By ignoring capital gains and focusing exclusively on taxable income, official statistics have received their remuneration. By ignoring capital gains and austerity, this masks a big shift in the way that the richest

Address this concern with an original study of changing levels of economic inequality might be translating into a broader social and cultural process of elites becoming increasingly geographically removed from British society. The question address with an original study of changing social and geographical mobility into elite occupations using the ONS Longitudinal Study. This tracks a one per cent sample of linked census records of the population of England and Wales between different censuses (1971 to 2011). Since this involves over 500,000 members’ responses collected at each census, it offers an unusually granular account of mobility into elite occupations (namely Class 1 of the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification denoting higher managerial, administrative, and professional occupations). It therefore provides a powerful lens to reflect on social mobility into elite occupations.

The authors found that there was little evidence that those who manage to gain access into “elite” occupations from less advantaged classes do so only if they have the capacity to move geographically (Figure 1). The long-range mobile into elite occupations tend not to have moved location, and this tendency has not changed over time. Long-range social mobility is not dependent on being able to move. However, this does not mean that geographical mobility is irrelevant for social advance: far from it. A large majority of people with higher managerial or professional occupations, whose parents already held such privileged jobs, have moved long-distance at least once. A large majority of those who were long-range socially mobile into elite occupations have never done so. Therefore, geographic mobility is associated with the reproduction of social class advantage, instead of a common feature for those who have achieved upward social mobility.

The authors paid particular attention to the role of London because the capital has strengthened its position as the elite epicentre. The authors found that moving to, and living in, London at age 30 to 36 and working in an elite occupation is increasingly associated with being from privileged background and significantly more so in the younger generation than the older cohort (Figure 2). To conclude, it is the subtle relationship between social and geographical mobility which allows elites to pull away. Whilst it is possible for long-range social mobility into elite occupations to take place without moving far, the highest rewards in London tend to go to those from privileged backgrounds who are more likely to be long-range mobile. The link between geographic mobility and the reproduction of social class advantage is having a powerful effect in British society.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Arun Advani is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick and Impact Director of CAGE. He is also Research Fellow of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and Visiting Fellow of the LSE International Inequalities Institute.

Andrew Summers is Assistant Professor of Law at The London School of Economics and Political Science and Associate Member of the LSE International Inequalities Institute.

FURTHER READING:


This research was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) through the Centre for Competitive Advantage in a Global Economy (CAGE) at Warwick (ES/L011771/1) and by LSE International Inequalities Institute, LSE Law, and Warwick Economics. This work contains statistical data from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) which are Crown Copyright. The research data sets used may not exactly reproduce HMRC aggregates. The use of HMRC statistical data in this work does not imply the endorsement of HMRC in relation to the interpretation or analysis of the information.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Andrew Summers (LSE Law/III), Arun Advani (Warwick Uni/III), Felix Kruisg (LSE Economics), Tim Montaith (LSE Sociology), Lorenzo Pesinia (Columbia Economics), Mike Savage (III/Sociology)


This research was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) through the Centre for Competitive Advantage in a Global Economy (CAGE) at Warwick (ES/L011771/1) and by LSE International Inequalities Institute, LSE Law, and Warwick Economics. This work contains statistical data from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) which are Crown Copyright. The research data sets used may not exactly reproduce HMRC aggregates. The use of HMRC statistical data in this work does not imply the endorsement of HMRC in relation to the interpretation or analysis of the information.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Andrew Summers (LSE Law/III), Arun Advani (Warwick Uni/III), Felix Kruisg (LSE Economics), Tim Montaith (LSE Sociology), Lorenzo Pesinia (Columbia Economics), Mike Savage (III/Sociology)
Our research is organised in the following five clusters:

### 1. Measuring and Conceptualising Wealth Inequality, Including Trends Over Time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Tania Burchard</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Social Policy and Director, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Neil Cummins</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Economic History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Eleni Karajannaki</td>
<td>Assistant Professional Research Fellow, CASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Nala Kabeer</td>
<td>Professor of Gender and Development, Department of Gender Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Mann</td>
<td>PhD candidate, Department of Social Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Global Financial Capitalism: offshore wealth and tax havens:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Arun Advani</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, University of Warwick; Impact Director, Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy and Visiting Fellow, II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Eleni Karajannaki</td>
<td>Assistant Professional Research Fellow CASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Parthasarathi Shome</td>
<td>Chairman, International Tax Research and Analysis Foundation, and Visiting Senior Fellow, II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Wealth and Social Mobility: meritocracy and the legitimation of inequality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Fabien Accominotti</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Sam Friedman</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Luna Glucksberg</td>
<td>Research Fellow, II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jonathan Hopkin</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Comparative Politics, Department of Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Kolbe</td>
<td>PhD candidate, Department of Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Nicola Lacey</td>
<td>School Professor of Law, Gender and Social Policy, Department of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Stephen Machin</td>
<td>Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for Economic Performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Developing Comparative Studies of Plutocratic Elites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Sam Friedman</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Katrinna Hecht</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania and Visiting Fellow, II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jonathan Mijit</td>
<td>Lecturer on Sociology, Harvard University and Visiting Fellow, II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Maria-Luis Mendez</td>
<td>Principal Investigator at the Centre for Social and Cohesion Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Aaron Reeves</td>
<td>Associate Professor, University Oxford and Visiting Senior Fellow, II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Paul Segal</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer in International Development and Emerging Economies, Kings’ College London and Visiting Fellow, II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5. Overarching Policy Theme: tax justice

This will bring together all theme members and be an opportunity for all the four research clusters to contribute to strategies for advancing the politics of tax justice. We see this as the overarching theme which will bring together research from the previous four sub-themes and synthesise these concerns.

---

### Concluded Theme Projects

#### Challenging Urban Decline Narratives: enhancing community resilience

**Supported by the LSE Institute of Global Affairs and the Rockefeller Foundation**

The overall goal of this research project was to develop an innovative synthesis of both political economy and narrative approaches to resilience, and to use this to understand different urban areas in England, using the case studies of Tunbridge Wells, Oxford, Margate and Oldham. We will use a multi-method approach to explore how these towns have responded and adapted to their respective economic challenges and whether their relations to larger urban centres have enhanced or undermined their resilience. The core questions were:

- How and why have these towns responded differently to broader economic and social changes?
- What are the political barriers and opportunities to fostering resilience in the four case studies?
- How have local communities demonstrated resilience and what challenges do they face?
- How have political and economic relations between these towns and proximate urban centres (i.e., London and Manchester) enhanced or undermined their resilience to these changes?

IIl supported and participated in an event in October 2019 hosted by the Young Foundation to explore the future of communities and how we can radically rethink how we research in and with communities. The event included leading figures from across business, academia and civil society who are engaged in transforming how research is used as a tool for supporting stronger and more resilient communities. How we can collectively create impact at a hyper-local and national level. At this event new evidence was shared about the current state of relationships between local government and communities how Community Wealth is distributed across the UK.

---

### Theme Publications

**III Working Papers**

**Working Paper No. 37**: Social Polarisation at the Local Level: a four-town comparative study

Insa Koch, Dr Mark Fransham, Dr Sarah Cant, Jill Ebrey, Dr Luna Glucksberg and Professor Mike Savage

**Working Paper No. 38**: Exporting the Winner-Take-All Economy: micro-level evidence on the impact of US investors on executive pay in the United Kingdom

Dr Lukas Liné, Dr Jonathan Hopkin and Dr Pascal Jaupart

**Working Paper No. 39**: Hidden Wealth

Dr Neil Cummins

**Working Paper No. 40**: The Art World’s Response to the Challenge of Inequality

Kristina Kolbe, Dr Christopher Upton-Hansen, Professor Mike Savage, Professor Nicola Lacey and Dr Sarah Cant

**Working Paper No. 42**: How the Reification of Merit Breeds Inequality: theory and experimental evidence

Dr Fabien Accominotti and Daniel Tadmor

---

**Publications from this Research Project**

**Social Polarisation at the Local Level: a four-town comparative study**

Insa Koch, Mark Fransham, Sarah Cant, Jill Ebrey, Luna Glucksberg and Mike Savage, International Inequalities Institute Working paper 37, October 2019

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/102216/1/Koch_social_polarisation_at_the_local_level_37.pdf

**Social Polarisation at the Local Level: a four-town comparative study on the challenges of politicising inequality in Britain**

Insa Koch, Mark Fransham, Sarah Cant, Jill Ebrey, Luna Glucksberg and Mike Savage (2020) http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/107017/2/state_sanctioned_insecurity_ES.pdf
Our aim is to develop a new policy and governance framework that can be used to tackle the challenge of the next wave of technological change that will reshape our labour markets and economic geography.

Professor David Soskice

II RESEARCH THEMES: Cities, Jobs and the Knowledge Economy

Led by Professor David Soskice

England's population is heavily divided by its experience of education. Half of its young people go to university at the age of 18 and half enter the labour market without this additional educational investment. Meanwhile further education colleges, the principal providers of vocational education, are woefully underfunded. Can this be a socially just, economically efficient and politically sustainable arrangement? What does the 50/50 split in higher education participation, along with other design features of England’s educational system, mean for structural economic inequality and aggregate productivity? As the UK deals with the social and economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic and the longer-term shift towards artificial intelligence technologies, what is the proper shape of the education system that can equip workers for tomorrow’s labour market?

In this research theme we view these issues as fundamentally regional problems. In the UK, 43 per cent of people aged 25 to 64 have obtained a higher education degree, but those people are not equally distributed across the country: nearly 58 per cent obtained a higher education degree in London compared to only 39 per cent in Greater Manchester. This spatial division in education was laid bare during the EU referendum in which education was a better predictor of the vote than income or wealth. Productivity levels in much of England lag far behind those in the South East and London with its higher proportion of lower-middle-class households. In part this is due to education participation, along with other design features of the further education (FE) system, which may result in a market-driven restructuring of the sector. Left to the market, the depletion of higher education provision may leave some geographical areas further “left behind”. Second, recent area reviews have revealed the challenge that the vocationally-focused further education (FE) system is under, with some areas under threat of losing access to a local FE college. Third, there is increasing political appetite for interventionist economic policy, both as a result of the failure of the neoliberal model to even out economic opportunity in the last four decades and the need for collective action revealed by the response to coronavirus.

Whilst technological change or other future challenges are difficult to predict or control, a good education system might serve as a tool to mitigate the effect of those shocks on local communities. On the other hand, if provided unequally, education might lead to economic polarisation, where lower income areas of the UK are stuck in “low skill equilibria” (Fingleton and Soskice, 1988) in which “a low supply of skills is combined with a low demand for skills” (Green 2016). In such a system, some places and sectors provide poor local incentives for workers to invest in education, and large incentives for highly skilled workers to move away. Our theme investigates the varied aspects of local political economies interact with each other to produce and reproduce aggregate outcomes. Our aim is to develop a new policy and governance framework that can be used to tackle the challenge of the next wave of technological change that will reshape our labour markets and economic geography. We will consider how alternative policy and governance models could help deliver adjustment to these radical shifts.

There is now something of a political consensus – driven in part by electoral dynamics – that spatial economic inequality in England has grown too wide and that, in the words of Boris Johnson, it is necessary to “level up” economic opportunity. We know from economic geography theory that there are strong forces of agglomeration driving an increase in spatial polarisation, but to what extent is the education system facilitating or countering this process? There are three developments that make an examination at the current time particularly pressing. First, the coronavirus crisis has revealed the financial fragility of large numbers of universities, which may result in a market-driven restructuring of the sector. Left to the market, the depletion of higher education provision may leave some geographical areas further “left behind”. Second, recent area reviews have revealed the challenge that the vocationally-focused further education (FE) system is under, with some areas under threat of losing access to a local FE college. Third, there is increasing political appetite for interventionist economic policy, both as a result of the failure of the neoliberal model to even out economic opportunity in the last four decades and the need for collective action revealed by the response to coronavirus.

Whilst technological change or other future challenges are difficult to predict or control, a good education system might serve as a tool to mitigate the effect of those shocks on local communities. On the other hand, if provided unequally, education might lead to economic polarisation, where lower income areas of the UK are stuck in “low skill equilibria” (Fingleton and Soskice, 1988) in which “a low supply of skills is combined with a low demand for skills” (Green 2016). In such a system, some places and sectors provide poor local incentives for workers to invest in education, and large incentives for highly skilled workers to move away. Our theme investigates the varied aspects of local political economies interact with each other to produce and reproduce aggregate outcomes. Our aim is to develop a new policy and governance framework that can be used to tackle the challenge of the next wave of technological change that will reshape our labour markets and economic geography. We will consider how alternative policy and governance models could help deliver adjustment to these radical shifts.
Crime, Punishment in American Cities (American Exceptionalism)

Nicola Lacey and David Soskice have been working for several years on violent crime and associated mass incarceration in America, with its close relationship to inequality and race, quite exceptional in relative magnitude in the advanced world. Occurring especially in large cities, they explain this by the extraordinary democratic autonomy in American local government, and by the key role of largely white homeowners (so-called “home-voters”) in enforcing segregating zoning rules, differentiated policing, inequitable school districts and compliant judges (all being de facto determined by voting by homeowners). They have developed the argument historically and comparatively, shown how it has been modified by the knowledge economy, and underlined the key issue of zoning. Oxford University Press will publish the conference volume with this title in series of the Proceedings of the British Academy later this year.

RESEARCH TEAM:
Nicola Lacey (LSE Law) and David Soskice (LSE Government / III)

Macroeconomics

Wendy Carlin and David Soskice are working on a second edition of "Macroeconomics: institutions, instability and the financial system." It will include a major section on inequality and how that should be seen as affecting the core drivers of our simplified three-equation model version of the modern macro approaches embodied in DSGE modelling. Inequality has only recently come to play a major role in macroeconomics. It includes a new dual model of labour markets, based on research by Autor, Acemoglu, Bloom, Song and Van Reenen, distinguishing between routine and non-routine work, and the role of superstar companies. It also includes a new section explaining the failure of growth to recover after the Great Recession, the slowdown of innovation, and the multiple growth equilibria approach, of which we recently published a simplified model.

RESEARCH TEAM:
Wendy Carlin (UCL CEPR / UCL Economics) and David Soskice (LSE Government / III)

Planning and the Longer-Term Transformation of the English Economy

Most current policy work is relatively short term. We believe a major transformation is needed to heal the deep segregation (along class, regional and educational lines) of the English economy, reversing its poor economic performance at the same time. A major issue is the need to think more explicitly in terms of flexible long-term plans, notably embodying serious economic policy at the regional level.

One leitmotif is the dissatisfaction with many elements of the neo-liberal framework, and the (Polanyian-inspired) concept of a second movement. What are the components of a post-liberal framework in the UK? A second is a major rise in participation and regional spread of higher education driven by regionally-based and government-driven expansion of graduate jobs, notably in the areas of health, education, and care. The higher education system is currently deeply divisive socially, economically and regionally. A particular concern is that artificial intelligence investments are complementary to graduates, but substitutable with non-graduates. As Deaton has argued in the US context, non-graduates are the real losers in advanced societies.

RESEARCH TEAM:
David Soskice (LSE Government / III)

Related Research Projects

Populism, Inequality and Institutions

SUPPORTED BY NORFACE-DIAL

Countering the politically dominant view that populism is primarily a consequence of immigration, the research project "Populism, Inequality and Institutions (PIE)" investigates the argument that the underlying driver is lifetime shifts in economic inequality, caused by ongoing economic transformation through technological change and import competition. The fundamental hypotheses are that the underlying dynamics of long-term economic structural transformation display similar patterns of change across advanced European countries. However, the pattern of populist attitudes may differ across countries, depending on how such long-term change can be mediated through institutions, education, retraining and upgrading; and how the effect of populist attitudes on politics is magnified via the configuration of electoral and party institutions. The researchers are addressing these hypotheses in comparative analysis, combining theory with unique administrative and life-course data, and drawing in insights from economics and political science. Research examining these hypotheses should have a major impact on rethinking education and training strategies and on how labour markets work.

TEAMS AND AFFILIATIONS:
Professor David Soskice is leading the LSE team; Professor Uta Schönberg leads the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), UCL team; Professor Anders Björklund leads the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University team; Dr Henning Finsenars leads the team for the Institute for Social Research (ISP)

Working While in Education

At the end of compulsory education, young individuals face an important choice, which will affect their future. They can either stay in school, work full-time or do neither (the so-called Not in Education, Employment or Training, or NEET). Moreover, those in school can also decide whether to work part-time.

In the UK, the government has committed to increasing the number of young people with some form of work experience as part of their qualification (for example through apprenticeships and T Levels). Working while studying is a more informal way of gaining such experience. Furthermore, this is available to everyone regardless of the type of course they enrol on.

However, the determinants of students’ choices and the role played by the personal and macro-economic conditions are not clear. Nor are the consequences of these choices clear on future education and labour market prospects. We use English administrative data to investigate this for 16 to 18-year-olds over time.

RESEARCH TEAM:
Chiara Cavaglia (LSE Centre for Economic Performance) and Sandra Mcnally (LSE Centre for Economic Performance)

Falling Absolute Intergenerational Mobility

Absolute intergenerational mobility has been falling in the UK, with a significantly smaller fraction of people earning less in real terms than their parents did at the same age. Absolute mobility peaked in the UK in 2005, for 30-year-olds from the 1975 birth cohort, after which it fell sharply. Over the past 26 birth cohorts, absolute mobility has dropped by 22 percentage points – from 62 per cent for the 1978 birth cohort to 40 per cent for the 1988 birth cohort. Our baseline specification assumes relative mobility and stayed constant throughout the period at the 1970 birth cohort. We show that the level of relative mobility (with realistic bounds) has little impact on the trend in absolute mobility in recent years. Mobility has fallen because wage growth has not kept pace with price inflation. We recommend reframing policy dialogues on understanding and stimulating real wage growth.

