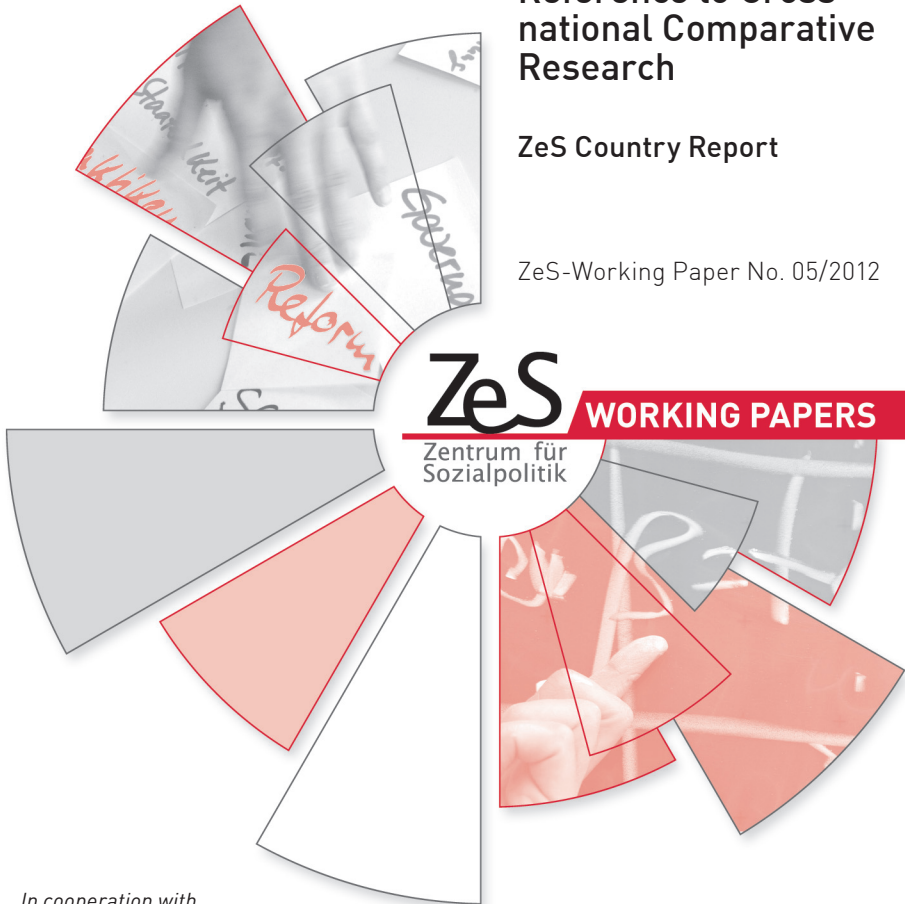


Peter Taylor-Gooby

Social Policy Research in the UK, with Special Reference to Cross- national Comparative Research

ZeS Country Report

ZeS-Working Paper No. 05/2012



In cooperation with



Welfare Societies
Coping with Instabilities

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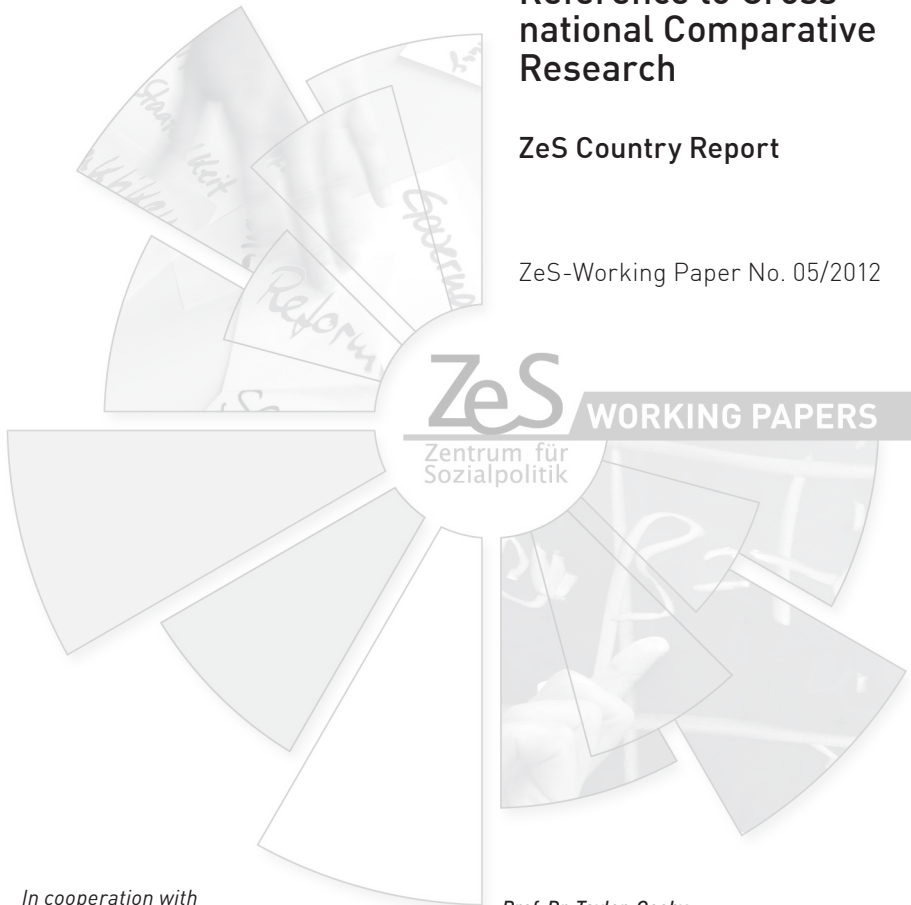
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The Country Reports on the State of Social Policy Research are published from time to time in the Working Paper Series of the Center for Social Policy. An experienced scientist offers an overview of the central institutions and persons in comparative and national social policy research in his or her country. These reports can never depict the whole landscape but they can help by focusing our attention on the strengths, the special expertise, and the special features of the respective research community as it confronts welfare state challenges and reforms in the 21st century. Each country report may provide its readers with a starting point for their own research, and it can point to the well-travelled networks and to the dominant issues at hand.

