

Centre for
the Analysis of
Social Policy (CASP)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the CASP 2020 Spring Newsletter

I do hope this finds you well and coping with COVID-19 wherever you are.

I am delighted to send you our first newsletter since the re-launch of CASP at Pall Mall, London in January. Since that time, we have been very busy, writing articles, blogs, and advising on policy issues. A selection of these activities are covered in the newsletter.

Understandably, the global pandemic has become a major part of our focus. Our research is already tackling many and varied policy issues that COVID-19 is creating. Notwithstanding the immensity and immediacy of the pandemic, other challenges facing this country and the world continue to call for policy solutions. CASP is working hard to respond to these needs as the newsletter demonstrates.

I hope very much that you enjoy reading the newsletter and find it of value. My thanks go to Michelle James for all her hard work in developing this newsletter.

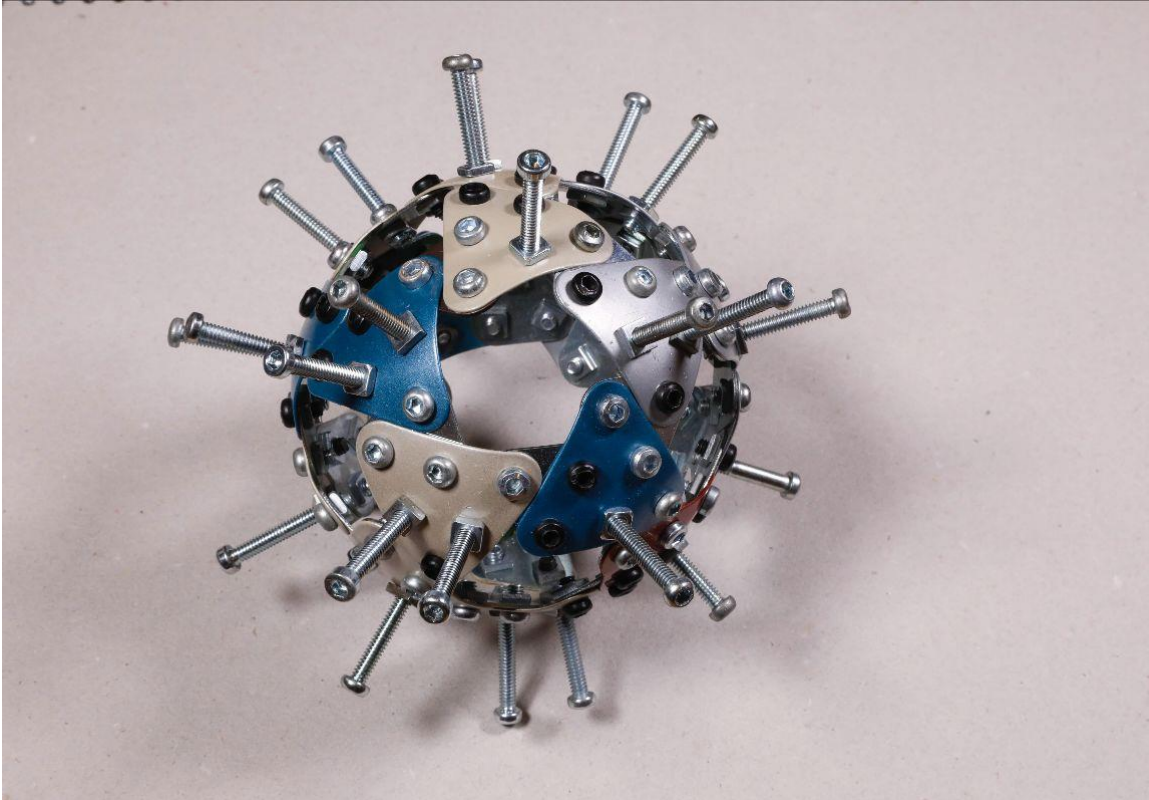
Kind regards

Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones
Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy (CASP)

CASP Member's Work on Covid-19

Prof Harry Rutter has been appointed to the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) [Environmental Working Group](#). The purpose of this group is to identify and steer the role that environmental modelling, data analysis and environmental sampling can play in understanding COVID-19 transmission, with a view to understanding transmission routes, factors that influence this and the impact of environmental and behavioural interventions and mitigations at a mechanistic level.