RESEARCH TEAM:
Jo Blanden (University of Surrey), Stephen Machin (LSE Centre for Economic Performance) and Sumalaya Rahman (University of Surrey)

Pawel Bukowski

RESEARCH OFFICER ON THE NORFACE-DIAL PROJECT AND ASSOCIATE MEMBER, III

In a recently published working paper, Brian Bell, Pawel Bukowski, and Stephen Machin found that rent-sharing (the extent to which firms share profits with workers) is on a much smaller scale today than during the 1980s and 1990s – and that the decline coincides with a rise in firms’ product market power alongside a fall in workers’ bargaining power. The ongoing project led by Pawel Bukowski, and co-authored with Stephen Machin and David Soskice, investigates the nature and sources of rent-sharing. Using data on more than 100,000 manufacturing companies since 2000 from 10 European countries, the aim is to decompose the relationship between profits and wages into components related to workers’ bargaining power and monopolistic power of the firm. The next step is to relate these components with institutional factors (eg. unionisation rate, wage bargaining regimes, employment protection laws), industrial structure (eg. market power) and exposure to globalisation (eg. trade, global value chains).

Pawel Bukowski, together with Filip Nvsikvet, also leads a project on the evolution of inequality in Poland. Poland has been the fastest growing economy in Europe since 1989. It shows that during the past three decades (one generation) Poland has transformed from one of the most egalitarian countries in Europe, to one of the most unequal ones. The project has been published as a series of working papers at CEPII, and World Inequality Lab. Currently, the project is at the revise and resubmit stage at the Journal of Economic Growth. The next stage of the research will investigate the potential sources of that dramatic rise in inequality, namely, institutional change, globalisation and technological progress.
American Inequality in Crime and Punishment: a (tentative) historical explanation

The US as Radical Innovation Driver: the failures of the American knowledge economy
In, Jacob Hacker, Alex Hertel, Paul Pierson, Kathy Thelen (Editors) “American Political Economy.” Oxford University Press. 2020.me publications

American Exceptionalism in Crime, Punishment, and Disadvantage: race, federalization, and politicization in the perspective of local autonomy

England Stuck in Stasis: the ICT revolution, segregation and populism – a long-term strategic response

Stagnant Productivity and Low Unemployment: stuck in a Keynesian equilibrium

Understanding the Determinants of Penal Policy: crime, culture, and comparative political economy
Annual Review of Criminology, 1. With Nicola Lacey and David Hope. 2018.

Democracy and Prosperity: reinventing capitalism in a turbulent century

Macroeconomics: institutions, instability, and the financial system
This research theme will run from April 2019 to September 2022 and is led by Professor Beverley Skeggs. The Research Officer for this theme is Dr Shalini Grover.

Global Economies of Care involves LSE colleagues from the Departments of International Development, Law, Anthropology, Gender Studies and Social Policy.

The inequalities problem this theme addresses is the global crisis in care. Without care the global economy could not function, yet care is rarely recognised as a key economic driver of value. Without care, workers would not be born, fed, educated and replenished. But care is not just a labour issue, not just caring for but also caring about. Care is about how we relate to others, the fundamental social relations that underpin our lives and survival. Caring is also intimately connected to the politics we get. We are currently experiencing a cruel, brutal age where children can be ripped from their mothers and caged. The care theme will examine different scales, spaces and experiences of care. From the increased financialisation of care provision by national states, to the increasing privatisations of welfare states, to distributions of care worker scales, spaces and experiences of care. From the increased financialisation of care provision by national states, to the increasing privatisations of welfare states, to distributions of care worker scales, spaces and experiences of care. From the increased financialisation of care provision by national states, to the increasing privatisations of welfare states, to distributions of care worker scales, spaces and experiences of care. From the increased financialisation of care provision by national states, to the increasing privatisations of welfare states, to distributions of care worker scales, spaces and experiences of care. From the increased financialisation of care provision by national states, to the increasing privatisations of welfare states, to distributions of care worker scales, spaces and experiences of care. From the increased financialisation of care provision by national states, to the increasing privatisations of welfare states, to distributions of care worker scales, spaces and experiences of care.

We recognise that care is a huge encompassing term with tendrils reaching into many places, ubiquitous but rarely recognised as a key economic driver of value. Caring is also intimately connected to the politics we get. We are currently experiencing a cruel, brutal age where children can be ripped from their mothers and caged, and where a great deal of the population have forgotten how to care for others as they protect their own interests.

What we do know is that care is usually performed by women. It is a gendered politics and economics, with the burden of elderly, domestic and childcare disproportionately attributed by gender. It is also racialised, as a global care chain exists to export migrants, the brutalised subjects of inequality, who usually do the work of care. Global structural adjustment policies organised the world into structural divisions but also always classed divisions which cut through gender and race. Middle-class people in the Global North have their future of social reproduction? How should we care for vulnerable children, people and populations? This also leads us to question "alternative" economic models, always asking where is "care" and social reproduction in Universal Basic Income (UBI) proposals? Do they assume that unpaid care is locked in by Universal Benefits? Who is likely to have responsibility? Does it re-traditionalise?

Secondly, we will investigate how social reproduction re-figures our understandings of class, gender and race. We know, for instance about social schemes that exist (in Holland for example) to encourage migrant women to undertake voluntary care work as a step towards national integration. As research has shown, this places migrant women in the role of enabling European women to undo traditional gender roles. It reinforces a racial and classed division of labour by allowing legal "national" women to become workers in the "productive" labour market, whilst migrant women are re-contained in another's home for free. The theme will investigate the significance of migrant women’s labour to uneven gendered and raced development theories exploring labour deportability, pointing to the significance and routes of colonial histories of mobility.

3. Thirdly, the experience of care will be investigated. In the Dutch case cited above the migrant women were highly resistant to performing care work in the households of other women. Just as the experience of carers in the UK shows high levels of alienation and high turnover rates of employment. The contradictions between caring for and caring about have long been documented and are growing. Furthermore, while "care" as a moral value is often understood as overwhelmingly positive, we argue for a more nuanced interpretation which acknowledges the associated layers of support, such as "caring with". Care may also be experienced alongside violence, vulnerability, control, and in some cases coercion.

4. Fourthly, we bring together these issues in an exploration of digital care platforms, which are rarely discussed in the "gig economy" debates. People ask about the future of work but what about the future of social reproduction? Work is impossible without its supporting infrastructure of care and sustenance. Care platforms operate globally and enable digital competition for wages and services. Most are Tinder type (marketplace) models where employers can search for the ideal care match. The workers on offer are all self-employed with no employment protections. It is rare to see caring labour discussed by researchers of digital platforms. This aligns with the interest in the future of labour theme of the III.
In the future we want to address planetary care, because without air, water and food, how will we live? The absolutely fundamental life infrastructure is being extracted and destroyed with little care for life. We welcome connecting and developing research in this area. All this research develops conversations across academic silos, with cross-disciplinary perspectives. We hope to build in conversation with the LSE Care Evaluation Policy Centre (CPEC). We are also building in a global network, connecting to international Atlantic programme initiatives, for example, Global Brain Health (US, Ireland), Health Equity (Vietnam and Bangkok) and the Cuba Platform. The Atlantic Philanthropies have been central in supporting this research. They introduced us to Sarah Anderson at the International Policy Studies organisation in Washington, who has already established a care blog, and Ai Jen Poo, leader of the US National Domestic Workers Alliance. We have also been working with Unison North West UK. Our Atlantic Fellows have begun scoring up research on care organisations in Africa, campaigning organisation in South Africa and Nepal. We hope to develop this more widely and build an archive to share research. To date we have brought together researchers from within LSE and London. Ultimately, we want to put the issue of social reproduction at the centre of new economic thinking. To make it an unavoidable issue for policy makers, not just siloed in "welfare" or women's issues but the centre of new economic thinking. To make it an unavoidable issue. Ultimately, we want to put the issue of social reproduction at the centre of new economic thinking.

III RESEARCH THEMES: Global Economies of Care


Professor Nicolas Duvoux and Adrien Papuchon

Our current care research collective involves the scholars below who have all been major players in the field of social reproduction. We aim to extend:

Professor Mary Evans
Emerita Leverhulme Professor, Department of Gender Studies
London.

Professor Naila Kabeer
Professor of Gender and Development, Department of Gender Studies

Our new projects

Solidarity and Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic For our latest stories on COVID-19, see https://www.solidarityandcare.org/stories


Caring Forward: the global care economy and its future A Research Cluster on Global Economies of Care commenced in September 2020, giving scholars the space to present research in-progress and for PhD students to discuss their fieldwork experiences.

Ultimately, we want to put the issue of social reproduction at the centre of new economic thinking. To make it an unavoidable issue for policy makers, not just siloed in "welfare" or women's issues but the centre of new economic thinking.

LSE Departments

Professor Mary Evans
Emerita Leverhulme Professor, Department of Gender Studies
London.

Professor Naila Kabeer
Professor of Gender and Development, Department of Gender Studies

Professor Deborah James FBA
Professor, Department of Anthropology

Professor Andrea Chatzidakis
Professor in Marketing, School of Business and Management, Royal Holloway, University of London

Dr Sara Farris
Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London

Dr Jamie Hakim
Lecturer in Media Studies, the School of Art, Media and American Studies, University of East Anglia

Dr Asiya Islam
Junior Research Fellow, Newham College, University of Cambridge

Professor Prabha Kotiswaran
Professor of Law and Social Justice, Transnational Law Institute, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London

Professor Jo Littler
Professor of Social Analysis and Cultural Politics, Department of Sociology, City, University of London

Professor Nicola Lacey
School Professor of Law, Gender and Social Policy, Department of Law

Professor Nicola Mai
Professor of Sociology and Migration Studies, Department of Criminology and Sociology, Kingston University

Professor Neeltha N.
Centre for Women’s Development Studies

Professor Phraet Salazar Parrenas
Professor of Sociology and Gender and Sexuality Studies, Sociology and Gender Studies, University of Southern California

Dr Lorena Poblete
IDEAS-UNSAM

Professor Catherine Rottenberg
Associate Professor in American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham

Professor Lynne Segal
Anniversary Professor of Psychology and Gender Studies, Department of Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck, University of London

Professor Imogen Tyler
Head of Department and Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University

Professor Brenda Yeh
Professor of Social Sciences, Department of Geography, and Director, Humanities and Social Science Research Office of Deputy President (Research and Technology), National University of Singapore (NUS)

Dr Simon Yull
Visiting Researcher, the Digital Culture Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London

We are keen to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in the future. We are interested in reaching out to historians, policy makers, legal experts and activists. This is a forum for diverse analyses on social reproduction.

IIII RESEARCH THEMES

PODCASTS AND BLOGS

We have begun to make an impact via LSE, such as:

July 2020 Interdisciplinary Event on:


Dr Shalini Grover (LSE) and Dr Beverley Skeggs

The event combined research by Dr Shalini Grover (LSE) and Dr Beverley Skeggs, following her publication of Formations of Class and Gender (a study of the making of caring subjectivities), Beverley has been blogging about the crisis in social care.

Beverley Skeggs also writes about the financialisation of care on the AFSEE blog.

LSE May Day Event 2018 on The Labour of Care Work, Law and Finance, with Professor Nickie Lacey, Dr Lydia Hayes, Dr Insa Koch and Kevin Lucas (Unité), Chaired by Beverley Skeggs

Following her publication of Formations of Class and Gender (a study of the making of caring subjectivities), Beverley has been blogging about the crisis in social care.

Beverley Skeggs also writes about the financialisation of care on the AFSEE blog.

Working Papers

Working Paper No. 35
Ethnic Minorities’ Reactions to Newcomers in East London: symbolic boundaries and convivial labour
Dr Susanne Wessendorf

Working Paper No. 36
By Professor Nicolas Duvoux and Adrien Papuchon

Professor Beverley Skeggs

A growing body of academic research has highlighted the rise of income inequality, particularly the increase of top one per cent income share, and the associated social, economic and political problems. It is becoming increasingly clear that these national income inequalities are driven in part by income inequalities within countries, and a divide between the “superstar” global cities (London, Paris, New York) and “left behind” ex-industrial towns. In the context of an increasingly polarised political environment, researchers have highlighted the links between geographic economic divergence and political, cultural and educational divides. My research investigates trends in spatial inequalities, both between places and within them, the drivers of those trends and their consequences. I am interested in economic and social policy responses to these economic and health inequalities.

A recent UN working paper based upon research funded by the Institute of Global Affairs and the Rockefeller Foundation, we explore evidence of economic polarisation across four contrasting towns in the United Kingdom: Oldham, Margate, Oxford and Turbridge Wells. Deploying a comparative community analysis, buttressed by quantitative framing, we demonstrate the need to recognise how local social processes vary amongst places that on the face of it display similar trends. We show how local polarisation plays out differently depending on whether it is driven “from above” or “from below”. Across all four towns, we draw out how a “missing middle” of intermediaries, who might be able to play roles in cementing local relations, poses a major challenge for political mobilisation in times of inequality.

My doctoral research into spatial patterns of poverty in urban centres has revealed that the risk of income poverty is becoming more spatially diffuse, which is associated with the increasing proportion of low-income households living in private rented housing. Operating behind this shift in the geography of poverty is the accelerating flow of financial capital into residential real estate. Large investment funds are exploring acquisition opportunities in large urban centres such as New York and Paris at the same time that local authorities are looking to commercial opportunities and private investors to provide funding for urban regeneration projects. Permitted development rights are a key area where these initiatives can meet, with high returns, capital appreciation and low risk profile of residential real estate as an asset class driving an acceleration in the level of investment. With PhD student Donnam Carrick, I am developing research that explores the connections between increasing private investment in residential real estate and the changing patterns in the geography of income poverty in the UK. We will explore the welfare implications of these changes in the geography of housing and what current trends in real estate investment imply for future prospects. We will consider the policy ecosystem that links housing for low income households and real estate investment, suggesting practical policy proposals that could have positive welfare outcomes.

My research examines the role and ability of elite philanthropy to tackle rising economic inequalities. Large-scale philanthropy undertaken by elites is becoming more important in the international policy landscape. Private philanthropy is recognised by key international institutions as an essential contributor to reducing poverty, financing international development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The dollar value of philanthropic funding has increased rapidly over the last decade, driven by large markets such as the United States and the United Kingdom; in the United Kingdom, private bank Coutts concluded that philanthropy is experiencing a “boom time”.

In the context of government austerity policies and public budget constraints in many countries, large-scale philanthropy is increasingly providing funds alongside governments and multilateral organisations to tackle core inequality issues such as poverty and healthcare. Although this growing funding stream is still small when compared to government official development assistance (ODA) – private foundations contribute an amount of development funding equivalent to five per cent of global ODA – philanthropic funding is having a disproportionate impact, for example through driving provision of funds in key sectors such as health and influencing development agendas and donor priorities (OECD 2018). These philanthropic flows are closely connected to international public institutions and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), with almost all projects implemented through such institutions. The findings caused the OECD to declare that “private philanthropy is reshaping the development landscape like never before” (OECD 2019). In response to the increasing influence of philanthropy, there is growing concern that philanthropy is at odds with democratic governance and in essence plutocracy. Some academics question the dominant narrative that elite philanthropists are, through their large-scale philanthropic acts, simply “giving back” and acting against the structural inequalities that they themselves have benefited from.

My work looks at the ecosystem of philanthropy in general, situating UK donors’ activities alongside other areas over which they exert financial influence, in particular through their business affiliations, and investigates the mechanisms which elites deploy to maintain their advantageous positions in society. I explore what these factors mean for the potential of large-scale philanthropy to genuinely challenge inequalities on a systemic level. At the same time I also consider the extent to which philanthropy operates within wealthy families to facilitate the establishment of long-lasting dynasties, binding generations through morally uplifting projects that allow other, less palatable aspects of capital accumulation to move to the background of the family narrative, foregrounding instead the worthy causes the family champions.

By investing in care as a core theme at III, we have commenced research on the effects of COVID-19 on communities (including BAME communities).

This global project addresses the inequalities of care work and social reproduction. These are subjects that have gained heightened importance during the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed, governments around the world can no longer complain about the status quo of health systems, care work and the nursing profession. In this contemporary juncture, care work has found a mainstream audience; primarily it brings into question the magnitude of folly. Yet it has taken an unprecedented wave of social, economic and political crises to go beyond the rhetoric of class-race inequalities that scholars and migrants have invoked for decades. The historical devaluation of care labour – ‘paid and unpaid’ (“women’s work at best”) – has to be kept alive in impeding research and public debates. By investing in care as a core theme at III, we have commenced research on the effects of COVID-19 on communities (including BAME communities), casualised migrant labour, ageing populations, kinship arrangements, global-care chains, informal versus formal structures and the characteristics of legal conventions. We also co-relate care practices to the institution of marriage, intimate partnering (and re-partnering), sex work, volunteer work, teaching, hospitality, essential services, and other forms of intimate labours. We are examining these varied themes through an intersectional, feminist, and post colonial lens so, as to arrive at fine-grained, nuanced, and reflexive assessments. Analogously, the project seeks new directions towards foregrounding the diversity of social reproduction. Equally, we are in dialogue with policy analysts, activists, and media outlets. Our aim is to influence and share our findings with the widest possible audiences.

This team is led by distinguished Professor Beverley Skeggs who has a vast repertoire of knowledge on caring, class and gender. Beverley is chronicling the effects of the COVID-19 crisis through stories on Solidarity and Caring Strategies in the Sociological Review (https://www.solidarityandcare.org/stories/). Dr Shalini Grover, Research Officer, comes into this project with extensive experience having worked on globalised care in South Asia. Shalini has a PhD from Delhi University, which combines the interdisciplinary grid of anthropology, gender, and history. On care and marriage, she has published a Special Journal Issue, journal articles, opinion pieces, edited volume chapters, and writings in blogs. She is writing her second monograph on Indian servitude, global elite employers and transnationalism.

By investing in care as a core theme at III, we have commenced research on the effects of COVID-19 on communities (including BAME communities).

