

Centre for  
the Analysis of  
Social Policy (CASP)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

## Winter 2021 NEWSLETTER



**Welcome to the CASP Winter 2021 Newsletter**

## Director's Note

Welcome to our super-bumper CASP Winter 2021 newsletter. It is a great pleasure to write the foreword to this newsletter, the first since I took on the role of CASP director.

I like to first take this opportunity to offer my thanks and gratitude to my predecessor, Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones, for her hard work in leading CASP during the last few years, leading successfully CASP during the challenging time during the COVID crisis. Rachel left Bath to take a new post in Canada as the new Director of Health Studies in Western University. However, our collaboration will continue strongly, as the University of Bath signed an MoU with Western University. We already had our inaugural event, hosted in Bath, a well-attended online webinar on the topic of global health inequalities, with colleagues from 6 countries. It was co-organized by CASP, Western University and the MENASP Network (led by Dr Rana Jawad) and a 2<sup>nd</sup> event, hosted by Western University will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 aiming to concretize a research network around this topic with the aim to work towards a large research bid.

Second, I would like to take this opportunity to wish happy retirement to two CASP members, Professor Jane Millar and Professor Lynn Prince Cooke. I had the pleasure to know Jane for almost 25 years as a member of this Department, as well as part of the team that she led as Director of Department of Work Pensions' Summer School and as a member of the Executive Board of the Social Policy Association during the period that she led SPA as its President. I am sure I speak for many to express my gratitude for Jane's contributions not only to this Department and University but to Social Policy as a field of research in this country and internationally and to wish her a happy retirement. Professor Lynn Prince Cooke, internationally renowned for her quantitative comparative

research on how labour markets and social transfers impact upon work inequalities among women and men (as well as between them) has been a tireless worker and advocate for equality and social justice. I have thoroughly enjoyed our exchanges over the years about the role of the family in the political economy of welfare in southern Europe. Lynn is currently completing the work for the NEWFAMSTRAT project funded by a European Research Council Consolidator Grant and I look forward to present and disseminate the results of this important work in CASP's website and future newsletters. I wish Lynn a very happy retirement.

Finally, I would like to finish this preamble with sharing my ideas and vision for CASP over the coming years. CASP has an institutional life of almost 30 years and it is central, in terms of the narrative as well as the research infrastructure of our Department. According to its statement "it is an interdisciplinary research centre critically engaging with the evidence, design and evaluation behind policy development across a range of major social issues [...] and assess the governance, prioritisation and evaluation of policy responses to these". My vision is to deepen and extend this work, by facilitating high quality research and attracting research funding and in at least four directions.

1. Internationally: Our members are pursuing highly innovative in topics like children's wellbeing, social protection in MENA region, mental health, wealth inequalities and education, the dynamics of gender earnings' inequalities, artificial Intelligence and policy, governance and migration, family as socio-economic actor, health equity across the globe and menstrual justice. We are enhancing the international and comparative social policy profile of CASP by fostering a strong presence in terms of international events that promote our research excellence as both a national and international centre of researching social policy, promoting CASP (and our Department) as a place for attracting and completing

large-scale funded projects as well as innovative conceptual and empirical research and a destination to conduct doctoral research and seek training.

2. Locally: by engaging with local policy makers [in collaboration with other University initiatives] in the field of local social policy co-creation/co-production projects. These include, collaborating with a variety of stakeholders (civil-society organisations, NGOS, charities, services, local authority policy research team, local policy makers) to generate evidence as part of participatory policy processes. This adds the locality, the city of Bath itself, as a 'laboratory' for social research with policy implications, with multiple beneficial effects for research, teaching and learning, providing also ample opportunities for publicity, events and public engagement for CASP, the Department and the University.
3. Historically: by harness and mobilize CASP's long history and contributions of its long-established members in the development of social policy thinking and research in the UK. We are privileged to have in our Department, either active or as emerita professors, some of the most renowned researchers and teachers of social policy in the UK. Our aim is to record their history and contributions for posterity and to celebrate them as a central feature of CASP's identity, projecting a sense of history and long-term presence as the basis of our current and future innovative work
4. Educationally: Work closely with our postgraduate community and engage them in the work of the CASP. This engagement will be framed by a vision of inclusivity as 'colleagues-in-becoming' co-producing the research environment in which they will conduct their studies. Department, maintaining a strong attachment to us as alumni.

