

Centre for
the Analysis of
Social Policy (CASP)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

AUTUMN 2020 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the CASP 2020 Autumn Newsletter

Dear all,

I do hope this finds you and your loved-ones well.

Despite the challenges of lockdown and the need to find new ways of researching and teaching over these last months, our newsletter describes how colleagues in CASP have addressed important social policy areas including the impact of COVID both nationally and internationally. As you will see, the reach of the research CASP undertakes is remarkable. At a time when the challenges are formidable and existing explanations and solutions are inadequate, its relevance is even more vital. I hope you enjoy reading about our work.

Kind regards,

Rachel

Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones

Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy (CASP)

CASP Member's Work on Covid-19

‘Unequal impact? Coronavirus and the gendered economic impact’

Dr Tina Skinner has been invited to give oral evidence to the UK Parliament Women and Equalities Committee on their inquiry *‘Unequal impact? Coronavirus and the gendered economic impact’* to assist them in understanding the economic inequalities for disabled people in particular both prior to and during the pandemic, and whether there is a different impact on disabled men as compared with women.

This will take place on Wednesday 16th September 2020.

This follows the Committee's inquiry [Unequal Impact: Coronavirus and the Impact on People with Protected Characteristics](#) published at the end of March 2020. The invitation

relates to Tina's publication:

Eun Jung Kim, Tina Skinner & Susan L. Parish (2019) A study on intersectional discrimination in employment against disabled women in the UK, *Disability & Society*, DOI: [10.1080/09687599.2019.1702506](https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2019.1702506)



Responding to Covid-19: Promoting innovative community-based social distancing strategies in townships in South Africa

Professor Louise Brown, in partnership with Dr Marianne Strydom (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Dr Alexandra Ziemann (City University, London) and Stelcare (a child and family welfare organisation) has received funding from the GCRF.

This new research proposal is Covid-19 related, is time-sensitive and responds to an immediate and urgent request for help that the Project Team has received from Stelcare to develop and support an intervention which can tackle the key problem that they are currently

experiencing namely a disregard (or inability) by residents in the townships to practise social distancing. This research aims to further adapt the initial 'Family Group Conferencing' intervention to one of 'Community Group Conferencing' which can be used to develop innovative local street-level 'action plans' to improve social distancing and impact the transmission of the virus. (July 2020-end June 2021)



Managing uncertainty in the COVID-19 era

In July, Prof Harry Rutter co-authored a BMJ blog post on managing uncertainty during COVID-19 and how it is handled on both a personal and policy level when urgent action is needed. They discuss five simple rules to manage uncertainty in a pandemic which can be found [here](#)

"The authors argue that uncertainty is inevitable in pandemics and offer some simple rules for better decision making in such circumstances"



The Impact of COVID-19 Emergency Measures and VAWG on Women's Services

Baljit Banga, Executive Director of Imkaan and who is currently on the Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice Programme, discusses how Covid-19 is disproportionately impacting women already affected by gender and race-based violence.

This blog discusses how *'women have disproportionately been affected by the effects of Covid-19 and are subsequently trying to simultaneously survive two pandemics'*. Read the full blog [here](#)

This blog was released with the position paper *Impact of the Dual Pandemics: Violence against Women and Girls and COVID-19 on Black and Minoritised Women and Girls*(2020) by Banga, B and Roy, S which can be found [here](#)

The Lancet-Chatham House Commission on improving population health post COVID-19

Prof Harry Rutter will be co-chairing a Lancet-Chatham House Commission to address the common drivers of pandemics, non-communicable disease, and environmental degradation. The aims of the Commission which is being co-chaired with Prof Theresa Marteau from Cambridge are 'to map the shared drivers of pandemic protection, population health, and environmental degradation, and identify key actions to drive equitable, sustainable improvements in human and planetary health'. It will run from Sept 2020-April 2022. More information can be found [here](#)

CASP Members News

The IFS-Deaton Review: Inequalities in the Twenty First Century

Prof Lynn Prince Cooke has been invited by Sir Angus Deaton, Nobel laureate and Professor of Economics at Princeton, to write a commentary on *Gender Inequalities* in the forthcoming *IFS-Deaton Review on Inequalities in the Twenty First Century*. The aim of the Review is to draw on a wide range of disciplines to build an integrated view of the drivers of a range of inequalities in the UK and other developed economies. The Review is hosted by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and funded by the Nuffield Foundation. Further details about the IFS-Deaton Review can be found here: <https://www.ifs.org.uk/inequality/>

Informal carers of people with autism and/or learning disabilities

Rachel Forrester-Jones presented on the topic of older carers of people with learning disabilities and/or autism for the Westminster Health Forum policy conference Keynote Seminar: *Autism and learning disabilities care*. This took place on Thursday 10th September.