Die Länder-Reporte Sozialpolitikforschung erscheinen in unregelmäßigen Abständen in der Arbeitspapierreihe des Zentrums für Sozialpolitik. Vom Standpunkt einer erfahrenen Wissenschaftlerin oder eines erfahrenen Wissenschaftlers wird hier eine Übersicht über die relevanten Institutionen und Personen der vergleichenden und nationalen Sozialpolitikforschung in dem jeweiligen Land gegeben. Diese Berichte können keinen Anspruch auf Vollständigkeit der Darstellung erheben. Sie sollen aber die Stärken, Expertisen und Besonderheiten der jeweiligen Forschungslandschaft hervorheben, die jede auf ihre Weise die Herausforderungen und Reformen der Wohlfahrtspolitiken im 21. Jahrhundert konfrontiert. Sie können den Leserinnen und Lesern Ansatzpunkte für die eigene Forschung und Forschungszugänge bieten, die bestimmenden Forschungsthemen kennzeichnen und die Netzwerkbildung fördern.

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Main Points

1. Social Policy research in the UK is pursued in a large number of centres with diverse funding and interests by researchers from a number of disciplines.

2. It has a number of strengths and also some weaknesses. The strengths include: close engagement with current policy issues (leading for example to work on social investment programmes, climate change and social policy, New Public Management, activation policies, co-production, the third sector and behavioural economics); strong cross-disciplinary linkages (for example interest in issues such as legitimisation, politics of welfare, culture and social provision, gender issues, theoretical approaches to social policy, risk and social policy, social policy and the life-course); a relatively rich and diverse data environment (for example longitudinal and demographic studies, ethnography, attitudinal studies); and a concern of funders with the non-academic impact of research (for example systematic review, media studies). Research is of relatively high quality as assessed by the Research Assessment Exercises in 2001 and 2008, with large differences between leading and weaker departments. UK researchers have occupied a strong position in co-ordinating and participating in cross-national European research funded by the EU through Cordis, and especially in applied social science projects.

The weaknesses result mainly from the orientation of much research towards policy issues and from the dispersed and

heterogeneous nature of the research community. They include excessive concern with short-term work and a relative lack of detailed and thorough longer-term analyses of outcomes; allied to this a lack of systematic evaluation of policy measures such as the current expansion of means-testing, the shift to market-oriented managerial systems with extensive involvement of for-profit providers or the extension of restorative justice in the criminal justice system; and limited engagement in cross-national work outside a few centres. Different researchers have different objectives and work may sometimes be poorly co-ordinated. Resources to support sustained cross-national work are limited.

3. UK researchers could contribute to a cross-national programme on social policy and would also benefit from expertise elsewhere and from working in large multi-disciplinary teams. Their contributions might lie in breadth of interest and capacity to draw on a range of disciplines and strengths in comparative work, women's studies, poverty and inequality studies, social policy and administration management, social science theory as applied to policies and in the availability of policy-relevant data. Areas where the UK community might gain and develop further from such involvement might be in methodological rigour and better outcome analysis of policy interventions, and also in engagement in cross-national collaborations.

1. Character of UK Social Policy

For a number of reasons, social policy research in the UK is based in a range of institutions funded from different sources and with different interests and orientations. The quality and range of work in the various departments differs greatly. The 2008 RAE report ranked 16 per cent of work in the subject at the highest international level, with 37 per cent of international standing. The mean score was 2.59, rather higher than mean scores in Sociology, Law and Political Science and Development Studies, but below Economics and Anthropology. There is substantial variation between departments in size and quality. Kent submitted 55.7 staff, LSE and the University of York more than 50 and Bristol, Edinburgh, Keele, Leeds, Salford, and Nottingham more than 30 (Table 1, p. 22). The highest ranked departments are LSE, then Bath, Kent, Southampton and Leeds (all ranked second equal) followed by Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield, and York. Much of the research activity in the discipline tends to be concentrated in these departments and the list includes all the main departments pursuing cross-national comparative work.