This vision is part of a collective aspiration. It was generated in discussions I have shared in corridors and offices with colleagues on how we can improve,

innovate and be impactful while pursuing our ideals for social justice, equality  
and non-discrimination, and the pursuit of public good  
I hope you will enjoy our newsletter and the future work of the CASP  
community

Dr Theo Papadopoulos

11/02/2022

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## **CASP news**

# **CASP in a new partnership between the University of Bath and Western University, Canada, to facilitate collaborations around health and wellbeing**

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Bath (UK) and the Western's Faculty of Health Sciences (Canada) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the aim to lead to health-focused collaborations between the two institutions. The agreement includes Western's School of Health Studies and Bath's Department for Health and the Centre for Analysis of Social Policy.

"These collaborations will focus on ways in which the pandemic has highlighted profound weaknesses in health care and healthcare management across the world while issues of capacity, sustainability, and equity have become more prevalent than ever before. Health care professionals have had to manage

complex, rapidly evolving and potentially devastating threats and challenges to health care provision, while sustaining business as usual functionality. COVID-19 has also highlighted the necessity for countries to work together to find solutions to these problems” Read more [here](#)

The first joint event – Health Equity Issues: Soundbites from across the world – was hosted by Bath’s Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy (CASP), the Middle East and North Africa Social Policy Network (MENASP Network) and Western’s School of Health Studies. It took place on 1 February 2022. Academics from Canada, Portugal, Mexico, Lebanon and Jordan spoke for five minutes each about the major health equity issues affecting their respective countries.

## **CASP to sponsor sessions on social policy in Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) Annual Conference**

**CASP will sponsor 2 sessions on Social Policy in Latin America, in Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) Annual Conference 2022 to be held at University of Bath, 21-22 April 2022**

## Healthy Later Living in a time of Covid



### **CASP Policy Lab update**

The Regional Policy Lab looked at the key issue which had emerged from the events held for Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and looked to see how key partners would like the project to develop. The Regional event had keynote contributions from the Director for Strategy at WECA, Jessica Lee, and the Deputy Leader of South Gloucestershire Council, Ben Stokes.

Following on from their last event the CASP policy lab have created a report and summary of their findings. This has now been published and can be found at [Healthy Later Living in a time of Covid](#)

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## CASP Members News

- Mel Channon has been awarded an ERC Starting Grant (worth in the region of 2million Euros). The project entitled “Title: Menstrual Justice in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Achieving the Right to a Good Period in Policy and Practice (MeJARa)”. It will investigate the complex relationships between menstruation and the practices surrounding it, including public policies at local, national and international levels. This will include collaborative primary research in Nepal and Guatemala and, among other things, will establish the first comparative longitudinal datasets focussing on menstruation in adolescents. Other partners are: Fran Amery (PoLIS), Jen Thomson (PoLIS), Abbie Jordan (Psychology), Emma Fisher (Health), Mahesh Puri (CREHPA, Nepal), Carmen Benitez (32 Volcanes, Guatemala).
- Theo Papadopoulos had meetings with senior policy officers from Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) to discuss arrangements for a joined CASP/BANES conference on the topics related to social deprivation and social policies in mid-Autumn 2022.
- Lynn Prince Cooke has been appointed a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the 3.8 million Euro Family Formation in FLUX research project. The multidisciplinary FLUX consortium seeks evidence-based solutions to improve the social and economic stability of Finnish society related to changing fertility and family dynamics, given the importance of sustained fertility levels to the sustainability of the generous Finnish welfare state.
- Melanie Channon was recently elected as Honorary Secretary of the British Society for Population Studies. She would also like to encourage anyone working on population issues to get in touch and join BSPS especially as BSPS is currently making plans to celebrate their 75th anniversary.
- Emma Carmel was invited by the British Academy to contribute to the British Academy’s public event on 'AI and the future of work' (15/11/2021). This followed her participation in a UCL/ British academy workshop in September 2021.
- Rana Jawad wants to remind researchers about the Funding Opportunities offered by the MENASP Network in relation to Social Policy and Conflict prevention.
- Emma Carmel completed a quartet of presentations, stemming from her work with Regine Paul (University of Bergen). She presented their work on the drivers of AI

regulation at the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering's International Symposium of Technology and Society (IEEE-ISTA!) conference at the end of October. She has also signed a contract with Edward Elgar for a Handbook on AI and Public Policy in their Public Policy series.

