

Demography, inequality & social policy session abstracts

Session organiser: Phil Humby, Office for National Statistics

Tuesday 15 September 1.00pm

An alternative to affirmative action: Contextualized admissions and labour market outcomes - *Sonkurt Sen, University of Essex*

This paper studies the introduction of an admission policy that is applied by universities in the UK, called contextualized admissions. The policy uses the applicants' background information when making decisions on who to admit to increase the number of students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. In this paper, using HESA Student Records and linked Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey data, I study the effect of being recruited under this admission policy on academic and labour market outcomes by socio-economic status. Using differences-in-differences method where I control for the timing of the policy change and the universities, I find that the policy leads to reduced academic outcomes. The students are less likely to graduate with a 1st class honors degree or a good degree (1st or 2:1). In line with the findings on academic backgrounds, the students have worse labour market outcomes. The students are less likely to hold a job where the subject studied in the university is important, although the policy does not affect the employment. Heterogeneity analysis shows that the results hold for both high and low SES students. Low SES students are also less likely to hold a job where the level of study is important.

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Investigating the relationship between multidimensional poverty & antibiotic knowledge, attitudes, and practices in Mwanza, Tanzania - *Dominique L. Green¹, Katherine Keenan¹, Stephen E. Mshana², Martha M. Mushi², Joseph R. Mwanga³; ¹University of St. Andrews, ²Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences & Bugando Medical Centre, ³Tanzania National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania*

The Holistic Approach to Unravel Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in East Africa project seeks to investigate the socio-biological drivers of AMR. A key driver of AMR is inappropriate antibiotic use. The project collects data from individuals seeking treatment for UTI or UTI-like symptoms in various hospitals and clinics in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Using data from adult outpatients in each phase of the project from three regions in Tanzania: Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, and Mbeya (n>2,800), the overall aim of this paper is to assess the relationship between multiple dimensions of poverty and antibiotic practices in seeking treatment. The paper draws on the multidimensional poverty literature which recognises the difficulty using income to quantify poverty for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Using an exploratory factor analysis, we develop indices based on household-level indicators to quantify poverty. The resultant constructs are examined in relationship to indicators representing antibiotic misuse (self-medicating, not completing a course or skipping a dose of antibiotics). Results suggest two distinct dimensions of poverty, covering water, sanitation, and household assets, which cannot be reduced to one dimension. Those who are relatively richer in each dimension are significantly more likely to have sub-optimal antibiotic practices. These results lend weight to continued exploration of the relationship between antibiotic behaviours and multidimensional poverty in LMICs to inform AMR research and policy.

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Developing ethnic group indices of multiple deprivation for English neighbourhoods - *Gemma Catney, Christopher D. Lloyd; Queen's University Belfast*

While much effort has been expended on measuring variation in deprivation between neighbourhoods, we know surprisingly little about inequalities between people of different ethnic groups living in the same

neighbourhood. Existing measures imply a homogeneity of experience within areas, across ethnic groups. Yet this homogeneity is unlikely in reality: despite some improvements, there is clear evidence of the persistence of marked socio-spatial inequalities in employment, housing, education, and health for Black, Asian and Minority (BAME) groups. This paper introduces the development of novel ethnic group specific deprivation indices for small areas (Middle Layer Super Output Areas) in England, which explicitly explore disparities in how people of different ethnic groups experience the same neighbourhood. Adopting the same methodology as the Index of Multiple Deprivation (the official measure of inequalities for England), we include a series of 2011 Census cross-tabulations (socio-economic, demographic, housing, by ethnicity) to create a measure of deprivation for each neighbourhood in England, and for every ethnic group. We also integrate administrative data and population estimates for analyses of more recent patterns of ethnic deprivation. The paper highlights a complexity of interactions between deprivation domains, ethnic group, and locale. We will reflect on the development of a toolkit for analysts in central and local government and the voluntary and community sector, developed in collaboration with end-users. The paper elaborates on ongoing research that explores multiple deprivation in the context of the proven higher risk of COVID-19 for BAME populations, and the implications for targeted resource allocation.

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The long-term impact of restricted access to abortion on children's socioeconomic outcomes - Gábor Hajdu¹, Tamás Hajdu²; ¹*Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary, Institute of Economics*, ²*Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungary*

We examine the consequences of restricted access to abortion using a change in the Hungarian abortion law in 1974. Following the law change that restricted the access to legally permissible abortions the number of abortions decreased from 169,650 to 102,022, whereas the number of live births increased from 156,224 to 186,288 between 1973 and 1974. We analyse the long-term effects on the affected children's socioeconomic outcomes in 2011: educational attainment, labour market participation, and teen fertility. We use large-scale, individual-level administrative datasets of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (Population census 2011; live birth register). We estimate the impacts by comparing children born within a short timespan around the law change. In this way, we can rule out the effect of (unobserved) time trends and other potential behavioural responses to the law change, and we can draw causal inference. In addition, using socio-economic background variables of the parents at the time of the birth, we can control for a composition effect as well. We apply a difference-in-differences approach building on the special rules of the new law that made abortion permissible to selected groups of women. We find that restricted access to abortion had negative impacts. The affected children born after the law change have worse educational outcomes (e.g. less years of education), are more likely to be unemployed at age 37 (at the time of the 2011 census) and have a higher probability of being a teen parent.

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