Digital diagnostics for smarter healthcare in Africa

Prof Louise Brown is CI on a recently funded EPSRC grant with Dr Richard Bowman (PI) from the Dept of Physics and with colleagues across other faculties at Bath, UK universities, and internationally. The long-term goal of building the network is to find a route to sustainable local production and maintenance of digital diagnostic devices, regardless of the economic situation in their country. By strengthening local capacity for biomedical engineering, we aim to overcome the infrastructural barriers and deliver important economic benefits through the creation of skilled jobs, and a reduction of high-value imports. The vision is to build a body of knowledge and skills that enable a new generation of medical instruments that can be repaired and customised without relying on a handful of rich countries. We will test the potential of open-source hardware as a new business model to establish and scale digital diagnostic solutions in LMICs, using the OpenFlexure Microscope as a case study. Our proposed network will bring together African and British experts, together with several other international collaborators, to find a route to sustainable local production and maintenance of digital diagnostic devices.

Aims:

- Understand and map out the process required to implement the OpenFlexure Microscope as a diagnostic tool in three African countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana).
 - Identify “technology champions” and build agile local implementation networks.
 - Explore the specific factors that help or hinder the uptake of open source diagnostics.
 - To understand the different approaches needed in each place, and reveal the common themes that should inform international policy.
 - Identify other open-source projects, and unmet needs for digital diagnostic technology, that could benefit from what we have learned, and be developed in Phase Two.
 - Connect with new and existing initiatives to build capacity in biomedical engineering in Africa, empowering them to use and create open-source hardware that can rapidly diffuse across the continent.
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CASP Events

Upcoming events:

Rachel Forrester-Jones, together with colleagues from Kings College London and Lancaster University will be holding a webinar:

A Fair Share of the Pie: Investigating equity in access to social care for people with learning disabilities in Sep 30, 2020 02:00 PM in London

Please see below for registering

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-At7E8_KTt6XnEbyakQmGA



Bath Global Chairs 2020/21 appointed

CASP is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Heike Solga as a Bath Global Chair 2020-2021. A world-leading expert in education and labour market outcomes, Professor Heike Solga is Director of the research unit 'Skill

Formation and Labor Markets' at the prestigious [WZB – Berlin Social Science Center](#). She is also a [Professor in Sociology at FU Berlin](#). She will be hosted at Bath by Professor Hugh Lauder (Education) and Professor Lynn Prince Cooke (Social & Policy Sciences),

Professor Solga is one of the world's foremost and innovative researchers into 'marginalised' educational populations and educational disadvantage, with a particular interest in vocational training and its impact on social mobility and career trajectories. Her scholarship speaks closely to the ethos and ambitions of social science research at Bath and echoes our University-wide priorities around widening participation. Her Global Chair will not only create new collaborative research across the Departments of Education and Social & Policy Sciences, and the Institute for Policy Research, but will also provide new training opportunities for our doctoral students and early-career researchers, including in quantitative, experimental and interdisciplinary education research design.