The Research Assessment Exercise, now replaced by the Research Excellence Framework assesses departments on a number of measures, most importantly extensive and detailed peer-review of the quality of output, but also including research environment and peer esteem. The current exercise will include a weighting for the impact of research outside the aca-

demical community. While the outcomes are broadly accepted by research communities, largely because they are derived from a laborious peer-review occupying a committee of some 20 academics for a two-year period, the outcomes relate closely to measures such as size of department, status of the journals in which academics publish, numbers of postgraduates and research grant income. McKay (2004) carried out a detailed analysis of the Social Policy results for the 2001 exercise which explained just over 80 per cent of the variance and the ranking position of all departments except one (Bath which at that time was relatively small for its quality of output) on the basis of this data (Figure 1, p. 24). Taylor (2011) has conducted the same exercise for Economics and Econometrics with similar results (Figure 2, p. 24).

The most important factors influencing UK social policy are:

- The existence of social policy as a separate academic discipline, rather than as an activity pursued within departments oriented towards other disciplines. The subject developed from the social administration department at LSE which traces its origins back to social work training begun in 1912. The department was restructured and expanded as social policy immediately after the Second World War and remains the leading UK department.
- The intellectual traditions of 'blue-book' sociology and economics, originated in

19th century political economy associated with both the record-keeping and the social democratic critique of the emerging centralised interventionist state, are reflected in an empiricist bias.

- The increasingly utilitarian policies of the most important funding agencies, including the UK university research funding agency, Higher Education Funding Council, the government Economic and Social Research Council, which funds specific projects and programmes and also postgraduates, government departments and now many charitable funders. These agencies insist that research must be engaged with non-academic users and have impact outside the academic world. EU funding often tends in this direction.

- The pace of UK policy reform in response to the different agenda of succeeding governments with contrary ideological stances in the UK's majoritarian system.

- Rapid progress in research skill development (particularly quantitative skills) and in the availability of quantitative data. Plans to cut some surveys announced in 2011 threaten to weaken data quality and scope, but will not affect the main surveys.

Sixty-eight UK University departments made returns to the Social Work and Social Policy sub-panel in RAE2008 and of these 47 covering about 1000 staff members where in social policy. Initial indications are that the number of departments making returns under this heading to REF2014 will be slight larger. A number of areas of academic activity include

work close to social policy, including criminology, educational studies, urban studies, demography, health and social care and social work. These are typically located in multi-disciplinary centres, in social policy or in cognate disciplines. In addition some relevant research is carried out in sociology departments and further work in political science, economics, development studies and law departments.

2. Strengths and Weaknesses

Social Policy research is funded through a number of sources, including the government grant to universities allocated according to RAE outcomes, funding for projects and programmes, allocated by research councils, and mainly in the case of social policy by ESRC, government departments pursuing policy oriented work; various charities such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Leverhulme and Nuffield; commercial agencies and other bodies; and EU projects, COST groups and fellowships. The total HEFCE QR grant to UK universities for Social Policy research was £17.2m with wide variations between departments in the amounts received. The weakest received £0.001m and the strongest £11m by this route with three departments over £1m. Charitable support varied similarly, between £0.5m and £0 (HEFCE 2011). In RAE 2008 the main non-HEFCE funding sources were charities and government departments with ESRC support being much lower, followed by EU support. Research funding is heavily concentrated in the larger and more prestigious departments.

A number of the bodies who fund social policy research, including the research councils, the British Academy and, increasingly, other bodies, are strongly influenced by an 'impact agenda' originating in the Treasury. This insists that state funded work should be relevant to groups outside academe. This utilitarian approach is also evident among a number of charities whose funding is directed by the Trust Deeds under which they operate.

One effect of impact policies is to direct the attention of researchers across a wide range of disciplines toward policy issues.

Further social policy relevant work is carried out by government departments (notably the Cabinet Office and the Departments of Health, of Work and Pensions and of Communities and Local Government) within the NHS, and by private agencies. These include the think-tanks often close to political parties or interest groups such as Compass, Trades Union Congress research centre, the Centre for Social Justice, and also groups whose work is less aligned, such as the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the Kings' Fund, the National Foundation for Educational Research, the national Institute for Social Work, Demos, the RSA, the New Economics Foundation, the Resolution Foundation, the Pensions Policy Institute, commercial agencies such as PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Ipsos-Mori and other bodies whose work is of varying quality.

These circumstances result in the UK social policy research environment being heterogeneous and highly flexible, so that work is carried out in very different settings with different resources and intellectual concerns and to different time frames.

In general the direction of funding has tended to strengthen the interest in utilitarian, policy-oriented work resulting in a number of strengths and weaknesses. There are real issues about co-ordinating the activities of disparate researchers and focusing them on major issues. These

have been addressed to some extent through the funding of major research centres with longer-term funding (typically five years renewable with a strong likelihood that a ten year programme can be developed) and through programmes dispersed across several universities.

