

# “Inequality, Statistics and York”

## Radical Statistics Annual Conference

York, 23 February 2013

Priory Street Centre, 15 Priory Street YO1 6ET

Coffee etc.: 8.30-9am      Registration: 8.30      *Please arrive by 9.15 so we can start promptly at 9.25*

This conference includes three 90-minute sessions (at 9.30, 11.30 and 2.00) and one 60 minute session (at 4.00). The 90 minute sessions will each have a main speaker who will take up to 40 minutes, with brief Q&A. These will be followed by 5 minute ‘tasters’ from two contributing speakers. Attendees then select one speaker to join for a 40 minute break-out session and further discussion.

**9.25 am:** Introduction and welcome from John Bibby

### **Session 1 - 9.30: “Inequalities – Gathering the evidence”**

*This session is part-sponsored by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. YPS members may attend this session as part of their YPS membership. A special concessionary rate is available if they wish to attend the entire conference.*

#### **Jonathan Bradshaw: “The legacy of Rowntree”**

The findings of ‘Poverty: A Study of Town Life’ are still relevant today. There has not been a survey of poverty in York since Rowntree's 1955 study. This presentation will present some of the administrative data which reveals the nature of poverty and inequality today.

**Response:** Roy Carr-Hill: *“Non-household populations: Implications for measuring inequality”*

#### **Contributed papers**

- *Liz Hind: John Snow of York and Liverpool, and the use of his work in the classroom* Death by Numbers - Liverpool, Cholera and the application of Snow’s work. This workshop will study the statistics compiled during 1866 in Liverpool. Did the public health officer ignore the work of John Snow, or was it more complicated than that?

11.00: Coffee

### **Session 2 - 11.30: “New censuses, new geographies: beyond 2021”**

#### **Danny Dorling: “Censuses 2011 and 2021:**

#### **What surprises are emerging and how they show that cancellation is stupid”**

Danny Dorling’s research focuses on the changing social, political and medical geographies in Britain and elsewhere, and social and spatial inequalities to life chances and how these may be narrowed. He has written and edited many influential books on social inequality, including ‘*You Think You Know About Britain?*’ and ‘*Fair Play: A Reader on Social Justice*’.

**Tarani Chandola: Spatial segregation and socioeconomic inequalities in health in Brazilian cities:**

**Combining spatial and social epidemiology**

#### **Contributed papers**

- *Russell Ecob: Proportional representation voting – some new proposals*
- *David Byrne: Misleading uses of population projections in planning disputes*

1 pm: Lunch & poster sessions

(Room 3, from 1.15pm) **Dougal Hutchison:** "Equity and the Success of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme in Providing Equality of Opportunity in India". This is based on some work he did recently with the National Centre for Research and Training, Delhi.

(Main Hall): **Sophie Wickham:** "Why does social inequality affect mental health?"

Authors will be at the posters to discuss them throughout the lunch break.

### **Session 3 - 2.00: "Beyond 'The Spirit Level' "**

*This session aims to build on "The Spirit Level" by York authors Wilkinson and Pickett, with responses from the authors and others. It will assume some familiarity with the ideas and techniques expressed in the book.*

#### **Ben Baumberg and Robert de Vries: 'Statistical catfights and 'The Spirit Level''**

This paper will discuss whether the argument over the negative effects of inequality can be settled using current evidence; and also whether this argument has harmfully politicised social science. Ben is founder and co-editor of 'Inequalitiesblog' and Lecturer at the University of Kent. Robert is Research Fellow in Sociology at the University of Oxford and contributes regularly to Inequalitiesblog.

#### **Response:** Professor Richard Wilkinson

Richard Wilkinson has played a formative role in international research on the social determinants of health and on the societal effects of income inequality. He is Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology at the University of Nottingham Medical School, Honorary Professor at University College London and a Visiting Professor at the University of York. Richard co-wrote *The Spirit Level* with Kate Pickett and is a co-founder of The Equality Trust.

#### **Contributed papers**

- *Noortje Uphoff & Annie Quick: Born in Bradford – Studying maternal and child health in an ethnically diverse population with marked social inequality*
- *Jeff Evans: Governing by Numbers in the Globalising World – PIAAC and the international assessment of adult numeracy*

3.30 Coffee

### **Session 4 - 4.00: *Futures for the new generation (and the next riots)***

*This session will explore trans-generational futures - education, housing, jobs and other areas.*

#### **Stewart Lansley: "Inequality: Its role in the crash and the crisis"**

This will examine the extent to which inequality caused the 2008 crash and the current crisis, what has been happening to income gaps in the UK and the US, and what can be done to return inequality to the levels of the first post-war decades.

Stewart Lansley is Visiting Fellow at the Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research and the author of *The Cost of Inequality: Why Economic Equality is Essential for Recovery*, Gibson Square, 2012

4.55: Finale remarks and close

This conference is part of the Radical Statistics weekend which includes:

**Friday 22** 7-10pm social event & meal

**Saturday 23** 8.30 registration

9.25 prompt start

8-11pm 1<sup>st</sup> York Radical Cabaret

**Sunday 24** 10.30 RadStats AGM – All welcome.

12.00 Guided tour of York led by Stephen Lusty, official York tour guide & Chair of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society

**All events at Priory Street Centre.**