- Piotr Ozieranski gave a talk at Consilium Scientific on pharmaceutical R&D the speech is available [here](#)
- Richard Velleman presented two papers at internal conferences in October. One at the Two-Day International Webinar on Fostering Optimal Development and Well-being in Children and Adolescents; and another at the 3rd International Congress and XLVII NATIONAL CONFERENCES SOCIDROGALCOHOL

Congratulations to you all

## **CASP Member's Recent Publications**

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### **Intergenerational wealth transmission and mobility in Great Britain: what components of wealth matter?**



*Dr Ricky Kanabar and Paul Gregg* wrote a working paper which can be found on [econpapers](#)

The rapid widening of intergenerational wealth inequalities has led to sharp differences in living standards in Great Britain. Understanding which components of wealth are driving such inequalities is important for improving wealth and social mobility. Using the Wealth and Assets Survey we show the change in the intergenerational persistence in wealth in Great Britain is driven by inequality in offspring housing wealth. We estimate between 2010/12-2016/18 the intergenerational wealth elasticity in housing increased by 18 percentage points for individuals born to the same parental wealth background but born six years apart, and that offspring homeownership has become increasingly stratified by parental wealth even after controlling for individual's own characteristics. We show by age 35 homeownership levels are three times higher among offspring whose parents are high educated homeowners compared to those whose parents are from a low educated renter background. In terms of housing wealth, by age 35 the former group holds approximately ten-times the level of housing wealth compared to the latter. We show such differences in housing wealth hold across the lifecycle and if maintained imply the intergenerational wealth elasticity in housing wealth is set to double in approximately one century. Taken together, our findings highlight the increasingly important role parental wealth has for determining whether offspring hold and the rate at which they accumulate particular types of wealth, and the implications for intergenerational wealth persistence, wealth mobility and inequality now and in the future.

Read more [here](#)

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## “None for the Road? Stricter Drink Driving Laws and Road Accidents”



**Dr Johnathon James** co-authored an article in the *Journal of Health Economics* and a subsequently written a blog about the paper for the Institute for Alcohol Studies (IAS).

Reducing drink drive limits is generally regarded an effective strategy to save lives on the road. Using several new administrative data sources, we evaluate the effect of a stricter limit introduced in Scotland in 2014. This reduction had no effect on drink driving and road collisions. Estimates from a supply-of-offences function suggests that the reform did not have much ex-ante scope for sizeable effects. The unavailability of cheaper alternative means of transportation and weak law enforcement seem to have been the main channels behind the lack of an impact. We find no externality on a wide range of domains, from alcohol consumption to criminal activities other than drink driving.

Full article available [here](#)

The IAS blog can be found [here](#)

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## “A hidden web of policy influence”



**PHD candidate Emily Rickard and Dr Piotr Ozieranski** published an article which is now in The Patient Experience library's featured page.

This paper looks at how the pharmaceutical industry - and the organisations it funds - interact with Parliament to form part of a multi-layered web of influence. It concentrates on All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs), According to the authors, "APPGs do not receive any funding from Parliament, but they can choose to accept payments to cover costs of events, secretariats, travel, reports, and other activities". Consequently, "concerns have been raised that some corporate interests exploit the unique opportunities for access offered by APPGs, turning them into a backchannel for lobbying". The study looked at financial reports between 2012-2018 from 146 health-related APPGs, finding that payments from external donors totalled £7.3 million. Of this, it says, the pharmaceutical industry and industry-funded patient organisations provided a total of £2.2 million. The authors state that their study "shows pharmaceutical industry funding at the upstream stages of the policy process".

