

Is Britain Pulling Apart?

Saturday 8th March 2014, 9am – 5pm

Mechanics Institute, Manchester

103 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 6DD

Programme

from 8:30 Coffee & Registration

9:25 Introduction and welcome from Tarani Chandola

9:30 Is Britain Pulling Apart? Findings from the analysis of social distance:

Paul Lambert, University of Stirling

Paul is the Principal Investigator on an ESRC funded project which analyses the benefits, utilisation and stratification of social capital in the UK. It aims to understand which social ties hold the strongest influences; how diverse people's networks are; levels of segregation and diversity across the multiple identities individuals possess (e.g., Christian, socialist, Times reader, swimmer); and the role of attraction and repulsion in determining whom we interact with.

Discussant: David Byrne, University of Durham

10:45 Coffee

11:15 'White flight'? How ethnicity matters for migration within Britain, and the threat to neighbourhood data Beyond 2011

Nissa Finney, University of Manchester

Nissa's work is about migration within Britain and ethnic inequalities. These themes join in her research to understand how and why internal migration experiences of ethnic groups differ, and the consequences for people and neighbourhoods. Nissa is a Hallsworth Fellow at CCSR and a member of the ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE).

12:00 Panel sessions

Hungry in the UK?

Kingsley Purdam, Elisabeth Garratt Glass and Aneez Esmail, University of Manchester

In this ongoing research we are exploring the debates around food insecurity and the use of foodbanks including amongst older people. Using survey data and a series of case studies of foodbanks we examine the nature of food supply and use, and the lives of people using foodbanks. The research is partly funded by Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA) at the University of Manchester and Manchester City Council.

A living wage rather than a fair wage: trade union politics and the rise of inequality

Roger Seifert, Wolverhampton Business School

A living wage rather than a fair wage: trade union politics and the rise of inequality

Roger's main research is into changes in labour management in the public sector alongside collective union-based resistance. The slogan 'a fair days pay for a fair days work' has long been part of a labourist set of assumptions about the workings of the labour market, what constitutes 'fairness' in a capitalist society, and incorporates some of the ideals of the Protestant ethic. The doctrine of the 'living wage' developed with coal miners in the late nineteenth century and represented a more radical approach to both the political economy of wages, and thereby set wider horizons for trade-union politics. All this remains relevant in the current historical epoch of labour movement weakness in the face of further attacks on living standards from a Conservative led coalition government.

The changing geography of the private rented sector in England

Nigel de Noronha, University of Manchester

Between 2001 and 2011 the number of households living in the private rented sector (PRS) in England has grown from one in ten to one in six. The PRS now provides homes for more people than the social housing sector. The presentation will explore the extent to which this transformation of the PRS might contribute to new patterns of marginalisation and for whom.

12:45 Lunch & Posters

1:45 The impact of austerity on gender equality

Claire Annesley, University of Manchester

Claire's work has been looking at how gender equality policies are implemented in government agendas as well as the differentiated impact of austerity on men and women. She is a member of the Management Committee of the UK Women's Budget Group which produces regular gendered analysis of the impact of Government budgets, spending reviews and welfare reform.

2.45 Panel sessions

Marginalised majority populations and social cohesion

Dan Silver, Social Action Research Foundation

The Social Action and Research Foundation (SARF) have been researching white working class communities in north Manchester as part of the Open Society Foundation's At Home in Europe project. The project focuses on advancing equality for groups that are excluded from the mainstream of civic, political, and cultural life in Western Europe including Europe's Muslims and white working-class communities. The initial findings will be presented exploring issues of identity and belonging and how this impacts upon interactions at a local level.

Why are all the political parties bent on austerity and why is it wrong?

Larry Brownstein

Austerity is the major economic policy being implemented the world over. But the UK is the one implementing it with the most zeal. It is the wrong program implemented at the wrong time and aimed at the wrong people. Behind an austerity program is a set of assumptions built into how an economy actually works, referred to collectively as neoclassical, or neoliberal (in the US), economics. Unfortunately for everyone concerned, these assumptions neither reflect reality nor are they an accurate assessment of how our economy actually works. The sad thing is that we have been here before - in the 1930s. It seems that no lessons were learned.

Is the relative measure of child poverty a help or a hindrance?

Graham Whitham, Save the Children

The relative income measure of child poverty has been subject to a number of criticisms from think tanks and politicians in recent years. This is in spite of the political consensus secured prior to the passing of the 2010 Child Poverty Act, which requires the proportion of children living in relative poverty in the UK to be reduced to less than 10% by 2020. Progress towards that target isn't being made and both relative and absolute child poverty rates are expected to increase considerably in the coming years. This session will explore the extent to which the debate about the relative income measure is acting as a distraction from efforts to reduce child poverty in the UK.

3.30 Coffee

4:00 Inequalities in well-being in later life

James Nazroo, University of Manchester

James's research has been focused on the determinants of social and health inequalities at older ages, on routes into retirement and their impact on health and well-being. He is principal investigator (PI) of the fRaill programme, an interdisciplinary study of inequalities in wellbeing and frailty later life.

Further information

The conference fee is £50 which includes a year's subscription to Radical Statistics. The fee for members is £40. The fee for low waged and student attendees is £30 for non-members and £20 for members. There are a small number of sponsored places for voluntary sector and student attendees. For further information and to book your place please go to www.radstats.org.uk/conference/man2014.

If you have any queries please e-mail conf14@radstats.org.uk.

Accommodation

University accommodation can be booked the night before the conference for £40 per delegate. Please confirm your accommodation requirements with your booking for the conference. The accommodation is situated on the Oxford Road campus close to the reception. We will send you further information if you book it.

Other events

This conference is part of the RadStats weekend which also includes:

- a welcome reception from 5pm to 9pm at the Humanities Bridgeford Street on Friday 7th March (directions below).
- the AGM of Radical Statistics at the Mechanics Institute from 10 to 12 on Sunday 9th March.
- a guided walk around the city to hear the stories of Manchester women whose influence past and present has made the city great. The walk leave the Mechanics Institute at 1pm and takes about two hours.

Getting here

If you are coming to the reception on Friday you will need to get to the Oxford Road campus. Directions are available here to get you there by car or public transport. The reception is in the [Humanities Bridgeford Street](#) building. It is just off Oxford Road and can be found on the interactive campus map or local maps displayed around the campus.

The main conference and other activities take place at the Mechanics Institute which is close to Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road stations. Directions are available on their [website](#).