Prof Rachel Forrester-Jones was interviewed by Nick Ferrari on LBC radio in April about the impact of Covid-19 on informal carers. A recent IPR blog called ['Older informal carers – where is their badge of honour?'](#) expands on the points made in the radio show.



Science and the coronavirus pandemic

Prof Graham Room sheds light on the epidemiological, behavioural and complex systems scientific basis of the government's decisions concerning coronavirus in [a recent IPR blog post](#).

"The UK Government has framed its policy on the Coronavirus pandemic having strict regard to the scientific advice it is receiving. Its policy may seem to have shifted, but only as the science itself has shifted. That, at least, is what we are being told."



Let's use lockdown to break old habits and start afresh with healthier new ones

In April, Prof Harry Rutter published an article in The Telegraph suggesting individuals use lockdown as a natural pivot point in our lives to break old habits and start afresh with new ones.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to overwhelm every health care system in the world. To cope with such demand on its acute and critical care services, the NHS is buying ventilators, opening wards, creating hospitals, building labs, and vastly expanding its workforce.

At the same time, lockdown creates a natural pivot point in our lives to break old habits and start afresh with new and healthier ones. It also provides an important opportunity for the Government to implement a range of simple public health measures that could both free up NHS capacity in the short term and improve population health..." Read the full article [here](#).



Care leavers and COVID-19: A time for even greater state and community responsibility

An article co-authored by Dr Justin Rogers discussing the added risks to care leavers as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic has recently been featured on the ABC website.

"Young people transitioning from public care - which encompasses foster and residential care - are commonly known as *care leavers*. They are already a marginalised group who often face significant social and economic disadvantage. And now they are vulnerable to increased risks during the COVID-19 crisis, as people become more and more reliant on close family and friends support. For many care leavers, who have limited social networks, the ongoing and increasing social distancing measures will mean social isolation, which will in turn increase their vulnerability..." Read the full article [here](#).



Informal carers need recognition just as much

In April, Prof Rachel Forrester-Jones responded to the recently announced government strategy to help the 1.5 million people working in adult social care in response to coronavirus.

"As a researcher, but also as someone who has worked in adult social care, it feels as though it has taken a pandemic for the government to finally recognise the value of this type of work in providing support and assistance to so many people around the country. Anything that can be done to help those people working in these roles and in complex social care settings, especially during this incredibly difficult period, has to be welcomed. But what has been announced needs to go further – in particular when it comes to helping those providing informal care day in, day out to their family members. Last year, I interviewed 21 carers providing support to family members in informal settings. Their average age was 73 – the oldest was 93. These people, who all tick the 'vulnerable' and 'at risk' groups, and who are all still continuing to care for their older adult children with learning disabilities need our support too.

The new CARE badge of honour, which has been proposed as part of other measures for those in formal social care and would be similar to those for NHS workers, of course could have important practical benefits. But where is the badge for those providing informal care? They need to be recognised just as much." Read more [here](#).

CASP Members News

Dr Justin Rogers has been appointed as CASP Visiting Research Fellow for the period 1 May 2020-30 April 2023.

Dr Ana Dinerstein was Visiting Professor at the California Institute for Integral Studies (CIIS) San Francisco, from 29th February to 6th March 2020. Her three lectures will be published in a book format by KAIROS, PM Press, Oakland. Ana was also due to [LRI:POI](#) be keynote speaker on the global politics of hope at the British Sociological Association in April. Watch her [theory](#) stream plenary [here](#) instead.

A [newly funded research project](#) involving academics in the University's Department of Education and Social & Policy Sciences with international colleagues at Universidad Veracruzana and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) has launched aiming to better understand how higher education impacts indigenous peoples, in the social domains of community, work-place, and peer-group – in Mexico and across Latin America.