ESRC has developed a programme of Centres and Programmes, the Joseph Rowntree and Leverhulme Foundations also supports co-ordinated work and British academy is currently experimenting with this approach in the *New Paradigms in Public Policy* programme (BA 2011). A number of UK researchers have benefited from engagement in EU programmes, projects and Cost groups. The chief ESRC Centres and Programmes relevant to social policy and currently active are the Centre for Markets and Public Organisations (Bristol), Third Sector Research Centre (Birmingham), The Centre for Charitable Giving (Cass Business School, City), Health and Econometrics Group (York), UK Centre for Tobacco Control Studies (Bath), International Life-Course Studies Programme (UCL), Rediscovering the Civic (Manchester), Longitudinal Study of Children and Parents (Bristol), Gender Equality Network (Cambridge), Research into Migration (Oxford), Multiple Exclusion and Homelessness, New Dynamics of Ageing (Sheffield), Analysis of Social Exclusion (LSE) and the Public Services Programme (led from Oxford), (ESRC 2011c). Centres and Programmes account for just under half of ESRC's research support. It should be noted that very few have any specific cross-national comparative element.

The research council also seeks to promote collaborative activities with other research councils, government departments and other funders. The programmes in which social policy researchers participate focus on Public Health, The Third Sector, Charitable Activity, Population and Reproductive Health, Public Health, Education and Training, Tax Policy, International Development and Skills and Employment (ESRC 2011a). ESRC also plays a role in a large number of other collaborations led from elsewhere and some social policy researchers may be engaged in this work.

These activities are valuable in promoting collaboration and interaction with other disciplines. Participation in them is intensely competitive. They engage only a minority of researchers and the community would benefit from a long-term collaborative focus. One outcome is that while much research addresses issues of current policy concern, there is relatively little systematic and long-term evaluation of the outcomes of policies. This would be helpful in refining existing policies. Areas that might be examined include the impact of current migration restrictions on labour markets and on social integration; the effectiveness of the shift towards means-testing for short-term benefits; the outcomes of the current approach to contracting out to for profit providers; the increasing role of restorative justice in the treatment of offenders; and the success of activation programmes.

The UK has occupied a leading position in EU-funded research, partly because of the status of English as an in-

ternational research language. Figures 3 and 4 (p. 25) provide details. The UK provided about 6 per cent of the co-ordinators for all EU projects listed on the Cordis website (283,071 projects: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html, accessed 1 March 2012), at 17,026. This is more than any other county, although Germany (17026) France (13,122) and Italy (12,853) followed, interestingly, by the Netherlands at 8,364, stand relatively close. For projects in fields close to social policy the bias is even more marked: the UK provides 4,954 or 24 per cent of co-ordinators for health care services and delivery (a large policy area with 20830 projects, seven per cent of total Cordis projects), Germany 2501, France 3097, Italy 1571, and the Netherlands 1394. For education and training, a much smaller field with only 99 projects in all, the pattern is as follows: UK 21 per cent (21), Germany, 18, France 6, Italy 14, and Netherlands 10.

The distribution of the rather larger numbers of participants in the programmes is markedly similar as might be expected (see Figure 4, p. 25). As suggested above, these statistics may to some extent reflect an accident of language. Another contributory factor may be the commitment of many UK academics (supported by government policies) towards applied social science of the type that is particularly valuable within the EU framework, so that the orientation, background and training of UK social scientists are particularly apposite. In addition severe funding pressures in recent years may encourage UK researchers to seek fund-

ing from abroad and invest in building the networks of contacts necessary for successful applications.

The general tendency for UK research to take a leading position in EU funded work is particularly noteworthy in applied social science. This reinforces the argument that contacts with the UK community may be fruitful in building cross-national social policy work in Europe.

However investment in research and development through higher education is still relatively high. In 2008, the UK spent 0.48 per cent of GDP on investment through this route, compared with 0.44 per cent in Germany, 0.4 per cent in France and 0.39 per cent in Italy (OECD 2010). Spending in Nordic countries is markedly higher (Sweden 0.8 per cent, Denmark 0.71 and Finland 0.64%). In the Netherlands, the statistic is 0.52 per cent. These statistics may indicate the state investment is associated with good returns in EU success. However, there are some indications that the UK occupies a less impressive position in more recently funded work. For example of the 44 co-authors of books listed on the RECOWE Network of Excellence website (<http://recowove.vitamib.com/publications-1/books-and-issues/books-and-issues> accessed 1 March 2012), only four are UK based. Of these four two were originally German researchers who moved to the UK comparatively recently in their careers. This may be related to cut-backs in social science funding in the UK from 2008 onwards in response to the economic crisis.

The UK research community has good access to all the main cross-national re-

search resources through the EU, OECD, World Bank, World Trade Organisation and other agencies. It also has available a number of good quality national resources. These include the Labour Force Survey, the annual Health Survey, the British Household Panel Survey, the British Social Attitudes Survey, the 1970 British Cohort Study, the General Household Survey, the British Crime Survey, National Child Development Study and the DCLG Community Cohesion Study (ESRC 2011b). Longitudinal data is a particular strength as the new Birth Cohort Study, Millennium Cohort Study and the new 30,000 initial sample Longitudinal Study indicate. Attitudinal data is another strong area, with British Social Attitudes and attitudinal questions in Election Studies, BHPS and other sources. State funding for these resources is under review and sample sizes in some will be cut back. The Community Study is already terminated.

Research skills vary across institutions and agencies. The UK has had a strong tradition of qualitative research, derived from anthropology and sociology and of less sophisticated qualitative work, derived from the background of blue-book governance. Until recently use of more sophisticated methods derived from econometrics and biological science was concentrated in relatively few centres. Research councils have made considerable efforts to develop methodological training in recent years and this is leading to more use of advanced multivariate, multilevel and longitudinal methods.