Global Economies of Care
Dr Shalini Grover

Most Latin American countries have been hit by the COVID-19 crisis in the context of high levels of income inequality combined with weak social security systems that fail to offer protection to those most at risk of falling back into poverty. Despite the efforts of governments to support the most vulnerable families, workers and firms, poverty and inequality are expected to increase again in the region after two decades of continuous decline. However, the aftermath of this crisis will strengthen calls for a new social security system based on a stronger public social protection system that puts the wellbeing of people at its centre. This will require new measures of progress and wellbeing so that better policies can be designed in Latin American countries for more inclusive and sustainable development.

During my PhD, I worked on this topic by proposing three measures of economic wellbeing for countries like the ones described above, taking Chile as a case study. The measures are based on the following approaches: vulnerability to poverty, income position, and economic insecurity. Building upon these frameworks, I studied the mobility of households within the income distribution over a given period with an emphasis on the middle class, income inequality, and the stress that economic uncertainty generates on people’s wellbeing.

I will continue this work with two projects. The first focuses on measures of vulnerability to poverty but centring on the financial risk of the households’ health shocks. In countries like Chile, the vast majority of the population believes that they will not be able to pay for the medical costs in the face of a severe illness or accident. Therefore, having new health spending indicators will contribute to developing effective strategies to monitor anti-poverty protection programmes and improve risk-management policies. The second project seeks to measure the inequality between groups that are homogenous among its members and dissimilar between such groups, particularly among those who have good jobs and bad jobs. The hypothesis underlying this research is that social conflicts in some of the countries have increased the risk of falling back into poverty due to a combination of financial stresses, and slower increase in labour polarisation, than to high levels of income inequality.

My research in the British Academy project “Measuring the Quality of Employment (QoE) in Middle-Income Countries”, is also aligned with my interest in developing new measures of wellbeing for Latin America. Specifically, I will focus on three studies that use longitudinal employment data from both surveys and administrative data. On 9 March of this year, the Chilean Ministry of Labour and LII signed an agreement with the British Academy to jointly develop and analyze the first research theme explores the dynamics between workers who transition from bad jobs to good jobs and vice versa. The second theme studies whether temporary jobs are used as a strategy to get permanent employment or become a trap where workers spend a large part of their working life. The third theme assesses the importance of unemployment insurance in enabling workers to find jobs of equal or better quality. The results will help to understand the mechanisms behind the increase or decrease of levels of job quality polarisation in countries that share similar contextual attributes with Chile.
Wealth is a crucial dimension of social inequality and has become increasingly relevant for social stratification in contemporary capitalist societies.

Dr Nora Waitkus

Wealth accumulates at much higher rates than income from labour and thus provides an open-ended space for the accumulation of economic, social and political advantages. My research is looking at wealth inequality from multiple angles, trying to understand the variation in wealth inequality across countries, how different social classes accumulate and decumulate different forms of assets over time, and how high levels of inequality can persist and are hardly challenged.

Looking at wealth in a cross-country perspective, national levels of wealth inequality seem to be largely independent of levels of income inequality. Hence, countries can have low levels of income inequality but vast levels of wealth inequality and vice versa. In contrast, cross-national differences in wealth inequality and concentration chiefly reflect the level of inequality in, and concentration of housing equity. While simple indicators of home ownership rates, typically used to capture the overall importance of housing assets in a given country, suggest that broader access to home ownership may dampen wealth inequality and concentration, the overall distribution of housing equity, of which the prevalence of home ownership is just one aspect, is the central element determining overall wealth inequality. Therefore, understanding wealth inequality requires more than the well-established theories from comparative political economy research, but needs to recentre its analysis and integrate the crucial role of housing markets into the analysis of economic inequality. In order to understand different wealth inequality regimes across countries, however, it is not only important to understand what assets are important to wealth inequality in different context, but also which groups accumulate wealth or are systematically excluded from it, thereby inducing inequality in different context, but also which groups accumulate wealth or are systematically excluded from it, thereby inducing inequality in different context, but also which groups accumulate wealth or are systematically excluded from it, thereby inducing inequality in different context, but also which groups accumulate wealth or are systematically excluded from it, thereby inducing inequality.

Dr Nora Waitkus

My research highlights the important role of long-established migrants in supporting newcomers not just of the same national and ethnic background, but people of various backgrounds.

Dr Susanne Wessendorf

Wealth is a crucial dimension of social inequality and has become increasingly relevant for social stratification in contemporary capitalist societies.
In 2018, Kirsten Sehnbruch and the III were awarded a British Academy Global Professorship for the project "Measuring the Quality of Employment (QoE) in Middle Income Countries". The project started in March 2019 and extends until February 2023.

As the COVID-19 crisis has ravaged (as ravaging) economies around the world, the stark inequalities that reign in our labour markets are brought into sharp relief. In developed countries, some workers can easily work from home, are protected by social security systems and have stable jobs that are not threatened by the consequences of the crisis. Others, who cannot work from home, who have more precarious jobs, no statutory sick pay and no job stability are not so lucky.

Yet all of us in the developed world are lucky to be where we are compared to the millions of informal workers in developing countries, whose livelihoods in densely packed urban areas have been wiped out by the crisis. Faced with hunger and starvation, they opt to walk home to their rural villages of origin, which are often hundreds of miles away, in the hope that their relatives there will not let them starve.

In the context of the multiple and interconnected inequalities that characterise our world, reimagining our employment relationships, labour policies and associated social security systems is crucial. Questions of characterise our world, reimagining our employment relationships, labour policies and associated social security systems is crucial. Questions of how to establish basic incomes for all and how to share less work between the same number of workers that will be devastated by the crisis have become priority issues. But answering them first of all requires an accurate picture of where we stand and a good estimate of whether we are going, especially in developing countries where data and reliable information are scarce.

The British Academy project that funds the work of our team was established well before anybody had ever thought about the potentially devastating effects a global pandemic could have on labour markets.

Its research is highly relevant to this context as it is clear that governments must develop accurate measures of how the quantity and the quality of employment, and the structures of social protection systems are interrelated. So far, the quality of employment indicator that we designed for Latin American countries (and which was presented in the III's last annual report) has shown two key trends: first of all, employment deprivation is not only limited to informal jobs. A significant proportion of formal jobs, until now perceived as being of a better quality, are so precarious that these employees must also be considered as deprived. Second, our research leads to the conclusion that regulation more than-economic growth determines whether the quality of employment improves or not. For instance, minimum-wage legislation has the potential to lift a significant proportion of workers above the income cut-off line that our index defined. Similarly, regulatory reductions in the working week improve work-life balance as it reduces the proportion of workers, who work an excessive number of hours in a given week. Unfortunately, however, progress in other component indicators of our index such as job stability and social security coverage have not improved as much, if at all. Our academic paper that lays the foundation of this work was published by the journal Work and Employment Research in March 2020 (Sehnbruch et al., 2020).

Since the inception of this British Academy project, we have also made progress in terms of collaborating with other institutions in an effort to implement our work and generate the greatest possible policy impact. In particular three milestones must be highlighted: first, in March 2020, we signed a collaboration agreement with the Chilean Ministry of Labour that gives us access to an extremely valuable dataset, which combines survey data with administrative data on the Chilean labour market (more on this in the next article by Joaquín Prieto). Second, the Chilean government instituted a ministerial commission of experts to implement a QoE index in Chile. The commission began working (remotely due to the COVID-19 crisis) in March 2020 and has since made progress in examining how a QoE index could be constructed from current data constraints. Third, in April 2020, our team began working with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) to replicate our QoE index with data from the whole of the Latin American region going back 20 years. This research will enable us to extend our findings to other countries in the region and observe changes over time. The goal is to produce a document that will provide the National Institutes of Statistics in the region with a clearer picture of how the QoE has developed over the last 20 years. This index can then be examined in conjunction with indicators of the quantity of employment (e.g., participation rates). Most importantly, however, our index will show up the limitations of existing data on labour markets in the region so that governments can decide which additional information they should include in their standard labour market surveys. We expect draft versions of our work with the Chilean government and with the United Nations to be available early in 2021.

Overall, we hope that our work will contribute to a greater understanding of how employment relationships have developed in the Latin American region, which, in turn, will also improve our understanding of the likely impact of the COVID-19 crisis in the region.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S INTRODUCTION

The 2019/20 year has been one of transition, consolidation and growth for the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) programme. In light of the global pandemic that has affected all our lives, AFSEE’s work is now more crucial than ever as we consider the impacts of this crisis from the perspective of social and economic equity, and work together to think about ways to create a more equitable world that works for all. As a programme, we have had to adapt, change and respond quickly to the new realities. Since March, the AFSEE team has been working from home, and Zoom has become our key channel to connect with one another and with all our fellows. Despite the challenging conditions, morale has remained high as the team has continued to work tirelessly and rallied to support each other.

Collaborations, Connections... and a COVID-19 Pivot

During the 2019/20 year, we once again had important contributions to our modules by a number of speakers. In module 1, Kate Raworth, Dr Jason Hickel and Professor Beverly Skeggs led fellows through an exploration of the historical legacies and ideological constructs that underpin the systems and structures driving global inequalities. In module 2, we had presentations from Dr Luna Gluksberg on researching wealth inequalities, on the taxation of wealth by Dr Andy Summers, and the financialisation of poverty by Dr S ohry Kar. Due to the impact of COVID-19, we had to make a rapid pivot and deliver all the learning for module 3 remotely, in late April. Despite this online shift, we were able to present a full and fulfilling session, including interactive panel discussions on “Connecting Research, Practice and Social Transformation” (Dr Aavah Sarah Day, Professor Duncan Green, and Dr Tahnee Ooms) and “The State, Policy and Social Transformation” (with Dr Bahkun Babangarin and Dr Hanuk Sekenkeljn), as well as a roundtable on “Funding for Social Change” (Dr Sarah Day and Professor Duncan Green) with experts from the National Lottery Community Fund, Cicely Jones, and AFSEE fellow Rose Longhurst.

Additionally, we had presentations on “Social Movements and Collective Action in the Time of Covid” (Dr Armine Itskhanian), “Ethical Thinking and Leadership in Practice” (Dr Sara Cassany and Dr Fei Fei), and a session showcasing hip-hop poets and promoting dialogue about the role of the arts in social change. Module 4, scheduled to be held in June at our partner institution the University of Cape Town, was cancelled for the 2019/20 year owing to the pandemic. We instead hope to hold module 4 in June 2021 (conditions permitting) with cohorts three and four.

With the aim of further improving the learning experience, we have reviewed, refined and strengthened the AFSEE curriculum. The new curriculum offers modules that flow, build and inform each other and a learning arc that provides a cohesive and integrated learning journey. In addition to refining the curriculum, we have also reviewed and continue to strengthen the programme’s offerings for our alumni, the senior fellows. AFSEE offers senior fellows access to continued learning and personal and professional development. These programme-level opportunities for lifelong community engagement are designed to complement the Atlantic Institute’s offering to all senior fellows across the seven Atlantic Fellowships worldwide.

As a programme that is embedded within the III, we continue to work in close collaboration with the III through initiatives that promote and highlight research on inequalities. These initiatives include the LSE III Action Briefs working paper series, which will publish practice-based research on global/local inequalities, and in May 2020 we launched the AFSEE COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund (CRRF). The CRRF was introduced with the aim of supporting timely research projects that examine the impacts of and develop responses to COVID-19. Four projects were funded as part of this initiative:

• Rapid Responses for South African Labour Law in the Post-Corona Lockdown” (Gabriella Riziaz) and Dr Prashidee Deekulake, both Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity
• “Women’s Solidarity Networks take on COVID-19: the case of Valparaíso, Chile” (Anita Peña Saavedra) (Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity), Dr Hilary Hntu (Universidad Diego Portales), Catalina Flores (Women’s Centre, Valparaíso), Alondra Castillo (University of Valparaíso)
• “Designing a Net Wealth Tax: ‘thinking big’ on tax policy after coronavirus” (Dr Andy Summers (Department of Law, The London School of Economics and Political Science) and Dr Anu Advani (Department of Economics, Warwick University)
• “Emergent Agency in a Time of COVID-19” (Dr Irene Gujil (Oxfam) and Dr Duncan Green (Department of International Development, The London School of Economics and Political Science, and Oxfam)

While the CRRF replaced the Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEC) for the 2019/20 academic year, the AEC will be re-launched in autumn 2020 with the aim of supporting projects that bring together research and practice and offer insights into alternatives and solutions that reduce inequality, rather than focusing solely on the causes and consequences of inequality. Finally, the Politeia of Inequalities AFSEE research theme will be launched in autumn 2020. This theme is directly linked to AFSEE and is co-convened by Dr Armine Itskhanian and Professor Ellen Hepler in the LSE Department of Media and Communications. The theme aims to develop research on the forms of resistance and contestation of inequalities from a global perspective, with a focus on bottom-up action.

Growth, Development and an Innovative Year to Come

Looking to the future, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity team is excited and looking forward to moving into our new offices on the 12th floor of the LSE Centre Building. The 12th floor has an open area which will be used as an interactive space for fellows, academics, practitioners and visitors. This dedicated space will provide cross-fertilisations that we hope will lead to more innovative practice, research and change. Over the next 18 months, the AFSEE team will also work to accredit the AFSEE programme, which will permit future non-residential fellows to receive a postgraduate certificate in Social and Economic Equity (PSCERT SEE) from LSE upon completion of the programme. This programme is internationally recognised and would reward non-residential fellows for their completion of the active fellowship programme. This autumn we will also introduce the AFSEE Programme Committee, which will be a consultative mechanism through which key partners, including senior fellows, will actively contribute to the programme. Finally, over the coming year we hope to undertake a wider-ranging programme of public events, including the AFSEE Keynote Lecture, webinars and exhibitions, as part of our commitment to knowledge exchange, sharing and dissemination.

Over the past year, current and senior fellows have been involved in high-profile events including the LSE Africa Summit, the 2019 Human Development and Capability Association conference and the Bretton Woods Civil Society Policy Forum. Fellows published 52 blog posts in the past 12 months, and many of these have been cross-published in global media outlets including The Kathmandu Post, The Star Kenya, The Hindustan Times, The Financial Express (Bangladesh), Die Tageszeitung, Inequality.org, OpenDemocracy, as well as a number of high-profile LSE blog platforms. Finally, podcasts produced by fellows, such as the Upstream podcast created and hosted by Delta Duncan and a new Hindi-language podcast Local Diaries: untold stories of women, which was launched in May 2020 by Priyanka Kotamraju, are bringing new voices and perspectives to discussions around inequalities.

In response to COVID-19, AFSEE Fellows organised a series of five webinars from April to June examining the impacts of and responses to the pandemic. We recognise the efforts and commitment of the fellows led webinars’ working group, Kripa Basnyat, Craig Dube, Patricio Espinosa, Priyanka Kotamraju, Jack Nissan, Michaela Raftery and Rania Tarazi, as well as all the presenters, musicians and artists for their contributions to this timely initiative.

None of the abovementioned achievements would have been possible without AFSEE’s dedicated and hardworking team. While working under challenging conditions, team members Meliz Ahmet, Asmaa Alkaht, Katie Bouloche, Michelle Coates, Dr Sara Camacho Felix and Karan Shokat, were always there to support the programme. We are grateful to Liza Ryan for her ongoing assistance and support of AFSEE.

As this academic year draws to a close, we bid farewell to Professor Mike Savage as III Director. We thank Mike for his leadership as well as his encouragement and support of the AFSEE programme over the years. We welcome Professor Francisco (Chico) Ferreira, the Amartya Sen Professor of Inequality Studies and the new Director of the International Inequalities Institute, and look forward to working with him.

As worldwide challenges in the wake of COVID-19 remain, AFSEE is committed to continuing to learn, adapt and grow. While we are aware of the enormous challenges that lie ahead of us, we look forward to the coming year with fortitude, courage and hope.

Dr Armine Itskhanian, Executive Director
Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity
Atlantic Fellows are thinkers and doers with the courage, conviction and capacity to bring lasting and meaningful change to their communities and the world. United in their pursuit of equity, fellows come from all walks of life. They are a global community of leaders – advocates, artists, journalists, lawyers, business professionals, health practitioners, government officials, academics and researchers – who collaborate to advance equity, opportunity and human dignity. Founded in 2017, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme will support over 400 fellows drawn from both the Global South and Global North. Their active fellowship year centres on four key learning modules, designed to support their growth and development as leaders of social change. Residential fellows undertake the LSE MSc in Inequalities and Social Science and attend all AFSEE modules, while non-residential fellows remain in their home and professional environments, and travel to attend the modules while carrying out project work. Fellows are supported throughout the year by mentors and by the programme team.

Atlantic Fellows are a global community of thinkers, doers and change-makers who collaborate to advance equity, opportunity and human dignity.

WHO WE ARE

Atlantic Fellows

AFSEE’S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Our Educational Vision

The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme has refined its educational vision along three key pillars: 1) development of a research-rich education, 2) fostering a dialogic pedagogy, and 3) reflection on professional practice to create global solidarity. This refinement aligns the programme to the LSE 2030 Strategy to educate for impact, research for the world, and develop LSE for everyone. Our programme now aims to educate for impact by supporting researchers and practitioners in working towards the creation of a more socially and economically equitable world. This means engaging with research that is meaningful across contexts to understand the causes and intricacies of inequalities, and to act for equality. We do this by fostering dialogue with researchers and practitioners to allow for more holistic thinking and the sharing of ideas and perspectives. The aim is for research to become meaningful for practitioners, and for practitioners to be able to conduct their own meaningful research.

An AFSEE Education Interconnected Vision

Research-Rich

AFSEE draws on expertise and cutting-edge research on inequalities from across LSE. Fellows learn about the forces impacting social and economic inequality. They gain access to knowledge (and its implications) and learn about the “edges of academic knowledge” (Fung, 2017, 46). Fellows engage in their own inquiry-based investigations.

Professional Practice

AFSEE draws on fellows’ knowledge and expertise in activism, policy, and government (national & international) to create global solidarity, collective knowledge, and influence how inequality and equity are understood (both academically and in the professional field). The aim is to create change in academia and the field by “connecting academic knowledge with professional application” (Fung, 2017, 4).