Prof Rachel Forrester-Jones gave an expert comment to BBC Bristol (12/2/20) regarding the planned termination of the 200-year-old Census system in 2021. Rachel cautioned against using a myriad of data sources which may exclude segments of the population who do not use digital communications. It would also jeopardise longitudinal studies that rely on consistency in data collection. She said "particularly at a time of fake news, having data that is [robust](#) is [essential](#)".

Michelle James has been awarded funding for a PhD in Social Policy to investigate the formal and informal social protection networks of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK.

CASP Events

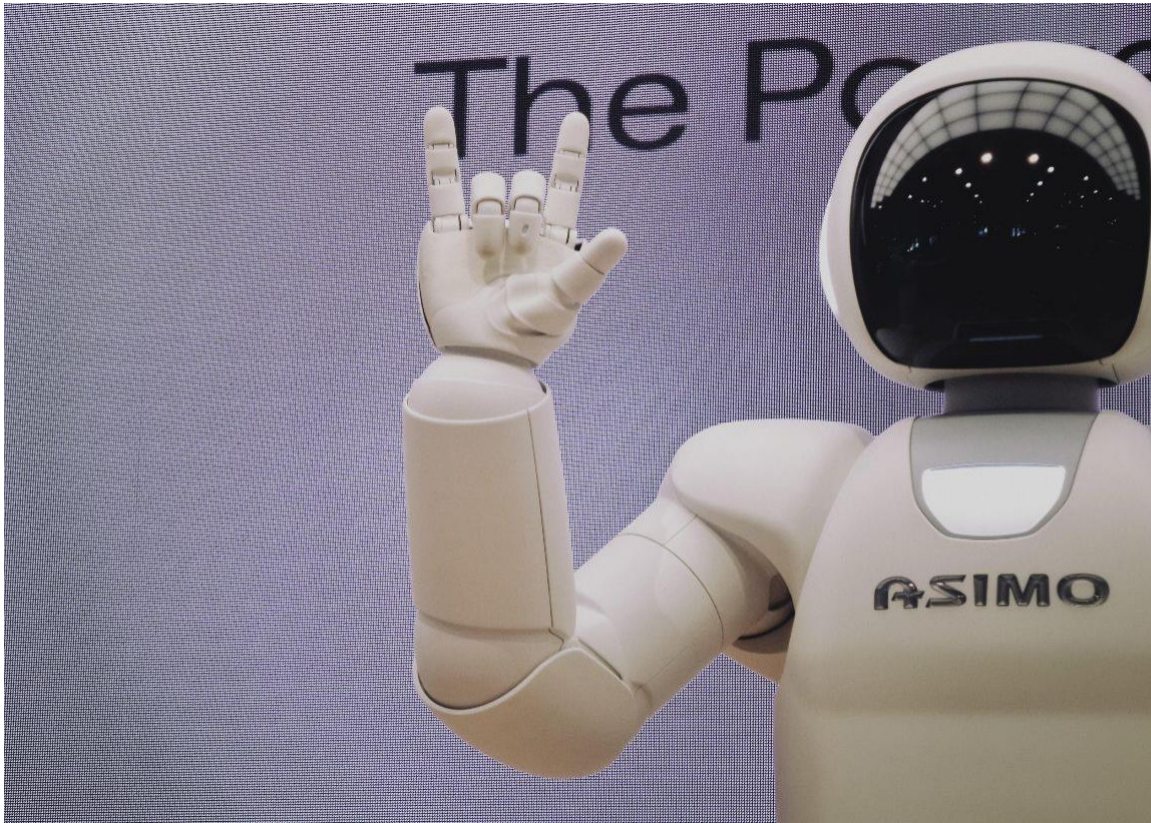


CASP/HHS Policy Labs mark a new dawn of public engagement

The Centre for Analysis of Social Policy (CASP) has held its inaugural policy lab at The University of Bath. Policy Labs aim to look at and solve social policy issues in a new way. Different to focus groups or other forms of discussions, policy labs communicate with a group of people with interests in a particular issue over an extended period of time. They also use previous research on particular issues to inform discussion.