We now review comparative work in the chief centres in the UK, identifying areas of strength.

3. Comparative work in the UK

There are four established centres of social policy research in the UK with strong traditions of cross-national comparative work: Bath, Kent, LSE and Sheffield. More recently comparative research has developed at Bristol, Edinburgh, Oxford and York. Most academics would recognise the value of comparative studies. The theme is included as an essential element in the recommended undergraduate syllabus of the HEFCE-funded Social Policy and Social Work Subject Centre (SWAP: <http://www.swap.ac.uk/themes/curdev.html>). However serious research outside the centres mentioned above tends to depend on the current and changing interests of one or two academics. Virtually all institutions offer postgraduate teaching in comparative social policy. The main courses which recruit in large numbers are at Bath (MScs in European and International Social Policy Studies), Edinburgh (MSC in Comparative Social Policy), Kent (MAs in International Social Policy and International Civil Society), LSE (MAs in European and Comparative Social Policy) and Sheffield (MAs in Global and International Social Policy).

The following paragraphs list institutions with particular and established strengths. Leading researchers (in the judgement of the writer) are underlined. Many institutions appear under several headings, reflecting the strengths of different research groups.

3.1 THEORETICAL ISSUES

Edinburgh: *corporatism* (Jochen Clasen)

Kent: *new social risks, citizenship, politics of welfare* (Peter Taylor-Gooby); *gender* (Heejung Chung, Julia Twigg)

LSE: *gender issues* (Jane Lewis); *new public management, motives, behaviour and welfare* (Julian Le Grand); *citizenship and social rights* (Hartley Dean); *economics of welfare* (Nick Barr, Howard Glennerster, Julian Le Grand)

Open University: *sociology of welfare* (Jon Clarke)

Sheffield: *social quality* (Alan Walker)

3.2 ECONOMIC CRISIS AND AUSTERITY

Kent: *welfare state restructuring* (Peter Taylor-Gooby)

LSE: *political economy of welfare* (Ian Gough)

Sheffield: *austerity policies in EU countries* (Kevin Farnsworth, Zoe Irving)

3.3 HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Edinburgh: *global health policy* (Jeff Colin)

LSE: *health issues in Europe, health care institutions* ([LSE Health](#), a large centre with a number of researchers, a hub of the EU Health Observatory ([Elias Mossialos](#), Panos Kanavos)

3.4 POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Bristol: *child poverty, regional poverty studies* (David Gordon, Christina Pantazis, Townsend Centre for International Poverty Policy)

Edinburgh: *social security systems* (Jochen Clasen)

Manchester: *globalisation and poverty* ([Armando Barrientos](#), [Brooks World Poverty Institute](#))

Oxford: *social security and social assistance, research methods especially analysis of longitudinal data* ([Robert Walker](#))

Southampton: *poverty and exclusion from health services* (Zoe Matthews)

Sussex: *poverty reduction in developing countries* (Institute of Development Studies)

York: *child poverty, poverty reduction in the developing world* ([Jonathon Bradshaw](#))

3.5 WORK-RELATED ISSUES

Bath: *comparative labour-market issues and precarity* ([Guy Standing](#))

Edinburgh: *social-insurance welfare, insider/outsider issues* ([Jochen Clasen](#), Daniel Clegg and Ingela Naumann)

Kent: *work-life balance* (Heejung Chung), *labour market entry and exit* (Sarah Vick-erstaff)

LSE: *work-life balance* (Timo Fleckstein)

Manchester: *working conditions, regulation of employment* (Gill Rubery, Institute of Management)

Southampton: *work-life balance* (Traute Meyer). Chung, Fleckstein and Meyer also study *broader issues in the involvement of employers in welfare*

3.6 DEMOGRAPHY AND AGEING

Kent: *ageing and care* (Julia Twigg, John Baldock); *pension policy* (Peter Taylor-Gooby)

LSE: *demographic change and health issues* ([LSE Health](#), a large centre with a number of researchers)

Sheffield: *dignity in old age* ([Alan Walker](#))

Southampton: *population ageing, pension issues, international development and*

ageing; statistical analysis of demographic data, micro-simulation ([Jane Falkingham](#))

York: *sexual and reproductive behaviour* ([John Hobcraft](#)), family and childhood (Kathleen Kiernan)

3.7 NGOS AND THE THIRD SECTOR

Kent: *Third Sector and philanthropy in Europe* ([Jeremy Kendall](#))

LSE: *international civil society* (Jude Howell)

Birmingham: *Third Sector Research Centre* (Peter Alcock)

Southampton: *Third Sector Research Centre* (Hub) (John Mohan)

3.8 GLOBALISATION, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Bath: *welfare institutions in developing countries* (Geoff Wood, Christine Valentine)

Essex: *transnational migration* (Lydia Morris)

Kent: *migration, management of migrant communities* (Amanda von Koppenfels)

LSE: *civil society and development, rural development, crisis and governance* ([Department of International Development](#),

a large centre with a number of leading researchers)

Manchester: *globalisation, migration and poverty* (A. Barrientos, Brooks World Poverty Institute)