Dialogic Pedagogy

AFSEE’s pedagogy is focused on dialogue. Rather than the standard “banking model” (Freire, 1970) of education, AFSEE uses dialogue as its pedagogic-centre. These are dialogues among researchers, among practitioners working through activism, policy and governance, and across the academic-practitioner divide.

Our Learning Partners

Institute for Policy Studies/Inequality.org

The mission of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, based at the University of Cape Town (UCT), is to promote and inspire strategic public leadership in Africa. The Mandela School partners with AFSEE to support the outreach and recruitment of fellows and the design and delivery of our South Africa module. The Mandela School hosted the III Annual Conference in June 2018 and supported efforts related to the 2018 Action for Equity Award.

Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town

Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) is a progressive think-tank based in New York, USA, dedicated to building a more equitable, ecologically sustainable and peaceful society. Since 2011, IPS has published inequality-related news and views via its website Inequality.org, offering information and insights for readers ranging from educators and journalists to activists and policy makers. As a content partner for AFSEE, IPS publishes pieces produced by our fellows and supports fellows in developing their communications skills.

IPS publishes pieces produced by our fellows and supports fellows in developing their communications skills.

Institute for Policy Studies

Our Contributions to Decolonising at LSE

Throughout the 2019/20 year, our programme has sought to contribute to the wider academic dialogue at LSE around the ideas of decolonising the School. This is in line with our vision for more equitable societies and futures. In November 2019, AFSEE contributed to the LSE Decolonising Sociology long table discussions, with Dr Sara Camacho Felix speaking about what current education looks like at the School and inviting a discussion on what decolonising might look like. In February 2020, we were co-sponsors of an event on Decolonising and Diversifying Education, in collaboration with the Ellen Centre for Educational Enhancement and the Decolonising LSE Collective. This event included guest speakers Dr Arianne Agarine-Navarro, Lecturer in Economics in the Institute of Management Studies at Goldsmiths; University of London, and Professor Tim Hancock Roy, Professor in Economic History in the Department of Economic History at LSE.

AFSEE Programme Learning

Academic Content

• Understand & measure inequalities
• Engage with public & social policy
• Transform & challenge inequalities
• Consider alternative perspectives
• Ethnically as proxy

Community Building

• 15 theme panels
• Networking events
• City of London walk
• High culture & inequalities events

Professional Skills

• Leadership Skills
• Reflect & connect
• Facilitate action learning

FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

FOR RACIAL EQUITY

FOR EQUITY IN BRAIN HEALTH

FOR SOCIETY

FOR HEALTH EQUITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

FOR HEALTH EQUITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Covid-19 and Digital Education

Due to Covid-19, our third module was delivered online in April 2020. This was emergency remote learning, where panels and roundtables were held online to create a minimal amount of disruption for guest speakers while ensuring that the facilitation of knowledge and expertise in the programme’s own time zones. This involved pre-recording the panels, uploading them to the LSE Learning Management System (Moodle), and encouraging fellows to engage in forum discussions asynchronously. The programme also held two Zoom sessions to create space for fellows to come together as a community.

The first module of the 2020/21 fellowship year has now been redesigned for online delivery, drawing on the principles of critical digital pedagogy. The conventional lecture and workshop models have been replaced with bite-sized videos, reflective learning activities, concept-check quizzes, and online fora on the Moodle site. This learning will take place asynchronously, allowing fellows to engage regardless of time zones and their family and work obligations. In addition, synchronous dialogue space has been embedded to build community through the use of Zoom. These spaces are exclusively for cohort-wide dialogue around the new learning, allowing the programme to deliver on its vision of a dialogic pedagogy.

Our Learning Partners

Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town

Institute for Policy Studies

The mission of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, based at the University of Cape Town (UCT), is to promote and inspire strategic public leadership in Africa. The Mandela School partners with AFSEE to support the outreach and recruitment of fellows and the design and delivery of our South Africa module. The Mandela School hosted the III Annual Conference in June 2018 and supported efforts related to the 2018 Action for Equity Award.

Institute for Policy Studies/Inequality.org

The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) is a progressive think-tank based in New York, USA, dedicated to building a more equitable, ecologically sustainable and peaceful society. Since 2011, IPS has published inequality-related news and views via its website Inequality.org, offering information and insights for readers ranging from educators and journalists to activists and policy makers. As a content partner for AFSEE, IPS publishes pieces produced by our fellows and supports fellows in developing their communications skills.

AFSEE Programme Learning

Academic Content

• Understand & measure inequalities
• Engage with public & social policy
• Transform & challenge inequalities
• Consider alternative perspectives
• Ethnically as proxy

Community Building

• 15 theme panels
• Networking events
• City of London walk
• High culture & inequalities events

Professional Skills

• Leadership Skills
• Reflect & connect
• Facilitate action learning

FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

FOR RACIAL EQUITY

FOR EQUITY IN BRAIN HEALTH

FOR SOCIETY

FOR HEALTH EQUITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

FOR HEALTH EQUITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
In June 2019 we were delighted to welcome our third cohort of fellows to London for a dedicated pre-sessional of networking, peer-learning, and induction into the programme. This event, which was followed by a two-week learning module in September, a week-long learning module in November and an online-learning module in April 2020, kicked off what has been an immersive, rich and, at times, challenging year for the programme and for our fellows. The year-long programme offered the opportunity for our fellows to get to know each other; to bring their expertise and lived experience to inform their thinking and each other; to ground themselves in core concepts around inequalities and vehicles to bring about change (including policy, narratives, and academic approaches); and to start thinking about how they can work collaboratively to advance solutions to social change.

This year’s fellowship experience has necessarily been changed by COVID-19, both in terms of our fellows’ work and lives, and programme responses. Our third learning module, which had been due to take place in person at LSE in April, was moved online, and our fourth module was postponed. During these challenging and uncertain times, we have kept in touch via regular Zoom calls that have helped encourage continued community among fellows. And as the programme has adapted to changes in response to the pandemic, so too have fellows, as they re-oriented their programme coursework including blogs, projects, and dissertations. This year has, in many ways, been a test of our community. We are proud to have come through these challenging times in solidarity, supported by an innovative and strong programme team.

Our programme partners with the Nelson Mandela School at the University of Cape Town (NMS). Over the past year NMS has worked with AFSEE, particularly on outreach around the selection period, with prospective applicants. Module 4, which was originally scheduled for June 2020 and was to have been co-designed and co-led with NMS by an innovative and strong programme team.

The year-long programme offered the opportunity for our fellows to get to know each other; to bring their expertise and lived experience to inform their thinking and each other; to ground themselves in core concepts around inequalities and vehicles to bring about change (including policy, narratives, and academic approaches); and to start thinking about how they can work collaboratively to advance solutions to social change.

This year’s fellowship experience has necessarily been changed by COVID-19, both in terms of our fellows’ work and lives, and programme responses. Our third learning module, which had been due to take place in person at LSE in April, was moved online, and our fourth module was postponed. During these challenging and uncertain times, we have kept in touch via regular Zoom calls that have helped encourage continued community among fellows. And as the programme has adapted to changes in response to the pandemic, so too have fellows, as they re-oriented their programme coursework including blogs, projects, and dissertations. This year has, in many ways, been a test of our community. We are proud to have come through these challenging times in solidarity, supported by an innovative and strong programme team.

Our programme partners with the Nelson Mandela School at the University of Cape Town (NMS). Over the past year NMS has worked with AFSEE, particularly on outreach around the selection period, with prospective applicants. Module 4, which was originally scheduled for June 2020 and was to have been co-designed and co-led with NMS by an innovative and strong programme team.

THE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

In June 2019 we were delighted to welcome our third cohort of fellows to London for a dedicated pre-sessional of networking, peer-learning, and induction into the programme. This event, which was followed by a two-week learning module in September, a week-long learning module in November and an online-learning module in April 2020, kicked off what has been an immersive, rich, and, at times challenging year for the programme and for our fellows. The year-long programme offered the opportunity for our fellows to get to know each other; to bring their expertise and lived experience to inform their thinking and each other; to ground themselves in core concepts around inequalities and vehicles to bring about change (including policy, narratives, and academic approaches); and to start thinking about how they can work collaboratively to advance solutions to social change.

This year’s fellowship experience has necessarily been changed by COVID-19, both in terms of our fellows’ work and lives, and programme responses. Our third learning module, which had been due to take place in person at LSE in April, was moved online, and our fourth module was postponed. During these challenging and uncertain times, we have kept in touch via regular Zoom calls that have helped encourage continued community among fellows. And as the programme has adapted to changes in response to the pandemic, so too have fellows, as they re-oriented their programme coursework including blogs, projects, and dissertations. This year has, in many ways, been a test of our community. We are proud to have come through these challenging times in solidarity, supported by an innovative and strong programme team.

Our programme partners with the Nelson Mandela School at the University of Cape Town (NMS). Over the past year NMS has worked with AFSEE, particularly on outreach around the selection period, with prospective applicants. Module 4, which was originally scheduled for June 2020 and was to have been co-designed and co-led with NMS by an innovative and strong programme team.

The year-long programme offered the opportunity for our fellows to get to know each other; to bring their expertise and lived experience to inform their thinking and each other; to ground themselves in core concepts around inequalities and vehicles to bring about change (including policy, narratives, and academic approaches); and to start thinking about how they can work collaboratively to advance solutions to social change.

This year’s fellowship experience has necessarily been changed by COVID-19, both in terms of our fellows’ work and lives, and programme responses. Our third learning module, which had been due to take place in person at LSE in April, was moved online, and our fourth module was postponed. During these challenging and uncertain times, we have kept in touch via regular Zoom calls that have helped encourage continued community among fellows. And as the programme has adapted to changes in response to the pandemic, so too have fellows, as they re-oriented their programme coursework including blogs, projects, and dissertations. This year has, in many ways, been a test of our community. We are proud to have come through these challenging times in solidarity, supported by an innovative and strong programme team.

Our programme partners with the Nelson Mandela School at the University of Cape Town (NMS). Over the past year NMS has worked with AFSEE, particularly on outreach around the selection period, with prospective applicants. Module 4, which was originally scheduled for June 2020 and was to have been co-designed and co-led with NMS by an innovative and strong programme team. 
I work with senior fellows, individually and collectively, to ensure their continued development as AFSEE Senior Fellows. The senior fellows community fosters the lifelong continuation of connections, relationship-building and continuous learning that are hallmarks of the active fellowship period. AFSEE Senior Fellows have access to a range of opportunities to stay connected with other senior fellows, the International Inequalities Institute and LSE, to build new and exciting collaborations, and to continue to learn with and through each other to drive forward alternatives to global inequalities. Some of the key opportunities we offer for lifelong community engagement are:

- A range of funding opportunities, including the Personal Development Fund, which underwrites training courses identified by fellows as valuable in further developing and enhancing their professional skill set. Other funds support the participation of individual fellows at AFSEE/LSE events, and enable small groups of senior fellows to design and host a mini-convening on a relevant AFSEE-related subject. AFSEE has launched a COVID-19 Hardship Fund to support senior fellows experiencing various financial difficulties relating to this unprecedented and challenging crisis.
- Continuous knowledge and learning through AFSEE initiatives such as Policy for Equity, a new course designed by AFSEE and the LSE School of Public Policy. We also offer relevant and targeted skills sessions in areas such as specialist media communications and fundraising strategies.

These programme-level opportunities for lifelong community engagement are designed to complement the Atlantic Institute’s offerings to senior fellows across the seven Atlantic Fellows programmes. Together with the Atlantic Institute, we ensure that senior fellows remain connected and up to date with news and insights from the lifelong community, and are able to harness the knowledge, passion, creativity and resources of peers across and beyond their AFSEE cohorts.

Asmaa Akhtar
Programme Manager (Global Engagement and Impact)
The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme joins forces with people and organisations around the world to support catalytic research on inequality.

COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund

As a programme, we are committed to drawing on the insights of academic research, innovative social change strategies and our fellows’ own experience and expertise. Our COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund (CRRF), launched in May 2020, will fund timely and nimble research projects that draw on practitioners and scholars’ expertise to respond to the coronavirus crisis and its connections to global inequalities.

Dr Armine Ishkanian, AFSEE’s Executive Director, said of the initiative: “Addressing the challenges of global inequalities in the context of COVID-19 requires collaborative efforts, innovative approaches and original thinking. I hope the research that emerges from these projects will not only advance our knowledge about the impacts and responses to COVID-19 but will also help to shape policy and inform wider, public conversations about inequalities.”

Funding was awarded to four projects, all of which are expected to be completed within one year.

- “Rapid Responses for South African Labour Law in the Post-Corona Labour Market” Gabriella Razzano and Dr Fela Adeleke, both Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity
- “Women's Solidarity Networks take on COVID-19: the case of Valparaíso, Chile” Anita Pielia Szavatad (Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity), Dr Hillary Hiner (Universidad Diego Portales), Catalina Flores (Women’s Center, Valparaíso), Alondra Castillo (University of Valparaíso)
- “Designing A Net Wealth Tax: ‘thinking big’ on tax policy after coronavirus” Dr Andrew Summers (Department of Law, The London School of Economics and Political Science) and Dr Arun Advani (Department of Economics, Warwick University)
- “Emergent Agency in a Time of COVID-19” Dr Irene Gujji (Oxford) and Dr Duncan Green (Department of International Development, The London School of Economics and Political Science, and Oxford)

III Action Briefs

In autumn 2020, the International Inequalities Institute will launch its Action Brief series, which will focus on global or local inequalities via evidence-based practice and practice-based research. Dr Sara Camacho Felix, Assistant Professional Lecturer for the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme, has joined outgoing III Director Professor Mike Savage on the Action Briefs editorial board.

In light of the intention to share Action Briefs’ insights with multiple audiences including scholars, policy makers, activists and civil society organisations, government actors, educators and media, a range of outputs are being considered, including papers, podcasts, films and other effective means of speaking to the diverse audiences involved in actively creating equitable societies. Successful submissions address an identifiable type of inequality, explicitly and critically engage with existing literature and research, focus on practice, demonstrate original insights regarding the practice of addressing inequalities and speak to diverse stakeholders and communities.

Policy for Equity

Our academic and professional staff have developed an innovative week-long course, Policy for Equity, in partnership with the LSE School of Public Policy. Intended to serve the needs of the global cohort of senior fellows from across the seven Atlantic Fellowships, it will offer a comprehensive understanding of how to bring about social change via the policy cycle.

The course will explore and examine the entire policy cycle from inception to evaluation, and incorporate case studies from organisations and industries relevant to the global senior fellows community. Originally scheduled for July 2020 at LSE, but postponed in light of COVID-19, Policy for Equity will now be held in 2021.

University of Cape Town

The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, based at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, has been a key partner of Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity since the programme’s inception. NMU academics and staff draw on their networks and knowledge of inequality-related practice, research and civil society in Africa to assist with the outreach and recruitment of fellows and with the design and delivery of AFSEE’s South Africa module.

NMU is also currently collaborating with AFSEE and the African Centre of Excellence in Inequality Research on research around strategies addressing inequality in South Africa, with broader reference to the African continent and developing countries in general. The research is being undertaken in two streams: the first, focusing on policy responses to inequality, is being led by Professor Murray Leibbrandt and aims to synthesise, review and promote debate on policies to overcome inequality in developing countries. The second, led by Hannah Díaz, takes a case-study approach to community-based and community-led responses to inequalities in South Africa, and is exploring what makes particular interventions effective.

OUR PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS
The International Inequalities Institute is unique in its recognition that academics and students from different disciplines must begin to learn from one another in order to tackle the unprecedented social problems of our time. By engaging with various methodologies and topics related to the issue of rising inequalities, we produce ideas that broaden and enrich our own work.

Imani Strong, Leverhulme Trust Scholar
Doctoral Scholarships and Doctoral Programme at LSE

The Leverhulme Trust awarded LSE 15 doctoral scholarships between 2015 and 2017 worth £1 million for students to undertake interdisciplinary research on “the challenge of escalating inequalities”. LSE has continued the programme providing three studentships for 2019 and 2020 on “Analysing and Challenging Inequalities” working on inequalities. While based in different LSE departments, the students are associated with the Ill through the doctoral programme, an interdisciplinary series of taught seminars and discussions with a small group of other doctoral students across LSE that are also conducting research on aspects of inequalities. Convened by Professors Nicola Lacey and David Soskice, the programme aims to increase our understanding of the mechanisms that link the economic dimensions of inequality with their social, cultural and political dimensions at the global level.

2020/21 DOCTORAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Julia Buzan (Department of Psychological and Behavioral Science) is a Challenging and Analysing Inequalities doctoral scholar in Human Geography and Urban Studies, supervised by Prof. Romila Sarwal and Dr. David Madden. Her PhD research project focuses on interrelations between housing, gender and domestic violence in urban contexts in Brazil. Gabriela Neves de Lima holds a bachelor's in Political Science from Science Po Paris and a double master's degree in Urban Policy from Science Po Paris and LSE. Before starting her doctoral studies, Gabriela has worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit at University College London and has been an Oram Research Fellow in the LSE Department of Geography and Environment.

2019/20 DOCTORAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Victoria Crowne (Department of Sociology) is an Analysing and Challenging Inequalities scholarship holder, working under the supervision of Mike Savage and Andrew Summers. Her PhD research looks at how the financial services industry influences and shapes national and international tax law aimed at curtailing the abuse of tax havens. She previously worked for development and human rights organisations, most recently in a consultancy firm specialised in governance, social and environmental issues in the mining sector. Victoria holds an MA in Anthropology and Sociology of Development from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima, as well as an LLM in Diplomacy and International Law from Lancaster University.