The full article can be accessed [here](#)

## Who Goes on Disability when Times are Tough? The Role of Work Norms among Immigrants



**Dr Kerry L. Papps** has co-authored this article which is soon to appear in the *European Economic Review*:

We examine how work norms affect Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) take-up rates in response to worsening economic conditions. By focusing on immigrants in the US, we can consider the influence of work norms in a person's home country, which we argue are exogenous to labor market prospects in the US. We find that the probability of receiving SSDI is more sensitive to economic downturns among immigrants from countries where people place less importance on work. We also provide evidence that this result is not driven by differential sensitivities to the business cycle or differences in SSDI eligibility.

if you cannot wait to read it, a copy is available [here](#)

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# A lay-counsellor delivered brief psychological treatment for men with comorbid alcohol use disorder and depression in primary care: secondary analysis of data from a randomized controlled trial.



Professor **Richard Velleman** co-authored this article which has been published on the [US National Library of Medicine](#) and in the paper Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

## Background

We investigated the feasibility, acceptability, safety, and preliminary effectiveness of the Counselling for Alcohol Problems (CAP) psychological intervention delivered by non-specialist health workers (NSHW) to participants with alcohol use disorder (AUD) and comorbid depression in primary care

## Methods

We used data from a single blind randomised controlled trial conducted in ten primary health care centres in Goa, India. Adult male harmful or

dependent drinkers with or without depression were randomized (1:1) to receive either CAP & enhanced usual care (EUC) or EUC only. Process indicators such as the number of completed counselling sessions were assessed and compared between comorbid and non-comorbid participants. Remission from AUD and depression along with abstinence were measured at 3 and 12 months post randomisation. Analyses were on an intention-to-treat basis, employing multivariable regression analyses.

## Results

271 participants had symptoms of comorbid depression; 241 did not. Both groups completed a similar number of counselling sessions (adjusted Mean Difference 0.05, 95 %CI -0.24–0.34;p = 0.72). Among comorbid participants, CAP did not lead to more frequent adverse events compared to EUC only (adjusted Odds Ratio [aOR] 0.84, 0.43–1.64;p = 0.62), and there was no evidence for an effect of CAP on remission from AUD or depression at 3 months (aOR 1.51, 0.84–2.74;p = 0.17 and aOR 0.74, 0.43–1.27;p = 0.28) and 12 months follow-up, respectively (aOR 1.69, 0.96–3.01;p = 0.08 and aOR 1.08, 0.62–1.87;p = 0.79).

## Conclusions

Brief therapies like CAP can be safely delivered by NSHWs to patients with comorbid AUD and depression, but their effectiveness may be limited and requires further investigation.

Read the full study [here](#)

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**‘She misses the subtleties and I have to help- help to make the invisible visible’: parents’ role in supporting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with intimate relationships**



**Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones has had this article published in International Journal of Care and Caring,**

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities often need support to develop and maintain intimate relationships; however, little is known regarding the role of family carers in this area. Focus groups were conducted with 19 family members to explore the support they provide to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to find a potential partner and any support they may have to provide to support/develop an existing relationship. Family members provided similar support in this area as support staff, including both practical and emotional support. More needs to be done to support the family members providing this support, such as access to specialist resources and advice, as well as facilitated opportunities to discuss concerns.

The article in full is available [Here](#)

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## The Impact of Taking Family Leaves Across Finnish Fathers' Wage Distribution



**Professor Lynn Prince Cooke** and Dr Kati Morosow are delighted to report that their article on the wage impact of Finnish fathers' paternal leave has been published in *Social Forces*

What we find analyzing Finnish register data is that all fathers who take the short paternity leave while the mother is still on leave as well incur no significant wage penalties. Fathers who also take solo paternal leave following paternity leave have decreasing wage trajectories afterward, but only low-wage fathers receive significant age penalties, suggesting taking the leave so shifts their priorities more toward family. In all, we conclude that wage repercussions of taking shorter or longer family leaves and the sources of these differ across fathers' wage distribution.

you can read the article [here](#)

## How the intersection of gender and dis-ability impacts work and income and what policymakers could do to help



**Dr Tina Skinner and Dr Matt Dixon** were panellists in a discussion with Angela Rayner (Leader of the opposition) during the labour party conference. Since then they have written a blog on the [IPR blog](#) .