Open University: *globalisation and migration* (Nicola Yeates)

Oxford: *migration flows and dynamics, impact on labour markets, citizenship and belonging* ([Michael Keith](#), COMPAS centre)

Sheffield: *the role of trans-national organisations and globalisation* (Bob Deacon)

Sussex: *international development, migration poverty reduction* ([Institute for Development Studies](#), similarly a large centre with a number of leading researchers)

3.9 EUROPE AND THE EU

Bath: *development of EU institutions, poverty policy in the EU* ([Graham Room](#), Theodore Papadopoulos)

Kent: *changing regime structures* (Peter Taylor-Gooby)

Oxford: *EU structure and institutions* (Martin Seeleib-Kaiser)

York: *institutional analysis* (John Hudson/Stefan Kühner)

3.10 WELFARE OUTSIDE EU-ROPE

(SEE SECTION ON DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ABOVE)

Bath: *civil society, religion and the state in the Middle East* ([Rana Jawad](#))

Kent: *new social risks in East Asia* (Peter Taylor-Gooby)

Nottingham: strong links with China, but no currently active welfare state research

Sheffield: *East Asia* (Alan Walker).

4. Potential and opportunities

This brief review indicates that UK Social Policy research is well-positioned to contribute to a major cross-national research effort on the future of social policy and of the welfare state. It also points to a number of weaknesses which engagement in such a study could help to address. The strengths of the UK research community are the quality of research in the leading universities and in other agencies, the policy focus of much of the work, the availability of high-quality data resources and the interdisciplinarity that both the background of the subject and the nature of research funding in the UK promote. The weaknesses lie in the heterogeneity of the research community and the variations in standards, the uneven spread of research skills and techniques and the relatively limited engagement in sustained multi-disciplinary collaborative work.

These weaknesses in some ways reflect the strengths, most importantly the

difficult and changing balance between top-down agency-driven and bottom-up investigator-driven research and the challenges of maintaining a strong and exciting disciplinary base from which multi- and inter-disciplinary work can develop. Many UK social scientists (and perhaps more significantly) the administrators and funders in the Government Office for Science and the Research Councils take the view that the UK leads in the way it has reconciled these conflicts. They see much EU research as overly top-down, excessively costly and inflexible, although recognising that the ERC is moving in a different direction. There is relatively little acknowledgement of the extent to which UK social science funding both from Government and Research Councils and more recently from some of the charities such as Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Wellcome Trust, has shifted the balance towards top-down funding. At the same

time, the increasing pressure in RAE and now REF to demonstrate the 'impact' of research outside academe is altering the balance between pure and applied activities and between discipline-centred and multi-disciplinary work in universities.

The increasingly hierarchical nature of the UK university system means that research activities are becoming concentrated in a smaller number of institutions so that the rich diversity of insights which investigator-driven research made available is constrained. While concentration enables the leading universities' to assemble teams that include experts across a range of fields and direct their efforts towards a problem, it limits the numbers of experts operating outside that context, whose work is often directed to-

wards more theoretical and disciplinary concerns. The leading edge of knowledge is honed by competition. The risk in the UK context is that the range of competition may be limited. To the extent that enquiry is dominated by programmes imposed from above as 'Grand Challenges' by funding agencies, the outcome may be an undermining of the disciplinary and diverse foundations of successful work at the forefront of policy debate, while funders remain ignorant of the causes of the problem. These possible changes supply further reasons why UK social science and social policy experts may benefit from fruitful contact with a strong academic tradition of research elsewhere.

Information Sources

This paper drew on the following sources:

- Research Assessment Exercise and Research Evaluation Framework reviews including the RAE 2008 Subject Overview (<http://www.rae.ac.uk/pubs/2009/ov/>) and the REF Impact pilot (Impact Pilot: Main Findings http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/pubs/other/re01_10/)

- Professional Association reviews, for example: Social Policy Association: Defining Research Quality in Social Policy <http://www.social-policy.org.uk/downloads/defining%20quality%20in%20social%20policy%20research.pdf> and the journal *Policy World* (e.g. Spring 2009)

- Academic analyses: Stephen McKay 'Quantifying Quality: Can Quantitative Data ("Metrics") explain the 2001 RAE Ratings for Social Policy and Administration?' *Social Policy and Administration*, 37, 5, October 2003, 444-467), and subsequent material, see also Taylor, J. (2011) 'The Assessment of Research Quality in UK Universities: Peer Review or Metrics?' *British Journal of Management*, 22, 2, 202-17.

- ESRC subject reviews, e.g. Elizabeth Sharland (2009) *Social Work and Social Care* http://www.esrc.ac.uk/_images/Main_report_SW_and_SC_tcm8-4647.pdf

- Benchmark review of social policy (not yet published)

UK Social Policy Association publica-

tions:

- Saul Becker, Alan Bryman and Joe Sem-pik (2010). *Defining Quality in Social Policy Research* <http://www.social-policy.org.uk/downloads/defining%20quality%20in%20social%20policy%20research.pdf>

This report presents the findings from an innovative mixed methods study of over 250 social policy researchers and users of research and how they conceptualise 'quality' in social policy research and how they judge the quality of published research texts

- Seminar Report (2011): *The REF Impact Pilots*. Eleven universities were involved in the SPSW research impact pilots. The Social Policy Association (SPA) and the Joint University Council Social Work Education Committee (JUC-SWEC) organised a seminar to share experiences of the pilot and the challenges this raised. <http://www.social-policy.org.uk/downloads/REF%20impact%20pilot.pdf>

- The author's knowledge as Chair of the relevant sub-panel for RAE 2008 and REF 2014

- Miscellaneous material from departmental sources and from senior academics in the field.