Diwakar Kishore (Department of Social Policy) is interested in accountability, political participation and their impact on social welfare outcomes. Prior to starting his doctoral research at LSE, he worked with the Development Economics Research Team at the World Bank in Washington DC where his research focused on improving learning outcomes for children in Sub-Saharan Africa, reducing maternal mortality in Central Asia and increasing food security in South-East Asia. Previously, he has worked with the Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme at the University of Oxford. Before shifting to international development, Diwakar used to work as a commercial lawyer (Private Equity) and served the courts in Bihar (India) as a legal aid advocate. Diwakar holds a Bachelor of Art and Bachelor of Laws from the National Law School of India University, a master's in Public Policy from the University of Oxford and a master's in International Education Policy from Harvard University.

Gabriela Neves de Lima (Department of Geography and Environment) is an Analyzing and Challenging Inequalities doctoral scholar in Human Geography and Urban Studies, supervised by Dr. Romila Sarwal and Dr. David Madden. Her PhD research project focuses on interrelations between housing, gender and domestic violence in urban contexts in Brazil. Gabriela holds a bachelor's in Political Science from Science Po Paris and a double master's degree in Urban Policy from Science Po Paris and LSE. Before starting her doctoral studies, Gabriela has worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit at University College London and has been an Oram Research Fellow in the LSE Department of Geography and Environment.

Rahma Ahmed (Department of International Development) is an Analyzing and Challenging Inequality scholar based in the International Development Department. She will be studying the political economy of inequality and in particular, analysing the macroeconomic mechanisms suited to reducing it in low-resource settings. Rahma holds a double bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from Yale University and an MPA from Columbia University. She previously worked for the World Bank's Africa Research Group as well as the International Finance Corporation's Thought Leadership Unit.

John Bick (European Institute) is a first-year PhD student based in the LSE European Institute and the RI. His research focuses on the intersection between financialisation, inequality and party politics across the European Union. His interests include international political economy, financialisation, varieties of capitalism and the relationship between capitalism and democracy. John holds an MA in the History of Capitalism from the New School for Social Research as well as a BA in Anthropology and International Development from Washington University in St. Louis. He recently completed a Graduate Diploma in Economics at Birkbeck, University on London.

Melissa Wellmayer (Department of Geography and Environment) is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography and Environment's interdisciplinary Human Geography and Urban Studies programme, supervised by Romila Sarwal. Her research focuses on local authority responses to displacement and population movements in cities. She is interested in how evidence informs local government decision-making and the potential that data-gathering processes have for exorcising or mitigating inequalities between displaced populations and their non-displaced neighbours. Melissa has a BBA from the University of Chicago and an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

MSc in Inequalities and Social Science

We are delighted to host what we believe is the world’s first interdisciplinary master’s course examining issues of inequality. We admitted our first cohort of 18 students in 2015 and our fifth cohort of 38 students started in September 2019, including the residential members of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme.

MSc Aims

The MSc offers a comprehensive and wide-ranging programme that draws on expertise and state-of-the-art teaching from leading academics in the Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Government, Law, Social Policy, Media and Communications, and Statistics. The programme:

- introduces students to a range of interdisciplinary approaches to the social scientific analysis of inequalities
- develops theoretical awareness of different conceptions of the meaning of inequality and its various dimensions
- introduces students to the political economy of inequality and the role of political institutions in combating inequality
- introduces students to different methods for the measurement of inequality, both quantitative and qualitative
- makes students familiar with debates on the causes and consequences of increasing global inequality
- allows students to place issues of inequality in a fully international context
- gives students the skills and awareness to go onto conducting research in the area of inequalities
- information about the programme and how to apply is on the II website at lse.ac.uk/International-Inequalities/Teaching

Atkinson Prize

Each year, the Atkinson Prize is awarded to the MSc student who achieves the best overall performance. The award is named after the late Professor Tony Atkinson, an eminent LSE scholar who played a very important role in the establishment of the II.

The 2019 Atkinson Prize was awarded to Louise Russell-Prywata. Louise is an anti-corruption practitioner with a background in community action to challenge inequalities. She is a Senior Atlantic Fellow at the II, where her research explores the power and influence of elites exerted through corporate and philanthropic networks. Louise is Director of Policy and programmes at OpenOwnership, a global initiative driving technology and policy change to increase corporate transparency. She serves as a Trustee of Economy, a charity using media and campaigns to promote effective engagement with economic issues. Previously Louise spent five years with anti-corruption NGO Transparency International and co-founded Represent Radio, an award-winning young people’s empowerment project.

GRADUATE DESTINATIONS

We expect graduates of the MSc in Inequalities and Social Science to enter a wide range of fields addressing inequalities. Some of our recent graduates’ destinations are listed below:

- Kulsoom Jafri (UK) 2018 graduate
  Organisation: The Independent Workers’ Union of Great Britain

- Cara Leavy (UK) 2018 graduate
  Policy and Programme Officer, The Health Foundation

- Elmar Sparks (Ireland) 2018 graduate
  Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Activist and one of 25x25 Young Leaders for the SheDecides network

- Anthony Miro Born (Germany) 2017 graduate
  PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, LSE

- Gaby Harris (UK) 2016 graduate
  ESRC funded PhD candidate, Department of Sociology, LSE

ASSOCIATED TEACHING

We welcome postgraduate visitors to present their work and contribute to discussions during our courses. If you are interested in giving a presentation or in applying for a placement as a research associate, please contact us.
In 2019/20, the III ran an active public engagement programme of events. Wherever possible, events were recorded and made available via the III website, for the benefit of those unable to attend in person.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Plunder of the Commons: a manifesto for sharing public wealth**  
2 October 2019  
Speaker: Professor Guy Standing (Professorial Research Associate, SOAS)  
Discussants: Rt Hon David Lammy MP (Labour MP for Tottenham) and Rt Hon Caroline Lucas MP (MP for Brighton Pavilion)  
Chair: Professor Mike Savage (Director, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

In this event about his new book, *Plunder of the Commons*, Guy Standing led us through a new appraisal of the commons, stemming from the medieval concept of common land reserved in ancient law from marauding barons, to his modern reappraisal of the resources we all hold in common.

**Combatting Inequality: tackling unfairness in wealth, jobs and care**  
7 October 2019  
Speakers: Professor Mike Savage (Director and III Research Theme Convenor, International Inequalities Institute, LSE), Professor Beverley Skeggs (III Research Theme Convenor and AFSEE Academic Advisor, International Inequalities Institute, LSE), Professor David Soskice (III Research Theme Convenor, School Professor of Political Science and Economics, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)  
Chair: Professor Ellen Helsper (Professor in Digital Inequalities, Department of Media and Communications, LSE)

The III celebrated its fourth year of work by launching three new themes, each focusing on areas where the inequality debate takes on new intensity and prominence. The three speakers each introduced their themes and explained their importance, leading to a panel discussion. Mike Savage laid out how analysis of inequality requires us to engage with wealth as well as income inequality, and how this points to the power of elites. Beverley Skeggs reflected on how care work is a crucial part of the global economy, and how inequalities of race, gender and class are bound to the global care chain. David Soskice discussed how cities are becoming central loci of inequality and explored how processes of segregation are related to transformations in the knowledge economy.

**Parents, Poverty and the State**  
10 October 2019  
Speakers: Naomi Eisenstadt (Visiting Senior Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE), Carey Oppenheim (Visiting Senior Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE), Ryan Shorthouse (Director, Bright Blue), Matthew Taylor (Chief Executive, RSA)  
Chair: Professor John Hills (Richard Titmuss Professor of Social Policy, LSE)

“What do children need from parents, how is poverty a barrier to meeting needs, and what has Government done – and should do – about it?”

In this event, Naomi Eisenstadt and Carey Oppenheim explored the radical changes in public attitudes and public policy concerning parents and parenting. Drawing on research and their extensive experience of working at senior levels of government, the authors of the book, *Parents, Poverty and the State: 20 Years of Evolving Family Policy*, challenged expectations about what parenting policy on its own can deliver.

**Capitalism, Alone: the future of the system that rules the world**  
23 October 2019  
Speaker: Professor Branko Milanovic (Visiting Presidential Professor and LIS Senior Scholar at the Graduate Center, City University of New York)  
Chair: Minouche Shafik (Director, LSE)

For the first time in human history, the globe is dominated by one economic system. In his book *Capitalism, Alone*, which he discussed at this event, economist Branko Milanovic explained the reasons for this decisive historical shift since the days of feudalism and, later, communism.

**EVENTS**

SEPTEMBER 2019 – JULY 2020
Institute, explored the politics and policies of taxing wealth after Two webinar sessions, hosted by the LSE International Inequalities Expert speakers delivered presentations on their cutting-edge research Policy and Programmes at OpenOwnership and Senior Atlantic Fellow Tax Systems Analysis, University of Barcelona),

Institute, LSE) Political Economy, King’s College London),

15 June 2020, via Zoom policy exchange
Strategies for Taxing Wealth: an academic and exchange

Mike Savage, looked at power and wealth, tax and inequality, and the hands of a few. Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity a spotlight on the staggering concentration of wealth and power in unemployment, destitution and even starvation, COVID-19 has turned a spotlight on the staggering concentration of wealth and power in South Africa, the UK and Chile, in conversation with Professor Mike Savage, looked at power and wealth, tax and inequality, and post-pandemic possibilities for rewriting the social contract.


Host: Professor Mike Savage (Director, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Guests: Dr. Julian Limberg (Lecturer in Public Policy, Department of Political Economy, King’s College London), Robert Palmer (Executive Director, Tax Justice UK) and Hendrik Theine (Lecturer in Public Policy, Department of Social Policy, The College of New Jersey) and

Discussants: Professor Swapna M. Banerjee (Associate Professor in the Department of Social Policy, The College of New Jersey), and Dr. Shalini Grover (Research Officer, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

The challenge of inequality: social change and the return of history

Chair: Dr. Luna Gluckberg (Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Speakers: Dr. Pawel Bukowski (Research Fellow, University of Social Sciences and Arts in Wrocław, Visiting Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE), and Dr. Anna Ebrils (Université Paris 1, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Visiting Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Expert speakers delivered presentations on their cutting-edge research addressing diverse questions on strategies for taxing wealth, setting the stage for further debate involving Q&A from a webinar audience. Two webinar sessions, hosted by the LSE International Inequalities Institute, explored the politics and policies of taxing wealth after coronavirus, such as the politics of major tax reform, wealth tax and enslavement.

Mike Savage speculatively laid out recent trends in inequality along axes of gender, race, and class to show how they both disrupt but also might empower an overarching account of the intensification of inequalities.

Chair: Dr. Luna Gluckberg (Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Implications of the COVID-19 Crisis for Disability Policy This event is part of LSE’s public event series – COVID-19: the policy response. 23 June 2020, via Zoom

Speakers: Jane Campbell (Baroness Campbell of Surbiton DBE; Independent Crossbencher Member of the House of Lords and disability rights campaigner), Neil Cowather (Independent expert on equality, human rights and social change), Clenton Farquharson (Chair, Think Local Act National Programme Board) and Liz Sayce (JRF Practitioner Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Chair: Dr. Aminie Ishkanian (Executive Director of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme at the International Inequalities Institute and Associate Professor in the Department of Social Policy)

This panel event investigated the potential implications for disability policy and its possible futures under current political and socio-cultural themes. It explored questions including whether the “vulnerability” framing is likely to inform future policy and what the implications are for disabled people’s lives, communities and activism.

Humankind: a hopeful history

Hosted by the International Inequalities Institute and Department of Sociology 1 July 2020, via Zoom

Speaker: Rutger Bregman (Historian and Author)
Chair: Dr. Poomanaphai (Department of Sociology and LSE Fellow in Inequalities)

It’s a belief that unites the left and right, psychologists and philosophers, writers and historians. It drives the headlines and the laws that touch our lives. Human beings, we’re taught, are by nature selfish and governed by self-interest.

Despite this, we’re told, we have the moral capacity to do good and to act in the common good, as well as revolutionary, to assume that people are good. He concluded with the notion that by thinking the worst of others, we bring out the worst in our politics and economics too.

Care-work for Colonial and Contemporary White Families in India: a historical-anthropological study of the racialised romanticism of the Ayyah 7 July 2020, via Zoom

Speakers: Dr. Satyasikha Chakraborty (Assistant Professor of History, The College of New Jersey) and Dr. Shalini Grover (Research Officer, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Discussants: Professor Swapna M. Banerjee (Associate Professor in History, Brooklyn College, CUNY) and Professor Nandini Gooptu (Associate Professor of South Asian Studies at Department of International Development and Fellow of St Antony’s College, University of Oxford)

Chair: Professor Alpa Shah (Associate Professor Reader in Anthropology, LSE)

Introduction by Professor Beverley Skeggs, 1s theme convenor Global Economies of Care.

The historical and anthropological scholarship on domestic labour and gender in South Asia are largely self-contained fields of enquiry: historians tend to focus on the pre-colonial and colonial period, while anthropologists study the contemporary. Colonial legacies of white privilege, inter-racial labour, gendered care, and discussions on domestic hygiene on contemporary paid domestic labour in India are thus left unattended. The study discussed in this event combines archival and ethnographic methods to provide a historical anthropological study of inter-racial gendered care-work through the figure of the Indian Ayyah.

Inequalities Seminar Series

Our Inequalities Seminar Series was launched in September 2016 and is free and open to all. It is a venue for scholars from LSE and beyond to present their innovative work on social and economic inequality, as well as to place to explore fresh perspectives on the various structural and cultural processes that underlie the formation of inequality broadly defined.

The Life and Times of Categorical Inequality: Social, Economic, and Political Inequality and Social Change in the United States 1 October 2019

Speaker: Professor Mike Savage (Director, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)
Chair: Dr. Luna Gluckberg (Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

This seminar reflected on the current state of the debate about inequality. Although inequality is increasingly widely recognised to be a major concern that requires the kind of interdisciplinary initiatives that the III facilitates, a number of major challenges have come to the fore. This seminar reflected on one of these: how to link analyses of income and wealth distributions. Economists brought this to the fore, with the categorical analyses of gender, race and class emphasised by other social scientists, and those who raise major questions of political action. Drawing on his forthcoming book, The challenge of inequality: social change and the return of history, Mike Savage speculatively laid out recent trends in inequality along axes of gender race and class to show how they both disrupt but also might empower an overarching account of the intensification of inequalities.

Between Communism and Capitalism: Long-term Inequality in Poland, 1892-2015 15 October 2019

Speaker: Dr. Pawel Bukowski (Research Officer, LSE)

This seminar addressed the question of “How has Polish inequality evolved between communism and capitalism to reach one of the highest levels in Europe today?” The researchers constructed the first series on the long-term distribution of income in Poland by combining tax household and national accounts data. They documented a u-shaped evolution of inequalities from the end of the 20th century until today.

Superstar Cities and Left-behind Places: a long-run perspective on US interregional inequality 29 October 2019

Speaker: Dr. Tom Kemeny (Visiting Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Around 1980, interregional income inequality in the US began to grow, as it did in a wide range of other countries. In the US, some people moved to opportunity, newly concentrated in a limited subset of urbanised locations, but overall migration rates shrank. As a consequence, many Americans have become stuck in places that offer few opportunities. This shift is economically important, and it also appears to be related to the recent upsurge in populist politics. And yet divergence is not a constant or necessary feature of the space-economy.

In this seminar, Dr. Kemeny proposed a “structural” theory featuring regular, alternating patterns of convergence and divergence. Major, disruptive technology shocks – or industrial revolutions – regulate this “wave” pattern, increasing the gaps between places, and then later diminishing them. He sketched mechanisms that could generate these facts and provide descriptive evidence in support of these ideas by analysing information on US regional economies since 1860.

Inequalities Seminar Series

Our Inequalities Seminar Series was launched in September 2016 and is free and open to all. It is a venue for scholars from LSE and beyond to present their innovative work on social and economic inequality, as well as to place to explore fresh perspectives on the various structural and cultural processes that underlie the formation of inequality broadly defined.

The Life and Times of Categorical Inequality: class, gender and race in long term historical perspective 1 October 2019

Speaker: Professor Mike Savage (Director, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)
Chair: Dr. Luna Gluckberg (Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

This seminar reflected on the current state of the debate about inequality. Although inequality is increasingly widely recognised to be a major concern that requires the kind of interdisciplinary initiatives that the III facilitates, a number of major challenges have come to the fore. This seminar reflected on one of these: how to link analyses of income and wealth distributions. Economists brought this to the fore, with the categorical analyses of gender, race and class emphasised by other social scientists, and those who raise major questions of political action. Drawing on his forthcoming book, The challenge of inequality: social change and the return of history, Mike Savage speculatively laid out recent trends in inequality along axes of gender race and class to show how they both disrupt but also might empower an overarching account of the intensification of inequalities.

Between Communism and Capitalism: Long-term Inequality in Poland, 1892-2015 15 October 2019

Speaker: Dr. Pawel Bukowski (Research Officer, LSE)

This seminar addressed the question of “How has Polish inequality evolved between communism and capitalism to reach one of the highest levels in Europe today?” The researchers constructed the first series on the long-term distribution of income in Poland by combining tax household and national accounts data. They documented a u-shaped evolution of inequalities from the end of the 20th century until today.

Superstar Cities and Left-behind Places: a long-run perspective on US interregional inequality 29 October 2019

Speaker: Dr. Tom Kemeny (Visiting Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Around 1980, interregional income inequality in the US began to grow, as it did in a wide range of other countries. In the US, some people moved to opportunity, newly concentrated in a limited subset of urbanised locations, but overall migration rates shrank. As a consequence, many Americans have become stuck in places that offer few opportunities. This shift is economically important, and it also appears to be related to the recent upsurge in populist politics. And yet divergence is not a constant or necessary feature of the space-economy.