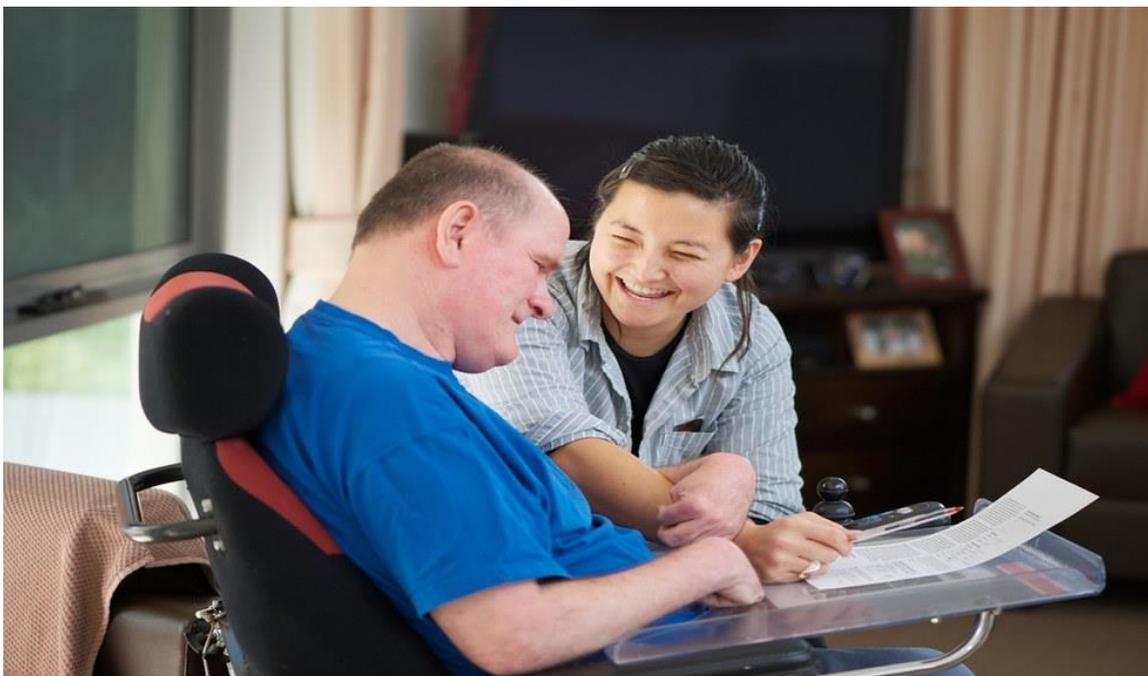
As we emerge from the current pandemic, the relationship between education, the labour market, and social policy is likely to lead to a major debate across Europe as to how they should be reconfigured. Professor Solga's Global Chair and the partnership with WZB will allow us to raise further the profile of our cutting-edge scholarship in this field.

The Global Chair scheme is funded by the International Relations Office at the University of Bath to build high-profile research collaborations and enhance strategic networks with universities and research institutes overseas.

Professor Lauder and Professor Cooke said: "We are very excited to host Professor Solga as a Global Chair at Bath, which will provide an invaluable platform for our University's high-profile research in social justice, education policy, and widening participation."

More information about the Bath Global Chairs 2020/21 can be found [here](#)

CASP Member's Recent Publications



(Photograph Copyright Tizard Centre)

Becoming less eligible? Intellectual disability services in the age of austerity

In July, Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones launched her report on the impact of Austerity on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities at a NIHR Webinar event. The report titled *Becoming less eligible? Intellectual disability services in the age of austerity* can be found [here](#).

The full webinar can be found [here](#) along with Rachel's presentation which focuses on intellectual disability services in the age of austerity.

Alongside this, Rachel discusses the problems of austerity in relation to older carers in an article in The Guardian and how COVID-19 has exacerbated these problems.

"over 40% of people with learning disabilities had lost care and support over the past decade as a result of austerity. This meant that the responsibility again rebounded on to family members and the third sector." Read the full article [here](#)



Assessing the governance of the health policy-making process using a new governance tool: the case of Lebanon

Dr Emma Carmel is co-author of a new article in the *Journal of Health Research Policy and Systems*.

The article assesses the use of a new governance tool, 'Health Policymaking Governance Guidance Tool (HP-GGT)', that was designed to enable policy-makers and stakeholders to systematically review and assess health system governance at policy-making level.

This article presents first use of the HP-GGT in Lebanon, together with generated results

and recommendations, and discusses how these results improve governance practices when initiating new health policy formulation processes. Read the full article [here](#).



Beyond welfare chauvinism and deservingness. Rationales of belonging as a conceptual framework for the politics and governance of migrants' rights

Emma Carmel and Bozena Sojka argue that the politics and governance of migrants' rights need to be reframed. In particular, the terms “welfare chauvinism”, and deservingness should be replaced. Using a qualitative transnational case study of policymakers in Poland and the UK, we develop an alternative approach. In fine-grained and small-scale interpretive analysis, we tease out four distinct rationales of belonging that mark out the terms and practices of social membership, as well as relative positions of privilege and subordination. These rationales of belonging are: temporal-territorial, ethno-cultural, labourist, and welfareist. Importantly, these rationales are knitted together by different framings of the transnational contexts, within which the politics and governance of migration and social

protection are given meaning. The rationales of belonging do not exist in isolation, but in each country, they qualify each other in ways that imply different politics and governance of migrants' rights. Taken together, these rationales of belonging generate transnational projects of social exclusion, as well as justifications for migrant inclusion stratified by class, gender and ethnicity. Read the full article [here](#).