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Appendix

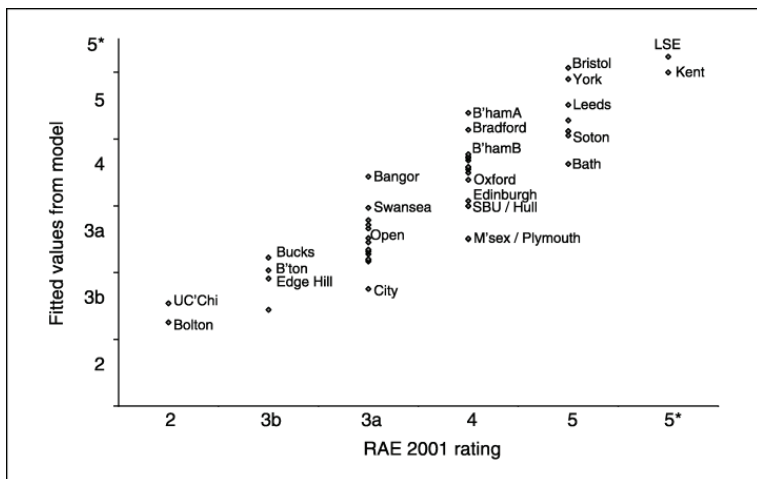
Table 1: Research Assessment Exercise 2008: Quality Profiles

(Ranked by size of submission)

	Overall quality profile					
	% research activity at each quality level					
	FTE Category A staff submitted	4*	3*	2*	1*	unclassified
University of Kent	55.7	30	40	25	5	0
University of York	53.75	25	40	30	5	0
London School of Economics and Political Science	50.7	50	30	20	0	0
University of Bristol	47.36	20	40	30	10	0
University of Edinburgh	43.9	30	35	25	10	0
Lancaster University	42.25	20	40	35	5	0
Keele University	39.5	15	50	30	5	0
University of Durham	35	15	45	30	10	0
University of Salford	33.2	5	45	40	10	0
University of Leeds	31.9	35	30	30	5	0
University of Southampton						0
A - Sociology and Social Policy	31.5	35	35	25	5	
University of Hull	30.8	10	30	45	15	0
University of Nottingham	30.5	10	40	40	10	0
University of Sheffield	26.6	20	45	30	5	0
University of Birmingham	26.12	15	45	35	5	0
University of Stirling	25.8	10	45	40	5	0
University of Brighton	24	0	35	55	10	0
University of Bath	23.7	35	40	25	0	0
University of Oxford	22.83	20	50	20	10	0
University of Warwick	22.8	10	50	35	5	0
Queen's University Belfast	21.61	20	35	35	10	0
De Montfort University	21.2	5	25	50	20	0
Edge Hill University	20.5	0	15	30	50	5
London Metropolitan University	20.4	10	40	30	20	0
Manchester Metropolitan University	19.5	5	15	50	25	5
London South Bank University	18.8	15	45	35	5	0
University of Glamorgan	18.1	5	40	50	5	0
Swansea University	17.5	10	50	30	10	0
University of Huddersfield	16.8	10	35	40	15	0
University of Plymouth	16.7	5	50	40	5	0
University of Bradford	16.4	10	40	45	5	0
University of East Anglia	16	10	45	35	10	0
University of Ulster	15.6	10	50	35	5	0
Bangor University	15.4	5	25	55	15	0
Middlesex University	15.2	5	45	40	10	0
University of the West of England, Bristol	14.8	0	25	55	20	0
Nottingham Trent University	14.7	15	45	35	5	0