In this seminar, Dr. Kemeny proposed a “structural” theory featuring regular, alternating patterns of convergence and divergence. Major, disruptive technology shocks – or industrial revolutions – regulate this “wave” pattern, increasing the gaps between places, and then later diminishing them. He sketched mechanisms that could generate these facts and provide descriptive evidence in support of these ideas by analysing information on US regional economies since 1860.
Who Cares in a Shrinking State? Responsibility and Respectability Reconsidered
19 November 2019
Speakers: Professor Mary Evans (LSE Centennial Professor, Department of Gender Studies, LSE) and Dr Insa Koch (Associate Professor of Law, Department of Law, LSE)
Chair: Professor Beverley Skaggs (III Research Theme Convenor and AFSEE Academic Advisor, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

In this seminar Dr Insa Koch discussed the nature of the shrinking state, drawing on the impact of the shrinking state on local populations from her UK published work, The British elite. The results revealed three distinct stages of elite families face, or rather are told they face, by their advisers: the issue of ‘generational algebra’.

The Dog that Didn’t Bark? Income Inequality and the Absence of a Tabnew Moment in the Mass Media
18 February 2020
Speakers: Dr Patrick McDonen (Director of the MSc International Migration and Public Policy and an Associate Professor, Reader in the Department of Sociology, LSE), Dr Sandra Obradovic (Fellow in the Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE), and Professor Marie W Bauer (Director of MSc Social and Public Communication, Professor of Social Psychology, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE)

Have rising levels of income inequality been recognised as a scandalous social problem that requires radically different kinds of policy responses? Or has the topic failed to gain enough attention to be considered as a new social problem with the result that it has become subsumed within existing discussions of economic policy? This seminar explored the aforementioned, drawing on an analysis of UK and US newspapers, in which the researchers found that the coverage of income inequality came in three phases; an initial surge in the 1990s, followed by a decline in the early 2000s, and a second surge that took off after the economic crisis of 2008. Despite this surge in media attention, the problem of inequality seems to have remained an academic concern as it does not appear to have resounded more widely.

Racial Capitalism, Resurgent Populism, and the Politics of Rights Focus
25 February 2020
Speaker: Professor Michael McCann (Gordon Hirabayashi’s Professor for the Advancement of Citizenship, the University of Washington in Seattle)
Chair: Professor Mike Savage (Director, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Comparative research on income inequality has produced several coherent frameworks to study the institutional determinants of income stratification. In contrast, no such framework and much less empirical evidence exist to explain cross-national differences in wealth inequality. This situation is particularly lamentable as cross-national patterns of inequality in wealth diverge sharply from those in income. This seminar sought to pave the way for new institutional explanations of cross-national differences in wealth inequality by tracing them to the influence of different wealth components.

It’s Slippery at the Top: churn and anxiety amongst elite families
4 February 2020
Speaker: Dr Luna Guikhsberg (Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)
Chair: Dr Nora Walatkus (Research Officer, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

This seminar took as a starting point the apparent paradox in the behaviour of elite families who strive to accumulate more and more wealth, fearing to lose their position at the top and slip down the inequality curve. To unpack this contradiction, this seminar – based on a paper – explored the fundamental problem that all elite families face, or rather are told they face, by their advisers: the issue of ‘generational algebra’.

Aristocratic, Highbrow and Ordinary: shifting modes of elite distinction 1897 to 2016
3 December 2019
Speaker: Dr Sam Friedman (Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, and Director of the MSc Inequalities and Social Science, LSE)
Chair: Professor Mike Savage (Director, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

How do elites signal their superior social position through the consumption of culture? In this seminar, the researchers answered this foundational question by drawing on 30 years of ‘consumption’ data (N = 71,393) contained within Whos Who – a unique catalogue of the British elite. The results revealed three distinct stages of elite culture. First, a dominant mode of aristocratic practice forged around the leisure possibilities briefly and severely curtailed by the first world war and then, significantly in the late 19th century. A second, a highbrow mode dominated by the fine arts which increased sharply in the early 20th century before gently receding in the most recent birth cohorts. Third, a contemporary mode characterised by the blending of highbrow pursuits with more everyday forms of cultural participation was found, such as spending time with family, friends and pets.

The Wealth Inequality of Nations: exploring and explaining cross-national differences in wealth
21 January 2020
Speaker: Dr Nora Walatkus (Research Officer, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)
Chair: Dr Luna Guikhsberg (Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Comparative research on income inequality has produced several coherent frameworks to study the institutional determinants of income stratification. In contrast, no such framework and much less empirical evidence exist to explain cross-national differences in wealth inequality. This situation is particularly lamentable as cross-national patterns of inequality in wealth diverge sharply from those in income. This seminar sought to pave the way for new institutional explanations of cross-national differences in wealth inequality by tracing them to the influence of different wealth components.

SEMINAR SERIES ON MIGRATION ETHNICITY AND RACE Organised by the III and Department of Social Policy

This seminar series provides the opportunity for those researching race, ethnicity and migration from across LSE to share their interests and get peer feedback through presentations and discussion. Invoking occasional external speakers as well as internal presenters, it brings together both qualitative and quantitative researchers, and those approaching the topics of race, ethnicity and migration from a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. It also provides the opportunity for PhD students with interests in these areas to participate in a community of interest and experience perspectives and approaches from outside their own topic and discipline.

Collective Remittances and Mobilisation Against Crime in Mexico
16 October 2019
Speaker: Dr Bonga Musaga (Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of International Relations, LSE)
Chair: Dr Susanne Wessendorf (Associate Professor Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Beyond the Borders of the Welfare State: civil society responses to the migration crisis in Greece
Dr Isabel Shtut (Department of Social Policy, LSE)
Chair: Dr Susanne Wessendorf (Associate Professor Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

This seminar drew on research carried out between Dr Isabel Shtut and Dr Armine Ishkanian on civil society responses to the migration crisis in Greece. It formed one of two papers based on this research. The paper examined how transnational practices to meet the needs of people on the move emerge in relation to state systems for governing migration and welfare, focusing on the experiences of civil society actors in Greece in the context of the migration crisis.

Precarious Refuge: ethnonationalism and the politics of housing refugees
27 November 2019
Speaker: Dr Romola Sanyal (Associate Professor of Urban Geography, Department of Geography and Environment, LSE)
Chair: Dr Susanne Wessendorf (Associate Professor Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

The idea of refuge is an inherently geographical one - a shelter from danger or distress, a place of protection. It is also imbued with a certain temporality – the expectation that such shelter will be temporary and that it will eventually leave. Such assumptions carry into contemporary approaches and attitudes towards displaced persons. In this talk, Dr Romola Sanyal examined how housing becomes intertwined with ethnonationalism and becomes a means of producing cleavages between stateless people, refugees on the one hand and citizens on the other, and how local communities participate and challenge such narratives.

Role Playing Racism: history teaching and the limits of experiential learning
11 December 2019
Speaker: Dr Chana Teeger (Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Professor of Social Psychology, Department of International Relations, LSE)
Chair: Dr Susanne Wessendorf (Associate Professor Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

This seminar explored a paper that points to the limits of experiential learning when dealing with issues of racism and discrimination. Drawing on fieldwork conducted in a racially diverse South African high school, Dr Chana Teeger discussed how teachers employed simulations and role-playing exercises to teach about apartheid. Teachers argued that these would help build historical empathy. However, not only did the simulations fail to capture the activity or sensitivity of the experience, it was also white – during apartheid, but they also reinforced the notion that racial stratification was separate and distinct from students’ current situations.

12 February 2020
Speaker: Dr Armine Ishkanian (Associate Professor and Academic Lead, AFSEE programme and III Research Committee Member, LSE)
Chair: Dr Susanne Wessendorf (Associate Professor Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

Since the 1990s, Greece has been both a transit and destination country for migrants but when 850,000 people entered the country in 2015, local and international NGOs and UN agencies began their operations in Greece, they found themselves working in a crowded humanitarian space that was also populated by domestic NGOs, Greek solidarians, international volunteers, EU agencies (eg, Frontex) and of course, the Greek government. In this seminar, drawing on research conducted in Greece with Dr Isabel Shtut in 2017 to 2018, Dr Armine Ishkanian discussed the civil society responses to the “crisis” and focused on the politics and practices of two informal, non-professionalised sets of actors: Greek solidarians and international volunteers.

Multidimensional Disadvantage Among Children: bringing Roma, Gypsy and Traveller children in England and Wales into focus
4 March 2020
Speaker: Dr Polina Obolenskaya (Research Officer, the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, CASE)
Chair: Dr Susanne Wessendorf (Associate Professor Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE)

It is well known that Roma, Gypsy and Traveller children in the UK as well as across Europe experience high levels of disadvantage. Yet no national monitoring of their living standards in the UK is taking place. This is because children from Roma, Gypsy and Traveller backgrounds are often missing or invisible in the large-scale statistical analyses of children at risk of poverty and deprivation that drive policy development and monitoring. Based on a paper, the authors in this seminar argue that population censuses and other administrative sources, many of which already record ethnicity, are under-utilised as a source of robust and comparable data. This allows the scale, intensity and multi-dimensionality of the challenges facing Roma, Gypsy and Traveller children to be investigated and tracked.
Working paper 35 – Global Economics of Care

Ethnic Minorities’ Reactions to Newcomers in East London: symbolic boundaries and communitarian daily life
By Dr Suzanne Wessendorf

In much public discourse on immigrants in Western Europe, perceptions towards newcomers are discussed in relation to what white national minorities think. However, today, new migrants often move into places which are already settled by previous migrants. Surprisingly little is known about the local experiences, perceptions and attitudes towards newcomers from long-established ethnic minorities in areas which they have made their home, and where they predominate not just in numbers but also by way of shops, religious sites, schools and population, etc. Based on ongoing ethnographic fieldwork in east London (UK), this paper looks at long-established ethnic minority residents’ attitudes towards newcomers from Eastern Europe. In these areas, these are shaped by their own histories of exclusion. By bringing together theories on symbolic boundary making with the concept of “convincial labour” (Nobel 2009; Wise 2016), the findings illustrate these encounters of stigmatisation impact on perceptions of white newcomers, and how these perceptions are characterised by a combination of empathy and resentment.

Working paper 36 – Global Economics of Care

By Professor Nicolas Duvoux and Adrien Papuchon

Literature has long been attentive to the study of subjective happiness or well-being. Key questions developed in the late 1970s have recently been framed as indicators of subjective economic stress or used to build “conspicuous poverty lines”. Yet, these notions differ from an authentic – ie, direct – measure of subjective poverty. The key feature of the group of those who consider themselves as poor is a degraded attitude towards their own histories of exclusion. By bringing together theories on the literature on the international political economy of inequality.


Social Polarisation at the Local Level: a four-town comparative study
Dr Insa Koch, Dr Mark Fransham, Dr Sara Cant, Jill Ebrey, Dr Luna Glucksberg and Professor Mike Savage

The concept of polarisation, where the extremes of a distribution are growing and where there is a focus on ‘between the middle’, has attracted recent interest driven by concerns about the consequences of inequality in British society. This paper brings together evidence of economic, spatial and relational polarisation across four contrasting towns in the United Kingdom: Oldham, Margate, Oxford and Tunbridge Wells. Deploying a comparative analysis community, buttressed by quantitative framing, the authors discuss how the key issues of economic inequality are reflected in their thinking about cultural work and how these relate to questions of spatial and pol – especially in terms of its exploration and representation to a recognition of how economic inequality has a taken a spatialised form.

Working paper 38 – Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice

Exporting the Winner-Take-All Economy: micro-level evidence of the impact of US investors on executive pay in the United Kingdom
Dr Lukas Linse, Dr Jonathan Hopkin and Dr Pascal Jaquart

Existing studies of the political determinants of top incomes and inequality are rooted in long-established ethnic minorities in areas which they have made their home, and where they predominate not just in numbers but also by way of shops, religious sites, schools and population, etc. Based on ongoing ethnographic fieldwork in east London (UK), this paper looks at long-established ethnic minority residents’ attitudes towards newcomers from Eastern Europe. In these areas, these are shaped by their own histories of exclusion. By bringing together theories on symbolic boundary making with the concept of “convincial labour” (Nobel 2009; Wise 2016), the findings illustrate these encounters of stigmatisation impact on perceptions of white newcomers, and how these perceptions are characterised by a combination of empathy and resentment.


Hidden Wealth
Dr Neil Cater

Sharp declines in wealth-concentration occurred across Europe and the US during the 20th century. But this stylised fact is based on declared wealth. It is possible that at least not less rich but rather that they are hiding much of their wealth. This paper proposes a method to measure this hidden wealth, in any form. In England, 1920 to 1992, elites are concealing 20 to 32 per cent of their wealth. This hidden wealth, independent of declared wealth, predicts appearance in the Offshore Leaks Database of 2013 to 2016, house values in 1999, and Oxbridge attendance, 1990 to 2016. Accounting for hidden wealth eliminates one-third of the observed decline of top 10 per cent wealth-share over the last century.

Working paper 40 – Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice

The Art World’s Response to the Challenge of Inequality
Kristina Kolbe, Dr Christopher Upton-Hansen, Professor Mike Savage, Professor Nicolas Duvoux and Dr Sara Cant

This paper considers the challenges which rising economic inequality poses to the art world with a special focus on museums and galleries in the UK. Based on interviews with artists, curators and managers of leading art institutions in London, the authors discuss how issues of economic inequality are reflected in their thinking about cultural work and how these relate to questions of spatial power and political economy. The authors show how increasing economic inequality brings about deep-seated, systematic and enduring challenges which extend well beyond public funding cuts and the rise in performance reviews. In the experiment’s non-reified condition, narratives are evaluated in the refined condition, the same narrative evaluations are accompanied by a crisp rating of the employees’ performance.

Working paper 41 – Cities, Jobs and the Knowledge Economy

Superstar Cities and Left-Behind Places: disruptive innovation, labor demand, and interregional inequality
Dr Tom Kemeny and Professor Michael Storper

After a long period of convergence, around 1980, inter-place gaps in economic wellbeing in the United States began to increase. This rising inequality offers a rich terrain to explore causality in regional economics and development theory. This paper presents new, long-run evidence on interregional inequality that highlights the need to situate the current moment in a context of episodic alternations between convergence and divergence. In light of this evidence, the paper revisits the theoretical literature, finding gaps in existing supply- and demand-side models. A demand-led perspective can be strengthened by integrating a primary role for disruptive technological change. The authors posit a theory of alternating waves, where major technology shocks initially concentrate, and eventually deconcentrate, demand for skilled workers performing complementary tasks. Labour supply responds to these centripetal and centrifugal forces. These reversals yield the observed patterns of rising and falling interregional inequality. The authors trace out the implications of this theory in both academic and policy terms.


How the Reification of Merit Breeds Inequality: theory and experimental evidence
Dr Fabián Accoriencourt and Daniel Badron

In a variety of social contexts, measuring merit or performance is a crucial step toward enforcing meritocratic ideals. At the same time, workable measures – such as ratings – are bound to obscure the intricate role that unconscious bias play in merit, thus reifying it into an artificially crisp and clear-cut thing. This paper explores how the reification of merit breeds inequality in the rewards received by the winners and losers of the meritocratic race. It reports the findings of a large experiment (n = 2,844) asking participants to divide a year-end bonus among a set of employees based on their reading of the annual performance reviews. In the experiment’s non-reified condition, narratives are evaluated in the refined condition, the same narrative evaluations are accompanied by a crisp rating of the employees’ performance.

The authors show that participants reward employees more unequally when performance is reified, even though employees’ levels of performance do not vary across conditions: most notably, the bonus gap between top- and bottom-performing employees increases by 20 per cent between our non-reified and reified conditions, and it rises by another 10 per cent when performance is presented as a score. Further analyses suggest that reification fuels inequality both by reinforcing the authoritativeness of evaluation and by making observers more accepting of the idea that individuals can be meaningfully sorted into a merit hierarchy. This has direct implications for understanding the rise of legitimate inequality in societies characterised by the proliferation of reifying forms of evaluation.

Working paper 43 – Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice

Inequality as Entitlements over Labour
Dr Paul Segal

The modern study of economic inequality is based on the distribution of entitlements over goods and services. But social commentators at least since Rousseau have been concerned with a different aspect of economic inequality: that it implies that one person is entitled to command another person for their personal ends. Segal calls this inequality as entitlements over labour. He proposes to measure entitlements over labour by calculating the extent to which top income groups can afford to buy the labour of others for the purpose of their personal consumption. Unlike standard inequality measures, this measure is not welfare, but instead has its normative basis in relations of domination, hierarchy and social status between people. Segal estimates entitlements over labour in three high-income and two low-income countries and argues that inequality as entitlements over labour is socially and politically salient, capturing a side of inequality neglected by standard measures.

Working paper 44 – Cities, Jobs and the Knowledge Economy

Entrepreneurship and the Fight Against Poverty in US Cities
Dr Professor Neil Lee and Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

Entrepreneurship is sometimes portrayed as a cure-all solution for poverty reduction. Proponents argue it leads to job creation, higher incomes, and lower poverty rates in the cities in which it occurs. Others, by contrast, posit that many entrepreneurs are actually creating low-productivity firms serving local markets. Yet, despite this debate, little research has considered the impact of entrepreneurship on poverty in cities. This paper addresses this gap using a panel of US cities for the period between 2005 and 2015. The authors hypothesise that the impact of entrepreneurship depends on whether it occurs in tradable sectors – and therefore, is more likely to have positive local multiplier effects – or non-tradable sectors, which may saturate local markets. They find that entrepreneurship in tradable goods reduces poverty and increases incomes for non-entrepreneurs. The result is confirmed using an instrumental variable approach, employing the inheritance of entrepreneurial traits as an instrument. In contrast, while there are some economic benefits from non-tradable entrepreneurship, we find these are not large enough to reduce poverty.
Managing Racism? Race Equality and Decolonial Educational Futures
Dr Suile Ali
The Office for Students is now holding UK universities to account for their failures to address racial inequalities, and the Teaching Excellence Framework is bringing the student experience to the fore in assessing higher education institutions. As the twin crises of COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd have highlighted in an unprecedented way, racial inequalities and injustices persist in spite of decades of legislation aiming to promote equality and end discrimination. The paper considers two main areas of ‘racial equalities’ work, namely anti-racist initiatives and decolonial initiatives. It suggests that the rise of managerialism and in particular, audit cultures, have allowed racism to flourish in spite, or rather because of, the need to account for equality, diversity and inclusion in global markets for higher education. Auditing requires a focus on identities and cannot take into account the complex ways in which race, race thinking and racism are maintained in knowledge production. The lack of consensus around what decolonial education should be undermines attempts to produce educational social justice. From a feminist postcolonial perspective, the paper suggests recentralising racism and reengaging difference as a way to negotiate more just educational futures.