The UK Government recently calculated that 14 million people in the UK are disabled. That's around 21% of the population, a figure that has steadily increased from 18% a decade ago. This matters because there are substantial differences in life outcomes for disabled people.

There is a 50% difference in household income between disabled and non-disabled people, and the income gap is growing. The employment rate for working age disabled people is just over 50%, 28 percentage points below that for non-disabled people. However, in attempting to tackle what the Prime Minister called a “gaping chasm” of employment, caution must be taken not to assume that a reduction in the ‘employment gap’ would mean a rise in economic wellbeing. Disabled women in particular are more likely to be in part-time, junior, insecure jobs than disabled men and non-disabled men and women, so even if they have gained employment, they may

continue to be marginalised by job insecurity and low income, especially in light of the economic consequences of the pandemic.

For policies which aim to improve the position of women and disabled people to become more effective, a more nuanced understanding of the intersection of dis-ability, gender, employment and income must be used to inform policy.

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### **“Maternal stress during pregnancy and children’s diet: Evidence from a population of low socioeconomic status”**



**Dr Jonathan James** has had this article published in Nutrition

#### **Objectives**

This study examined the relationship between maternal exposure to stress during pregnancy and children’s food preferences and diet in a population of low socioeconomic status.

#### **Methods**

Indices of exposure to stress were constructed based on retrospective self-reported experience of stressful events during pregnancy (e.g., death of close family member, relationship difficulties, legal issues, health issues,

financial issues, or other potentially stressful event[s]). Data were collected for >200 mothers of a low socioeconomic status with a child age 2 to 12 y. Data on mothers' body mass index, current exposure to stress, current diet, and diet during pregnancy were collected at the same time, as well as data on children's food preferences and current diet as reported by the mothers. Indices of the healthiness of food preferences and diet were constructed and used as outcome variables.

### **Results**

Maternal exposure to stress during pregnancy significantly predicts children's food and taste preferences, as well as their diet, in regression models controlling for maternal diet, current maternal stress, and demographic characteristics of both the child and mother. Higher average stress during pregnancy is linked with significantly less healthy food preferences and diet, as well as with weaker preferences for sour and bitter foods. This relationship is observed across different age groups.

### **Conclusions**

Maternal exposure to stress during pregnancy could have long-term detrimental effects on dietary outcomes and thereby on health conditions related to diet. Prenatal care and preconception counseling could be critical to develop preventive strategies to improve public health.

Read more [here](#)

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## Other publications

- Garg, A., Agrawal, R., **Velleman**, R., Rane, A., Costa, S., Gupta, D., Dsouza, E., Jambhale, A., Sabnis, A., Fernandes, G., Bhatia, U. and Nadkarni, A. (2022) Integrating assisted Tele-psychiatry into Primary Healthcare in Goa, India: A Feasibility Study. *Global Mental Health*, 1–11. DOI: 10.1017/gmh.2021.47.
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- Malli, M. and Forrester-Jones, R., 2021. The experience of stigma among adults with Tourette’s syndrome. Executive Summary. [Online], p.7. Available from: [https://purehost.bath.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/219068089/Executive\\_Summary\\_For\\_TA\\_Final.pdf](https://purehost.bath.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/219068089/Executive_Summary_For_TA_Final.pdf).
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- Nadkarni, A., Tu, A., Garg, A., Gupta, D., Gupta, S., Bhatia, U., Tiwari, N., Heath, A, Wen, K., Fernandes, G. and **Velleman R.** Alcohol use among adolescents in India: a systematic review. *Global Mental Health*, 9, DOI: 10.1017/gmh.2021.48
- The Impact of Austerity Measures on People with Intellectual Disabilities in England. *Journal of Long-Term Care* [Online], (2021), pp.241–255. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.31389/jltc.59> [Accessed 20 October 2021].