You can [read more](#) about the first policy lab, focusing on 'healthy ageing' on the University of Bath website. An executive summary document giving more information about the project as a whole can also be found [here](#).

CASP Member's Recent Publications



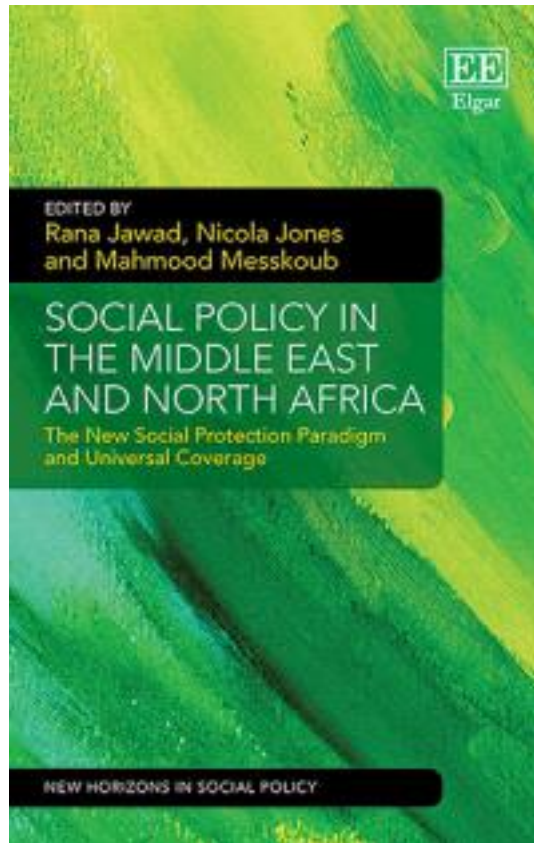
Wise up fast: we need rules for using artificial intelligence in political decisions

Dr Emma Carmel recently wrote an article in The Times responding to the [Nolan Committee Report](#) released in February 2020 on AI in the public sector.

"The recent publication of the (Nolan) committee on standards in public life's report on artificial intelligence in the public sector should, as its chairman, Lord Evans, argued last week, be a gamechanger. The real challenge is still to come. The committee's recommendations must become a workable reality.

This requires political will, strategic prioritisation, coherent oversight and human and economic resources. The political and social risks of leaving the recommendations as 'on paper' principles, are incalculable for individuals, and for public trust in the state. The

potential for policy fiasco is on the scale of Windrush and Rotherham and beyond...." Read the full article [here](#).



Social policy in the Middle East and North Africa: The new social protection paradigm and universal coverage

Dr Rana Jawad has recently co-edited a new book that presents a state of the art in the developing field of social policy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The book offers an up-to-date conceptual analysis of social policy programmes and discourses in the MENA region by critically reviewing the range of social insurance and social assistance schemes that are currently in existence there. It also analyses and offers suggestions on which of these policies can positively impact the region's advancement in terms of human development and in addressing social and economic

inequalities and exclusion. Find out more about the new book [here](#), and for further information about the MENA Social Policy Network visit their [website](#).