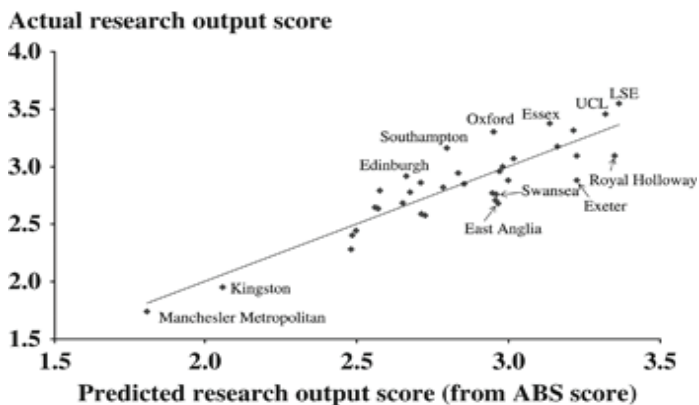
	Overall quality profile					
	% research activity at each quality level					
	FTE Category A staff submitted	4*	3*	2*	1*	unclassified
Joint submission: University of Glasgow and University of Strathclyde	14.15	5	35	45	15	0
University of Central Lancashire	14.14	10	30	40	20	0
Royal Holloway, University of London	13.7	10	35	40	15	0
University of Manchester	13	15	30	50	5	0
University of Lincoln	12.5	5	30	55	10	0
Open University	12.3	10	50	35	5	0
Brunel University	11.2	5	30	40	25	0
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	11	5	30	45	20	0
University of Chester	10.8	0	15	40	40	5
University of Leicester A - Criminology	10	5	30	60	5	0
University of Southampton B - Social Work Studies	10	0	35	60	5	0
University of East London	9.3	0	35	40	25	0
University of Bedfordshire	9.1	5	45	45	5	0
University of Sussex	9	15	45	35	5	0
University of Reading	8.9	5	45	45	5	0
Anglia Ruskin University	7.7	5	25	60	10	0
University College London	7	15	60	25	0	0
University of the West of Scotland	7	15	15	30	40	0
Goldsmiths College, University of London	6.8	10	25	45	20	0
Birmingham City University	6	5	15	70	10	0
University of Dundee	5.5	5	30	50	15	0
University of Leicester B - Social Work	5	5	20	35	35	5
Coventry University	4.8	5	20	60	15	0
University of Wales, Newport	4.8	5	40	30	20	5
University of Gloucestershire	4.6	0	10	35	50	5
University of Bolton	4	5	40	30	25	0
Liverpool Hope University	4	5	0	30	50	15
University of Hertfordshire	3.7	0	15	55	30	0
City University, London	3	20	45	35	0	0
Glyndŵr University	3	0	20	40	35	5

Fig. 1: Actual rating and predicted statistical rating for RAE 2001 for Social Policy and Social Work



Source: McKay, 2001, Fig 6.

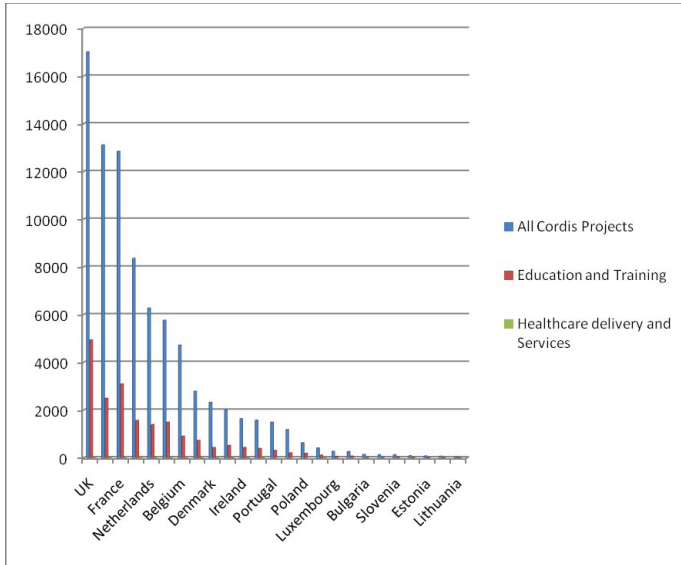
Fig. 2: Actual rating and predicted statistical rating for RAE 2008 for Economics and Econometrics



Note: The predicted research output score is obtained by regressing the actual research output score on the ABS journal quality score. R^2 falls from 0.78 to 0.64 when the two outliers, Kingston and Manchester Metropolitan, are excluded. The estimated regression coefficients are not significantly different at 5%.

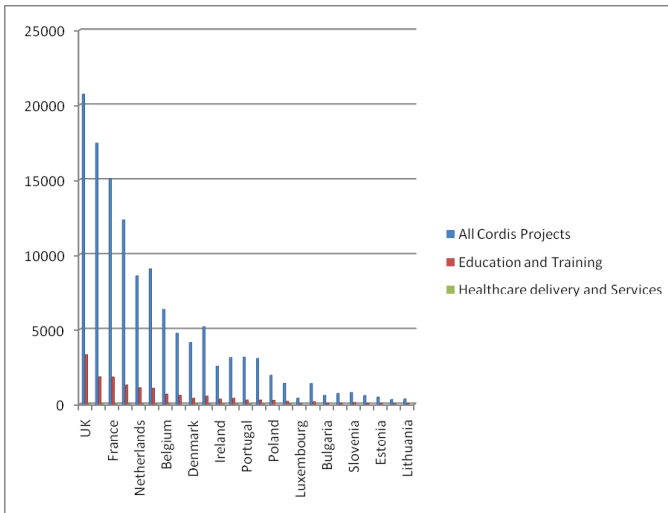
Source: Taylor 2011, Figure 3.

Fig. 3: Coordination of EU Research Projects (numbers)

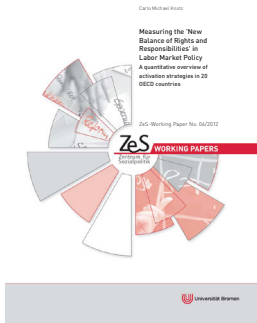


Source: Cordis website: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html, accessed 1 March 2012

Fig. 4: participation in EU Research Projects (numbers)



Source: Cordis website: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html, accessed 1 March 2012



Carlo Michael Knotz

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