Working paper 48
Dr Benoit Decerf, Professor Francisco H G Ferreira, Dr Daniel G Muñoz and Dr Oliver Sterio
This paper evaluates the global welfare consequences of increases in mortality and poverty generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Increases in mortality are measured in terms of the number of years of life lost (LYL) to the pandemic. Additional years spent in poverty (PY) are conservatively estimated using growth estimates for 2020. Using years of life as a welfare metric yields a single parameter that captures the underlying trade-off between lives and livelihoods: how many PYs have the same welfare cost as one LYL. Taking an agnostic view of this parameter, estimates of LYLs and PYs are compared across countries for different scenarios. Three main findings arise. First, as of early June 2020, the pandemic (and the observed private and policy responses) has generated at least 68 million additional years of life lost (LYL) to the pandemic. Additional years spent in poverty (PY) are conservatively estimated using growth estimates for 2020. Three main findings arise.

III RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS 2019/20

Dr Mark Fransham
Neighbourhood Gentrification, Displacement, and Poverty Dynamics in Post-Recession England
Mark Fransham. 2020.

Dr Luna Glucksberg
Philanthropic Capitalism as Wealth Management Strategy: philanthropy, inheritance and succession planning among the global elite
The Sociological Review.
Jessica Sklair and Luna Glucksberg. Forthcoming.
Elites and inequality: a case study of plutocratic philanthropy in the UK

Dr Shalini Grover
Trailing Spouses in India
In, Petra Matjevic and Alena Ledenna (Editors), “Global Encyclopaedia of Informality.”
University College Press (UCL Press).
Shalini Grover and Sanna Schliewe. Forthcoming.
Family-Atomic Marriages in Globalising India: shifting scripts of desire, infidelity and emotional compatibility
In, Peter Berta (Editor), “The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts.”
Rutgers University Press.

Dr Mark Fransham, Dr Luna Glucksberg, Dr Shalini Grover, Dr Benoit Decerf, Professor Francisco H G Ferreira, Dr Daniel G Muñoz and Dr Oliver Sterio

Working paper 45 – Cities, Jobs and the Knowledge Economy
EU Migrants’ Experiences of Claims-Making in German Job Centres
Dr Nora Raitzmann
This paper describes intra-EU migrants’ experiences with (transnational) social security in Germany, showcasing their sense-making of the claims-making process to basic subsistence benefits in local job centres. The analysis of 48 qualitative interviews with intra-EU migrants and key informants illustrates how they are not merely passive recipients but may actively assert their rights, based on their degree of familiarity with German welfare bureaucracy, their pre-existing welfare expectations, and their available cultural and social capital. Whether EU migrant citizens decide to claim relates to their cost-benefit analyses on the accessibility to benefits and alternative means of support, as well as their perceived social legitimacy to draw on German public social support. As a general trend, EU citizens first tried to exhaust all other means of generating an income, seeking to remain financially independent from state provided welfare, before seeking to claim social assistance-type benefits as a last resort. The data also shows how some applicants are less able than others to pay the hidden costs imposed onto them during the claiming process. The paper finally highlights how, in the light of the inequalities of access they face, intra-EU migrants have developed a variety of strategies to satisfy their social protection needs, relying on a mix of formal and informal welfare arrangements.

Inequality, Living Standards and Growth: two centuries of economic development in Mexico
Dr Ingrid Bleynat, Dr Amílcar Challú and Dr Paul Segal
This paper presents a new historical data, median incomes are most appropriate for measuring economic development. This paper shows that, given limited measures of living standards, and as indicators of patterns of informal welfare arrangements.

LSE Inequalities Publications Portal
In addition to the papers we publish ourselves, the III hosts a portal on our websites linking to research about inequality from across LSE, indexed according to the main thematic focus.
lse.ac.uk/International-Inequalities/Publications-Portal

Joaquin Prieto
Understanding Changes in the Geography of Opportunity over Time: the case of Santiago, Chile
Cities: The International Journal of Urban Policy and Planning
Isabel Brain and Joaquin Prieto. Forthcoming.

The Political Economy of Unemployment Insurance Based on Individual Savings Accounts: lessons from Chile
Development and Change, 50 (4): 948-975
Kirsten Sehrbruch, Rafael Carranza and Joaquin Prieto. 2019.
The Working Poor in Chile During the Period 1990–2013
In H Lohmann and I Marx (Editors), “Handbook on In-Work Poverty.”
Edward Elgar Publishing.

Dr Susanne Wessendorf
Ethnic Minorities’ Reactions to Newcomers in East London: symbolic boundaries and convivial labour
The Role of Arrival Areas for Migrant Integration and Resource Access
Heike Hahnhoerster and Susanne Wessendorf. 2020.

Working paper 35
Ethnic Minorities’ Reactions to Newcomers in East London: symbolic boundaries and convivial labour

Dr Shalini Grover

The Changing Geographies of Political Participation in India and the Caribbean
En, Nitin Sinha and Nitin Varma (Editors), “Servants Past, Late-Eighteenth to Twentieth Century South Asia.”
The International Inequalities Institute has established a strong social media presence in the past year, making use of a range of digital platforms including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Mailchimp to extend our reach to new audiences and cultivate ties with existing partners.

III DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Digital Communications as of September 2020

Twitter continues to be the III’s main social media channel, with an average growth of 323.31 followers per month, and having attracted around 4,203 new followers in the last 13 months. The account sees strong levels of engagement, peaking during public events, conferences and the release of new research. This year’s highlight was the month of April 2020, with 365K impressions and 4,493 profile visits.

The LSE Inequalities Facebook page has seen an increase of digital platforms including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Mailchimp to extend our reach to new audiences and cultivate ties with existing partners.

Twitter

- 18,634 followers

Facebook

- 3,425 followers

YouTube

- 2,013 newsletter subscribers

- 64,098 newsletter views

- 1,262,444 video and podcast downloads

The institute website features content ranging from a majority of the institute’s public lectures are uploaded to the LSE YouTube channel. This allows the III to extend the reach of its lectures, as the LSE YouTube channel has 169.9K subscribers who receive notifications each time a new video is published. On average, III videos have around 2,252 views each, totaling 15,762 views in the past year.

Video and podcast downloads

Whenever possible, the III aims to record its events and make them publicly available online. In the past year, the institute’s videos and podcasts have been downloaded and streamed a total of 468,998 times, beyond the reach the III’s videos and podcasts have been downloaded and streamed on average, videos and podcasts are downloaded/streamed 8,228.035 times each.

Website

The institute website features content ranging from a platform that connects research about inequality across the LSE and three research themes on Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice, Cities, Jobs and the Knowledge Economy and Global Economies of Care. As well as a new research theme: The Politics of Inequality. The institute also hosts working papers from academics on the aforementioned topics, as well, as an extensive archive of the institute podcast and videos.

III STAFF

DIRECTOR

Professor Mike Savage

Research Theme Convener (Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice) and Martin White Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, LSE. Mike is Professor of Sociology and previously Head of the Department of Sociology at LSE. His research focuses principally on social inequality, with a particular interest in social stratification and inequality. In 2013, he led the research for the BBC’s The Great British Class Survey. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and was the Founding Director of CRESC (the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change) at the University of Manchester (2002 to 2010) and Director of the York European Centre for Cultural Sociology at the University of York (2010 to 2012). His book with Sam Friedman et al Social Class in the 21st Century was published in 2015.

AMARTYA SEN PROFESSOR OF INEQUALITY STUDIES AND DIRECTOR

Professor Francisco H G Ferreira

Amartha Sen Professor of Inequality Studies and Director (from November 2020) of International Inequalities Institute, LSE. Francisco, also known as Chico, is an economist working on the measurement, causes and consequences of inequality and poverty, with an emphasis on developing countries in general and Latin America in particular. Some of his recent work has focused on the definition and measurement of inequality of opportunity. His work has been published widely, including in the Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Review of Income and Wealth, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Economic Inequality, the World Bank Economic Review and World Development. His research has been awarded prizes including the Richard Stone Prize in Applied Econometrics and the Kendrick Prize from the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth.

Professor Sudhir Anand

Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Oxford. Sudhir is an economist who works on inequality, development, and health. He has published widely in the areas of income inequality and poverty, undernutrition, human development, health equity, population ethics, health metrics and health inequalities; human resources for health; and other topics in economics and in health.

INSTITUTE MANAGER

Liza Ryan

Liza manages the International Inequalities Institute, having previously conducted the Europe- Russia – Ukraine Relations working group of the Dahrendorf Forum at LSE IDEAS. She graduated from University College London School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (UISES) in “Russian and Soviet Studies” and completed her masters in MSc “Economics of Rural Change” at Imperial College at Kye.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Professor David Soskice

Research Director and Research Theme Convener (Cities, Jobs and the Knowledge Economy), School Professor of Political Science and Economics at the Department of Government. David has been School Professor of Political Science and Economics at LSE since 2012. In addition to Research Director, he is also Co-Director of the Leverhulme Doctoral Programme in the LSE. He taught macroeconomics at Oxford 1967 to 1990, was then Research Director at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin 1990 to 2005, and subsequently Research Professor of Comparative Political Economy at Oxford and Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College, and Research Professor of Political Science at Duke. He is currently working with Wendy Carlin (UCL) on tractable macroeconomic models, with Nicola Laozy (LSE) on the comparative political economy of crime and punishment, and with Totok Ivensen (Harvard) on advanced capitalist democracies.

Professor Sam Friedman

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, LSE. Sam is a sociologist of class and inequality, and his research focuses in particular on the cultural dimensions of contemporary class division. He has recently completed a book entitled The Class Ceiling: Why It Pays to Be Privileged which examines social mobility into Britain’s higher professional and managerial occupations. The hidden barriers, or “class ceiling”, preventing women and ethnic minorities from getting to the top are well documented. But as their book documents, the upwardly mobile also face a powerful and previously unrecognized “class pay gap” within Britain’s elite occupations. Drawing on four in-depth case studies – acting, accountancy, architecture and television – the book goes on to explore how the “class ceiling” can only be partially attributed to conventional measures of “merit”. Instead, they show that more powerful drivers are rooted in the misrecognition of classed self-presentation as “talent”, work cultures historically shaped by the privileged, and the affordances of the “bank of Mum and Dad”, and sponsored mobility premised on class-cultural homophily.
COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS OFFICER

Nadia Erlam
Nadia is our new Communications and Events Officer here at the International Inequalities Institute. She was born in London and grew up in Brussels. They then returned to Brighton where they completed a BA Hons in Politics and Social Policy. They have an MSc from the LSE Department of Gender Studies in Gender, Policy and Inequality, and their previous role was as an Employer Engagement Coordinator at Goldsmiths. They have worked primarily in organisations with an equality and diversity focus (such as LSE Gender, Fastairose Futures, Women in Prison and the High Pay Centre) in communications/marketing, event organising, research, policy and campaigning. They also enjoy working on a mural in the university and outreach projects outside of work, such as presently being a member of Spectral’s Tenants Participation Evaluation Group.

Dr Luna Glucksberg
Research Fellow
Luna is an urban anthropologist looking at inequality and socio-economic stratification in contemporary society. She has worked extensively on how they reproduce, on the relationships of women and family offices in the reproduction of dynastic families, and on how philanthropy can be used to elites to strengthen their own family dynamics.

Dr Shalini Grover
Research Officer
Shalini is an anthropologist who has been working on gender inequalities for over two decades. Her areas of research are marriage, love, kinship, divorce and social polarities in urban India. Grover’s 2011 book ‘Marriage, Love, Class and Kinship: lived experiences of the urban poor’ has been published as a new international and revised edition with Routledge (United Kingdom & New York, 2018). Distinct from earlier anthropological texts that primarily examine official marriage norms, her research engages with embodied experience and know-practice. Her forthcoming challenge many stereotypes, for example, the notion that gender relations within scheduled caste marriages are egalitarian in nature, that women’s ties to their natalin north India are severely attenuated upon marriage, and that parentally arranged marriages are more stable than those based upon romantic love.

Dr Frieder Mitsch
Research Assistant and III Doctoral Programme Candidate
Frieder is based in the Government Department, supervised by Dr Socksic and Neil Lee. He studies the consequences of economic change on inequality by exploring links between geographic, economic and political segregation in city-regions and the rise of knowledge economic activities. Frieder holds a BA from MacEwan University and graduated with an MSc in Political Economy of Europe from LSE. He previously worked as a trainee at OS Competition in Brussels and was a Graduate Intern at the LSE Research Division.

Dr Tanheh Gooms
Research Officer
Tanheh research focuses on how capital incomes flow into rising overall income and wealth inequality, with a specific focus on the measurement of economic inequality using quantitative methods. An important dimension of her research is to shape and communicate findings in a way so they can be of practical use for policy and the real world.

Dr Rocío Méndez Pineda
Research Assistant
Rocío is a Research Assistant at the International Inequalities Institute at LSE and an MSc student in Social Research Methods at UCL. She holds a BA in Economics from the Escuela Superior en Economía y Negocios (ESEN) in El Salvador and an MA in Public Policy from the Universidad Diego Portales in Chile. She was also a research assistant at the Universidad del Desarrollo in Chile. She worked as a Researcher at the Fundación para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUDAES) in Chile, she worked as a Researcher at the Universidad del Desarrollo and the Universidad Diego Portales, where she also taught courses on Statistics. In addition, Rocío has worked as a consultant for UNICEF and FAO on topics related to multidimensional child poverty and decent work. Her research focuses on inequalities, labour markets and social mobility, with applications to Latin America and Europe. Rocío has published in World Development.

Dr Nadia Citraro
Research Fellow
Nadia is an anthropologist specialising in inequality and socio-economic stratification in contemporary society. She has worked extensively on how they reproduce, on the relationships of women and family offices in the reproduction of dynastic families, and on how philanthropy can be used to elites to strengthen their own family dynamics.

Dr Joaquín Prieto
Research Officer
Joaquín is a Research Officer at the International Inequalities Institute at LSE. He has completed his PhD in Social Policy at LSE. He holds a BA in Industrial Engineering, a MSc in Economy and Environmental Management and postgraduate studies in Sociology from the Pontificia Catholic University of Chile. He was Vice-Director (2002 to 2003) and Director of the IVIE from 2013 to 2016. He is currently the Executive Director of the National Televisión Channel of Chile between 2004 and 2011. He founded and directed the Social Observatory at Universidad Alberto Hurtado between 2005 and 2012. Since 2012, he has worked as researcher and consultant for international agencies at the OECD, IDB, Global Corporation and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. His current research interests are economic and social wellbeing measures, inequality and income mobility, quality of employment and labour mobility, geography of opportunity and spatial analysis, and applied micro-econometrics and social policies.

Executive Assistant

Meliz Ahmet
Meliz provides senior administrative support to the II Director, the AFISEE Director and the broader team. Prior to joining LSE, Meliz worked at the Open Risk Warfar, providing HR support to the III Director. She has also been a Parliamentary Assistant to several MPs and has worked in various roles within the charity sector. Meliz is currently completing a PhD in Modern Politics at Queen Mary, University of London.

Nina provides communications and events support to the III Director, the AFISEE Director and the broader team. Prior to LSE, she worked at a Social Development Research Assistant for a macroeconomics consultancy. She holds a BSc in Economics and International Development from the University of Bath and an MSc in Inequalities and Social Science from LSE.

Sofia Muñoz Gonzalez
Sofia provides communications support for the institute and the Quality and Employment (QSE) team. She holds a BSc in Politics and International Relations from the University of Manchester and an MSc in Comparative Politics from LSE.

Research Staff

Dr Mark Fransham
Research Officer
Mark is an experienced quantitative researcher with skills in survey analysis, detailed knowledge of UK small area statistics, as well as experience of collaborating on mixed methods research projects and an aptitude for communicating research to diverse audiences. With a professional background in local government, he is interested in comparative analysis of urban areas and then responses to economic and social change. Prior to joining the LSE III, he was conducting ESRC/EPFRC joint-funded doctoral research at the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford. His thesis ‘Understanding Neighbourhood Income Poverty Dynamics in England’ examines the dynamics of low-income areas, more commonly studied using a cross-sectional view.

DrDXVECTORS

Dr Shalini Grover
Research Officer
Shalini is an anthropologist looking at inequality and socio-economic stratification in contemporary society. She has worked extensively on how they reproduce, on the relationships of women and family offices in the reproduction of dynastic families, and on how philanthropy can be used to elites to strengthen their own family dynamics.

Rocío Méndez Pineda
Research Assistant
Rocío is a Research Assistant at the International Inequalities Institute at LSE and an MSc student in Social Research Methods at UCL. She holds a BA in Economics from the Escuela Superior en Economía y Negocios (ESEN) in El Salvador and an MA in Public Policy from the Universidad Diego Portales in Chile. She worked as a Junior Researcher in Economics and Social Policy at the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES). In Chile, she worked as a Researcher at the Universidad del Desarrollo and the Universidad Diego Portales, where she also taught courses on Statistics. In addition, Rocío has worked as a consultant for UNICEF and FAO on topics related to multidimensional child poverty and decent work. Her research focuses on inequalities, labour markets and social mobility, with applications to Latin America and Europe. Rocío has published in World Development.

Emma Chamberlain
Emma is a tax practitioner with an active research agenda in tax policy, specializing in capital tax. She has contributed to and led several major reviews of tax policy in the UK. She co-authored the chapter on “Taxation of Money and Wealth Transfers” in the Minkes Review and has published in leading academic tax journals including the British Tax Review. Emma has regularly briefed the Treasury and HMRC on taxation of the wealthy and was an advisor to the Treasury Select Committee. In 2017, she received an OBE for services to government tax policy.