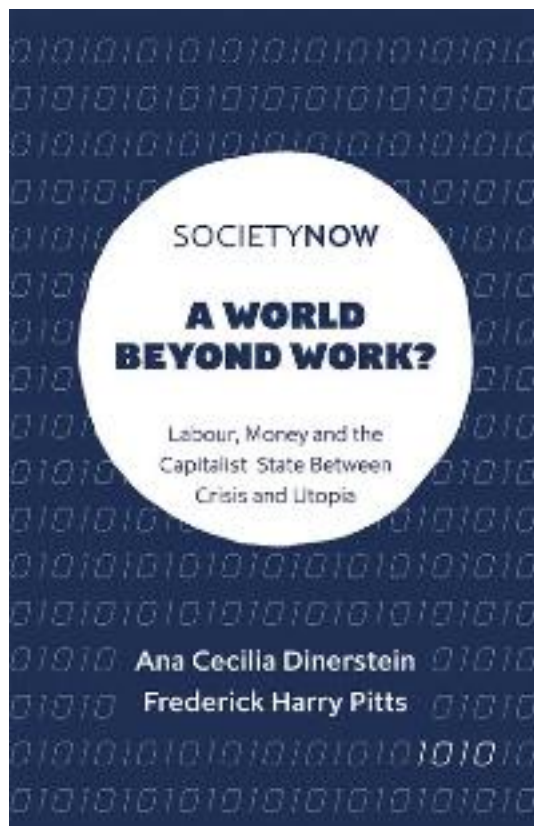


New book chapter 'Southern Europe' in the upcoming 'Handbook on Society and Social Policy' by Theo Papadopoulos

Theo Papadopoulos contributed with a chapter on 'Southern Europe' (co-authored with Antonios Roumpakis) in the volume '[Handbook on Society and Social Policy](#)' edited by Nick Ellison and Tina Haux; forthcoming in a well-known series by Edward Elgar.

The chapter discusses key aspects of welfare state development in four Southern European (SE) countries: Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. First, it provides a brief historical overview of their political economies post-Second World War. Second, it critically reviews three approaches to the study of SE in comparative social policy literature including an emerging approach where SE is analysed as part of a distinct

'world' of semi-peripheral familistic welfare capitalism, similar to regimes in South East Asia and Latin America. The chapter ends with a discussion of the crisis of social reproduction in Southern Europe marked by the severe effects of austerity measures in the aftermath of the sovereign debt crisis. Five current challenges to social welfare in the region are also explored; namely fertility, poverty, unemployment, household debt and the dual trend of high skilled emigration and undocumented inward migration.



**A World Beyond Work? Labour, Money and the Capitalist State
Between Crisis and Utopia**

Dr Ana Dinerstein has a forthcoming book *A World Beyond Work? Labour, Money and the Capitalist State Between Crisis and Utopia*, Emerald 'Society Now' Series, Jan 2021, co-authored with F.H.Pitts, University of Bristol and former PhD student at Bath

Abstract

Sensing a world of post-work opportunity lurking in an age of crisis, today 'postcapitalist' utopias proliferate that see a way out of the present through an escape from work. Using critical theory to unpick the political economy of contemporary work and its futures, this book mounts a forceful critique of fashionable thinking about the possibility of achieving a postcapitalist society through the automation of production, a universal basic income and the reduction of working hours to zero. *A World Beyond Work?* reveals how these transitional measures break insufficiently with key features of capitalist society: value, money, the class relation and the state. By displacing workers from the sites and relationships through which they struggle and resist as wage labour, Dinerstein and Pitts contend, these measures may even stifle the capacity for transformative social change in, against and beyond capitalism.

The authors propose an alternative that navigates the contradictions of social reproduction under capitalism through the construction of 'concrete utopias' that shape and anticipate non-capitalist futures. about the possibility of achieving a postcapitalist society through the automation of production, a universal basic income and the reduction of working hours to zero. *A World Beyond Work?* reveals how these transitional measures break insufficiently with key features of capitalist society: value, money, the class relation and the state. By displacing workers from the sites and relationships through which they struggle and resist as wage labour, Dinerstein and Pitts contend, these measures may even stifle the capacity for transformative social change in, against and beyond capitalism. The authors propose an alternative that navigates the contradictions of social reproduction under capitalism through the construction of 'concrete utopias' that shape and anticipate non-capitalist futures.



Loving relationships and intellectual disabilities

Prof Forrester-Jones has co-authored a number of articles focusing on intellectual disabilities and loving relationships as well as an article around cleft lip and/or palate published this quarter.

["Always trying to walk a bit of a tightrope". The role of social care staff in supporting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop and maintain loving relationships](#)

[Making Connections and Building Confidence: A Study of Specialist Dating Agencies for People with Intellectual Disabilities](#)

[Specialist hospital treatment and care as reported by children with intellectual disabilities and a cleft lip and/or palate, their parents and healthcare professionals](#)



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