**Tackling segmentation to advance universal health coverage:
analysis of policy architectures of health care
in Chile and Uruguay**

In this new article, Bath PhD candidate, Pamela Bernales-Baksai, addresses the potential of current policy architectures of health care to tackle segmentation between social classes in access to health services in two of the best performers of health coverage in the Latin American region - Chile and Uruguay. Read the full article [here](#).



The UK says it loves immigrants. Will immigrants believe it?

In this article, Dr Emma Carmel comments on the UK's new R&D strategy, which hinges heavily on attracting foreign talent, but could be an uphill struggle in the wake of Brexit and the Windrush scandal.

“The UK purposely designed its immigration policy over the last ten years around having a hostile environment to migrants,” Carmel says. “There's a sense in which there will be more or less desirable migrants, there are more or less valuable migrants, but when you generate the idea of having a hostile environment, that actually affects everybody.”

The full article is available [here](#).



Uncharted Territory: Universal Credit, Couples and Money

Professor Jane Millar is part of the ESRC-funded project, [‘Couples balancing work, money and care: exploring the shifting landscape under Universal Credit’](#) – a three-year longitudinal, qualitative research study which examines the ways in which couples with and without children make decisions about work, care and household finances in relation to changes under Universal Credit.

This report presents findings from the first phase of the project and can be found [here](#).



Urgent action is needed to reduce widening inequalities in childhood obesity

Professor Harry Rutter co-authored a BMJ opinion piece on widening inequalities in childhood obesity. *'The report highlights that the proportion of children with overweight or obesity remains extremely high, and is increasing over time in most groups. Furthermore, these increases disproportionately affect children from deprived areas, and those of Black or South Asian ethnicity.'*

This is also linked to the increasing inequalities caused by COVID-19 that disproportionately impacts on those from minority ethnic backgrounds and also those with obesity.

The full blog can be found [here](#).



An exploratory study of attitudes towards autism amongst church-going Christians in the South East of England, United Kingdom

Conducted by: Krysia Waldock, [Rachel Forrester-Jones](#)

Access to church communities can be difficult for autistic people. Whilst specific autism guidelines are available for churches to follow, their dissemination among church communities, as well as churchgoers' attitudes towards autism is unknown. Semi-structured interviews were used with twenty-one adult church-goers from four Protestant churches in England, UK. Using a grounded theory approach to analyse the data, three themes were identified: "different understandings of autism", "degrees of ableism" and "idiosyncratic practice".

We found positive and pejorative attitudes; this mix of perspectives reflecting the idiosyncratic practice among churches. Recommendations for further research and church practice are provided.

More information about the study can be found [here](#)



Last months of life of people with intellectual disabilities (ID)/ learning disabilities: a UK population based study of death and dying in ID community services

Conducted by: Stuart Todd, Jane Bernal, Julia Shearn, Rhian Worth, Edwin Jones, Kathy Lowe, Phil Madden, Owen Barr, [Rachel Forrester-Jones](#), Paul Jarvis, Thilo Kroll, Mary McCarron, Sue Read, Katherine Hunt

Background

Population based data are presented on the nature of dying in ID services.

Methods

A retrospective survey was conducted over 18 months with a sample of UK based ID service providers that supported over 12,000. Core data were obtained for 222 deaths

within this population. For 158 (71%) deaths, respondents returned a supplemented and modified version of VOICES-SF.

Results

The observed death was 12.2 deaths per 1000 people supported per year, but just over a third deaths had been deaths anticipated by care staff. Mortality patterns, place of usual care and availability of external support exerted considerable influence over outcomes at the end of life.

Conclusion

Death is not a common event in ID services. A major disadvantage experienced by people with ID was that their deaths were relatively unanticipated. People with ID living in supported living settings, even when their dying was anticipated, experienced poorer outcome

More information about the study can be found [here](#)



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