Dr Susanne Wessendorf
Associate Professorial Research Fellow
Susanne’s research focuses on immigration, integration, ethnicity and race. She is a Social Anthropologist and has been working with migration, transnationalism and diversity for more than 10 years. She has undertaken in-depth ethnographic fieldwork over long periods in complex urban settings, working with people of different age groups, ethnic, national and class backgrounds. Her work focuses on understanding new forms of social reproduction and exclusion in contexts of immigration-related diversity. She has written on social relations in super-diverse areas, and patterns of settlement of recent migrants in such areas. Her current work looks at recent immigration into urban areas which hostel long-established ethnic minorities, and how long-term racism and discrimination of long-settled ethnic minorities impacts on the reception and settlement of more recent migrants.

Professor Andrew Miles
Professor of Sociology, University of Manchester
Andrew is Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester, where he works on issues of cultural stratification and class in contemporary society. His major Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded study of everyday participation and cultural value, and he is currently writing about the ways in which cultural capital and notions of cultural legitimacy are mobilised in everyday life to make up communities, reinforce social class boundaries and territorialise the city. He has also recently returned to research on social mobility, a subject he first studied as a historian in the 1980s and 1990s, focusing in particular on the relationship between social and spatial mobilities and on the role of mobility in elite class formation. This interest was rekindled by his membership of the Great British Class Survey project, a collaboration between LSE and University of Manchester researchers, which produced a new account of social-class in Britain.

Professor Kirsten Seehnbruch
British Academy Global Professor and a Distinguished Policy Fellow
Kirsten is a British Academy Global Professor and a Distinguished Policy Fellow at the institute. Previously, she was a Research Fellow at the Universidad del Desarrollo and the Universidad Diego Portales (Chile), and a Lecturer at the University of California, at Berkeley. During 2018, Kirsten was awarded a British Academy Global Professorship to study the conceptualisation and measurement of the quality of employment in developing countries from the perspective of the capability approach. From a theoretical perspective, she examines employment as a missing dimension of the capability approach; empirically, she has established a summary indicator of job quality for 13 Latin American countries, which will be extended to other regions of the Global South going forwards. Her work informs social, labour and development policy more broadly as it allows for resources to be targeted to the most vulnerable workers in a labour market.

III STAFF

VISITING PROFESSOR

Professor Emma Patterson
Professor of Social Policy, University of Manchester
Emma is a tax practitioner with an active research agenda in tax policy, specializing in capital tax. She has contributed to and led several major reviews of tax policy in the UK. She co-authored the chapter on “Taxation of Money and Wealth Transfers” in the Minkes Review and has published in leading academic tax journals including the British Tax Review. Emma has regularly briefed the Treasury and HMRC on taxation of the wealthy and was an advisor to the Treasury Select Committee. In 2017, she received an OBE for services to government tax policy.
Dr Pablo González
Visiting Senior Fellow
PhD. and MPhil. in economics, University of Cambridge, 1996. BA and MA in economics, Catholic University of Chile. Pablo is Academic Director of the Centre for Public Systems and Principal Researcher of the Centre for Inclusive Education, Department of Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, University of Chile. He has held various government positions: Head of Planning and Budget Division, Ministry of Education (1990-2000). Advisor to Minister of Labour and Social Security and Minister in Education (1995). Advisor of the technical committee of the National Fund for R&D in Education (2006 to 2018). He has coordinated three national Human Development Reports for the UNDP (2009, 2010 and 2013) and several studies related to the Chilean Rights for UNICEF (2000 to 2006 and 2013 to 2017). He has also been consultant for the World Bank, OIE, OECD and ILO. He has published in educational and social policy and human development. He has served in several national commissions: System of Quality Assessment in Education (2003); Childhood (2006); Financing of Higher Education students (2011); Compromiso País (2019); Social Cohesion (2020); Quality of Employment (2020), and the expert panel of the national household survey (CASEN) (2019).

Professor Lee Elliott Major
Visiting Senior Fellow
Lee Elliott OBE, is the country’s first Professor of Social Mobility. Appointed by the University of Exeter to be a global leader in the field, his work is dedicated to improving the prospects of disadvantaged young people. His Penguin book Social Mobility and its Enemies, co-authored with Stephen Machin, has attracted attention across the world. In his TEDx talk in 2019, Lee describes an ‘escalating arms race of education’ in which the poorest children are increasingly being fought over. His Bloomsbury book, Mobility? What才是 the best bets, highlights the importance of understanding the causes and consequences of social mobility. He has published or co-authored several books and articles in leading journals including the Sociological Review, among others. His research topics include understanding the causes and consequences of social mobility and the social stratification, place attachment, and urban conflicts.

Dr María-Luisa Mendez
Visiting Senior Fellow
Maria-Luisa is Associate Professor at the Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Director of the Centre for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COESS), and Principal Researcher at the “Geographies of Conflict and Cohesion” research line at the same centre. Professor Mendez is also Corresponding Editor of the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, ULRIR and Senior Visiting Fellow at the International Inequalities Institute, LSE. Professor Mendez has a PhD in Sociology from the University of Manchester, MPhil in Cultural Studies from the University of Birmingham and a master’s in Anthropology and Development from the University of Chile. She is also Principal Investigator of the FondoChile Project N1191444, “Cultural Repertoires, Spatio-spatial Trajectories and Political: fragmentation and conflict within the upper middle class in Chile”. She is also a Researcher of Upper Middle Class Social Policy (Salgado, 2019) as well as several papers in journals such as Cities, Urban Studies, City and Community. The Sociological Review, among others. Her research topics include subjective aspects of social mobility and social stratification, place attachment, and urban conflicts.

Dr Aaron Reeves
Visiting Senior Fellow
Aaron is a sociologist with interests in public health, culture, and political economy. His research is focused on understanding the causes and consequences of social and economic inequality across countries. He joined DISP in March 2018. Since 2016, Aaron has been an Associate Professorial Research Fellow in Poverty and Inequality at the LSE International Inequalities Institute. Prior to joining London, he was a research fellow at Nuffield College. He has also worked for the Department of Cambridge. He completed his PhD in Applied Social and Economic Research with the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex in 2013.

Dr Aaron Reeves
Visiting Senior Fellow
Aaron is a sociologist with interests in public health, culture, and political economy. His research is focused on understanding the causes and consequences of social and economic inequality across countries. He joined DISP in March 2018. Since 2016, Aaron has been an Associate Professorial Research Fellow in Poverty and Inequality at the LSE International Inequalities Institute. Prior to joining London, he was a research fellow at Nuffield College. He has also worked for the Department of Cambridge. He completed his PhD in Applied Social and Economic Research with the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex in 2013.
Dr Arun Advani
Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick and Impact Director of the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy. A Research Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies in addition to his roles as a fellow and Asa research focus works on issues of tax compliance and tax design, including taxation at the top of the income distribution and the taxation of “non-doms” with well-off individuals in low income countries. His work has been quoted across the media, including the FT, The Times, The Economist, The Telegraph, the Guardian, the Sun, and The Mirror. His work on measurement of the UK’s “Tax Gap” has also been cited by HMRC and by the Office for Statistics Regulation.

Dr Katharina Hecht
Postdoctoral Fellow at the Andrea Mitchell Center for Policy at LSE. Her research interests include policy and institutional design, in particular the determinants of inequality both within and between places. Current projects explore such topics as international and internal migration, specialization patterns, social networks and institutions, and international trade. Cutting across these topics, he is interested in policy efforts to stimulate development. Prior to his appointment at CMU, he held positions at the University of Southampton, LSE and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He currently works at the University of Warwick.

Dr Tom Kenny
Senior Lecturer in Economic Development, School of Business and Management, Queen Mary University of London
Tom studies comparative economic development, mainly at the city scale, with interests in the determinants of inequality both within and between places. Current projects explore such topics as international and internal migration, specialization patterns, social networks and institutions, and international trade. Cutting across these topics, he is interested in policy efforts to stimulate development. Prior to his appointment at CMU, he held positions at the University of Southampton, LSE and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He currently works at the University of Warwick.

Dr Erica Lagalisse
Board of Directors of the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy. His research focuses on comparative political economy and works predominantly on the high-income democracies, such as the Western European countries and the United States. He is interested in the diversity of advanced capitalism and how national institutions, policies and politics can help explain cross-country differences in economic and political outcomes. His current areas of interest include: varieties of capitalism and growth models, the knowledge economy, the effects of technological change on economic and political outcomes, inequality and redistribution, household bargaining, taxation on the rich, and the political economy of taxation at the top of the income distribution. He has carried out research methodologies in his work, including panel data econometrics, causal inference approaches, interviews, and case studies.

Dr Jonathan Mijs
Lecturer on Sociology, Harvard University

Dr David Hope
Lecturer in Political Economy at the Department of Political Economy, King’s College London
David researches at the intersection of economics and political science. He specializes in comparative political economy and works predominantly on the high-income democracies, such as the Western European countries and the United States. He is interested in the diversity of advanced capitalism and how national institutions, policies and politics can help explain cross-country differences in economic and political outcomes. His current areas of interest include: varieties of capitalism and growth models, the knowledge economy, the effects of technological change on economic and political outcomes, inequality and redistribution, household bargaining, taxation on the rich, and the political economy of taxation at the top of the income distribution. He has carried out research methodologies in his work, including panel data econometrics, causal inference approaches, interviews, and case studies.

Dr Paul Segal
Senior Lecturer in Economics, Department of International Development, King’s College London
Paul has written on global inequality and poverty, where he pioneered the use of the new top incomes data in analysing the global distribution of income. His latest work in this area uses these data to analyse the global top one per cent. He has also written on the economics of resources revenues and their potential role in inequality and poverty reduction, and on the long run determinants of inequality and wages in developing countries. He is currently working on interdisciplinary approaches to socio-economic inequality. This includes theoretical work on the measurement of inequality, and field work in Mexico City on multidimensional inequalities, in collaboration with Oxfam Mexico and the magazine Chilango. Paul is a co-author and co-editor of COBE: Economics for a changing world, a new open-access online economics textbook.

Dr Armine Ishkanian
Executive Director
Armine Ishkanian is Executive Director of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity Programme and Associate Professor in the Department of Social Policy at LSE. Her research examines the relationship between civil society, democracy development and social transformation. She has examined how civil society organisations and social movements engage in policy processes and transformative politics in countries including Armenia, Egypt, Greece, Russia, Turkey and the UK. She is co-convenor (together with Ellen Helgesen, Department of Media and Communications, LSE) of the II-ASFES research theme Politics of Inequality, which will be launched in autumn 2021. The aim of this theme is to develop research on the forms of resistance to and contestation of inequalities from a global perspective focusing on bottom-up action and the deontological/representation side of inequalities. Armine’s research has been published in journals including Critical Social Policy, Democratization, Europe Asia Studies, Journal of Civil Society, Journal of International Development, Social Politics, Sociological Review and Voluntas. She is the author of Democracy Building and Civil Society in Post-Soviet Armenia (2008) and co-editor with common Sense editor of The Big Society Debate: A New Agenda for Social Welfare? (2012). In 2016 she received the Best Article Award from the International Society for Third Sector Research for her article “Symbiotic Engagement between Activists and NGOs” (published in Voluntas and turning Points). Armine is Chair of Trustees of St Mary’s Youthwork, a north London organisation that provides mentoring and support for local young people who find themselves in challenging times. She is also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Armenian Diaspora Survey, the Advisory Committee of the International Encyclopedia for Civil Society, and a member of the Editorial Board of the Texts and Studies in Armenian History, Sociology, and Culture book series (University of Michigan Press).

Dr Sara Camacho Felix
Assistant Professor
Sara is the pedagogic lead for the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme. Her research focuses on critical pedagogies of higher education, especially focused on creating equitable and reflexive learning and teaching environments that subvert neoliberal performivity. She has researched how universities (both in the UK and internationally) can be sites of neo-imperial knowledge creation and how universities can be remapped to pluralise what counts as knowledge and who counts as knowers. Sara is also a member of the Decolonising LSE Collective, and she has previously worked at the LSE, Teaching and Learning Centre (now the Eden Centre for Educational Enhancement) and at LSE LE. Prior to joining LSE in 2016, Sara spent 17 years teaching at universities in the UK, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Poland.
Dr Tahnee Ooms
Research Officer
Tahnee's research focuses on how capital incomes feed into rising overall income and wealth inequality, with a specific focus on the measurement of economic inequality using quantitative methods. An important dimension of her research is to shape and communicate findings in a way so they can be of practical use for policy and the real world. Tahnee works part-time with the AFFSE as a Research Assistant.

Michelle Coates
Programme Assistant
Michelle has provided administrative support to a number of managers and professional service staff since joining LSE in 2015, and has served as Faculty Affairs Coordinator in the Department of Management and Senior Administrator for the exams and course selection team in the Student Services Centre. Prior to joining LSE, she worked as an Apprenticeship Team Coordinator for the College of North West London. Michelle has completed her undergraduate degree in European Politics and her MSc in Ethnicity, Migration and Policy. Her work for AFFSE focuses on the Milingo community of senior fellows and the wider Atlantic Fellowship network.

Karen Shook
Communications Officer
Karen has worked as a print and broadcast journalist and social media strategist, following a career in the music industry. She most recently led research communications at Maastricht University's School of Business and Economics, following 10 years as Books Editor at Times Higher Education magazine. She is a member of the Left Book Clubs editorial panel and works with DoctorFest, the UK's music documentary festival, as an interviewer, radio presenter and content strategist. Karen attended Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific and the University of Toronto, where she studied English literature.

Meliz Ahmet
Executive Assistant
Meliz provides senior administrative support to the AFFSE Executive Director, the III Director and the broader team. Prior to joining the LSE, Meliz worked at The Open Reason think tank, providing executive assistant support to the Rt Hon Sir Nick Clegg. She has also served as a Parliamentary Assistant to several MPs and has worked in various roles within the charity sector. She completed her master's in Democritisation at Queen Mary, University of London.

Asmaa Akhtar
Programme Manager
(Global Engagement and Impact)
Asmaa previously worked in the LSE School of Public Policy, where she was the Communications, Events and Alumni Engagement Officer. She supported their three postgraduate programmes focusing on public administration and public policy. Prior to joining LSE in 2015, she worked at an educational research company focusing on national and international educational systems. Asmaa completed her undergraduate degree in European Politics and her MSc in Ethnicity, Migration and Policy. Her work for AFFSE focuses on the Milestone community of senior fellows and the wider Atlantic Fellowship network.

Katie Boulton
Programme Manager (Fellowship Experience)
As Programme Manager, Katie manages the fellowship experience for current and incoming fellows. From overseeing the recruitment and selection process, to the development, design and implementation of the learning journey, Katie ensures the fellowship experience is meaningful, dynamic and vibrant. Specialising in strategy innovation, and implementation, Katie is excited to come to work every day and be part of a community of change-makers working towards greater social and economic equity. Prior to joining LSE, Katie worked for the fellowship programme at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. She holds a bachelor's degree in Theology from Durham University, and a master's degree in Museum Studies from Harvard University.

Dr Armine Ishkanian
Associate Professor-Reader in Comparative Politics, Department of Government, LSE
Dr Armine Ishkanian is Executive Director, Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme; Associate Professor, Department of Social Policy, LSE

Dr Jonathan Hopkin
Associate Professor of Comparative Politics, Department of Government, LSE
Dr Jonathan Hopkin is Executive Director, Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme; Associate Professor, Department of Social Policy, LSE

Professor Tim Allen
Professor in Development Anthropology and Head of Department, Department of International Development, LSE
Professor Tim Allen is Professor in Development Anthropology and Head of Department, Department of International Development, LSE

Professor Catherine Campbell
Professor of Social Psychology and Head of Department, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE
Professor Catherine Campbell is Professor of Social Psychology and Head of Department, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE

Dr Neil Cummins
Associate Professor, Department of Economic History, LSE
Dr Neil Cummins is Associate Professor, Department of Economic History, LSE

Dr David Friedman
Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, LSE
Dr David Friedman is Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, LSE

Professor Camille Landais
Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, LSE
Professor Camille Landais is Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, LSE

Professor Neel Lee
Associate Professor of Economic Geography, Department of Geography and Environment, LSE
Professor Neel Lee is Associate Professor of Economic Geography, Department of Geography and Environment, LSE

Professor Lucinda Platt
Professor of Social Policy and Sociology, Department of Social Policy, LSE
Professor Lucinda Platt is Professor of Social Policy and Sociology, Department of Social Policy, LSE

Dr Ania Plomien
Assistant Professor in Gender and Social Science, Department for Gender Studies, LSE
Dr Ania Plomien is Assistant Professor in Gender and Social Science, Department for Gender Studies, LSE

Professor Dr Jonathan Hopkin
Communications, LSE
Dr Jonathan Hopkin is Communications, LSE

Professors
Karen has worked as a print and broadcast journalist and social media strategist, following a career in the music industry. She most recently led research communications at Maastricht University's School of Business and Economics, following 10 years as Books Editor at Times Higher Education magazine. She is a member of the Left Book Clubs editorial panel and works with DoctorFest, the UK's music documentary festival, as an interviewer, radio presenter and content strategist. Karen attended Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific and the University of Toronto, where she studied English literature.

Meliz Ahmet
Executive Assistant
Meliz provides senior administrative support to the AFFSE Executive Director, the III Director and the broader team. Prior to joining the LSE, Meliz worked at The Open Reason think tank, providing executive assistant support to the Rt Hon Sir Nick Clegg. She has also served as a Parliamentary Assistant to several MPs and has worked in various roles within the charity sector. She completed her master's in Democritisation at Queen Mary, University of London.

Dr Tahnee Ooms
Research Officer
Tahnee's research focuses on how capital incomes feed into rising overall income and wealth inequality, with a specific focus on the measurement of economic inequality using quantitative methods. An important dimension of her research is to shape and communicate findings in a way so they can be of practical use for policy and the real world. Tahnee works part-time with the AFFSE as an Assistant Programme Manager.