

Centre for  
the Analysis of  
Social Policy (CASP)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**



**NEWSLETTER**  
**Summer 2022**

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## Director's Note



Welcome to the CASP Summer 2022 newsletter!

We celebrate the end of this academic year with confidence and pride by sharing the latest news and achievements of CASP academics and associate members. The work of CASP members was pivotal in our Department's successful performance in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework where our Department was placed in the top 10 in the UK for Social Policy and Social Work.

Successful research bids, internationally and nationally leading publications in leading academic journals and organising and participating in successful academic events comprise the portfolio of outcomes outlined in this newsletter. They represent a sample of the hard work and dedication of our members, our administrative staff and our skilful placement students.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of our newsletter and, on behalf of the CASP community, I wish you a relaxing summer!

Dr Theo Papadopoulos

Director

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## CASP events news

### **CASP hosts the 1st event of a new international partnership aimed at facilitating collaboration on health policy and wellbeing research**

As part of the activities related to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Bath (UK) and the Western's Faculty of Health Sciences (Canada) the first Bath-Western partnership event – entitled 'Health Equity Issues: Soundbites from across the world' – took place on 1 February 2022. We are pleased to announce that the recording of this event is available [here](#).

### **CASP sponsored two sessions on social policy in the Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) Annual Conference**

As part of the activities of the Annual conference of the Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) 2022 - held at University of Bath, 21-22 April 2022 – CASP sponsored two sessions on social policy bringing together researchers from Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Mexico and the UK. A book proposal is currently under preparation as an output of these events.

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## Members News & Activities

As a follow-up of their successful publication of 'Handbook on the Governance and Politics of Migration' in the prestigious series published by Elgar, **Dr Emma Carmel and Dr Katharina Lenner** (CASP/SPS, University of Bath) and **Dr Regine Paul** (University of Bergen) created a short explainer video discussing key themes from their book. To listen to their explainer click [here](#)

June 2nd saw the publication of the third edition of and CASP member and **Prof Emeritus Nick Gould's** book, 'Mental Health Social Work in Context' (Routledge). First published in 2010, the book has become a core text for social work students and practitioners; the latest edition includes commentary on proposed changes to mental health and mental capacity legislation, the potential impacts on services of the Covid pandemic, and developments in the evidence base for social interventions for mental

health. The book is informed by Prof Gould's ongoing work as a specialist member of the First Tier Tribunal (Mental Health), Health and Social Care Chamber.

**Dr Richard Velleman** has been appointed as Consulting Editor for the Pakistan Journal of Psychological Research

**Ms Kate Precious** was invited to present a paper at a specialist conference on Minorities and Political Engagement at the University of Florence in Italy from 6-7 June 2022. Her paper on 'Acting like an Underdog: Lobbying Lessons from the Autistic Community in England' has been selected for a special edition of the Journal of European Public Policy.

**Dr Theo Papadopoulos** has been awarded an Impact and Knowledge Exchange Fellowship by the University of Bath. He also presented a paper on his latest research in policy theory entitled 'Power, Knowledge and Policy: Operational governance in the work of Cornelius Castoriadis' in the international conference: "Cornelius Castoriadis: 1922 - 2022. One hundred years since the birth of the philosopher of autonomy", March 11 - 13, 2022, Department of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

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## Recent Successful Research Bids

### **Dr Mel Channon - 'Menstrual Justice in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Achieving the Right to a Good Period in Policy and Practice (MeJARa)'**

We are delighted to report that **Dr Mel Channon** has been awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant (€1.5 million). The project entitled 'Menstrual Justice in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Achieving the Right to a Good Period in Policy and Practice (MeJARa)' 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). Read more [here](#).

## **Dr Jeremy Dixon - "Partnership in Safeguarding people with Dementia from a primary and social care perspective"**

### **Introduction**

"Adult safeguarding is everyone's responsibility". The Care Act 2014 makes safeguarding a legal duty. It provides local authorities and other agencies in England with a responsibility to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. This is done most effectively when all relevant agencies work together. This is particularly important for people living with dementia, as they are at higher risk of abuse or neglect. Such abuse is most common in their own homes and care settings. Primary and social care professionals are likely to have regular contacts with older people, hence have opportunities for early identification and prevention of abuse. However, little is known about how primary care practitioners work in partnership with social care and other agencies to investigate and manage abuse.

### **Aims**

This project will outline how health professionals in primary care settings understand and respond to abuse and what their understandings of safeguarding law and policy are. It will also identify how social services departments assess and manage referrals relating to people living with dementia in primary care settings. Furthermore, the study will analyse the experiences of people with dementia and families who are at the centre of safeguarding

### **Methods**

Our study has three phases. In phase 1, we will synthesise current research and practice evidence to develop a theory of safeguarding conceptualisation and process. In phase 2, we will analyse national statistics on safeguarding (NHS digital dataset), ageing and dementia data (English Longitudinal Study of Ageing) to understand patterns of reporting and how they vary across location, gender, ethnicity and time period. In phase 3, we will interview GPs, social workers, safeguarding leads, independent advocates, people with dementia, family members, support workers, carers and other professionals who make or receive referrals via primary care. We will also conduct group discussions in which professionals, people with dementia and family carers will come together to share their experiences, and will identify, approaches for preventing abuse and collaboration amongst relevant agencies. Phase 3 will also help us to develop complex case studies, drawing on data from phases 1 and 2.

### **Impact**

In consultation with our PPIE (Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement) members and practitioners, we will develop practice guidance for professionals to aid multi-agency collaboration in safeguarding cases specific to dementia. We will also produce videos and plain English versions of case studies of complex safeguarding scenarios and strategies in consultation with safeguarding leads, law experts, training providers and other key stakeholders. Experts by experience (working with, caring for or living with dementia), will be able to guide the team with cultural nuances and appropriateness to ensure that the material developed is sensitive to all populations. An info graph/pictograph displaying signs of abuse, staying safe and what to do, aimed at people with dementia and family will be compiled. We will liaise with



national safeguarding leads so that this information can be displayed in GP clinics. Furthermore, we will contact social responsibility personnel for supermarkets and discuss the potentials of wider circulation for displaying this information in stores.

**Congratulations to Mel and Jeremy!**

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## Recent Publications & Research Outputs

**ARTICLE: Dr Melanie Channon – ‘Gender, nutritional disparities, and child survival in Nepal’**



*Dr Melanie Channon's* article can be found in the Journal [BMC Nutrition](#)

This paper examines seemingly contradictory evidence from extant research that son preference is high, but male disadvantage in mortality is increasing in Nepal. To do so, we documented the timing, geographic patterning, and extent of gendered patterns in mortality and feeding practices for children under-five.

### **Methods**

We applied pooled multilevel regression models and survival analysis to five rounds of data from Nepal's nationally representative Demographic and Health Surveys (1996–2016). We controlled for potential sociodemographic confounders, including child, maternal, household, and regional correlates, and disaggregated findings by birth order and sibling gender.

### **Results**

We found evidence of regional variation in mortality, with girls in wealthy urban areas faring the worst in terms of mortality rates. Girls' comparative mortality advantage compared to boys in the neonatal period masks their mortality disadvantage in later periods. Mortality has fallen at a faster rate for boys than girls in most cases, leading to widening of gender inequalities. We also found evidence of female disadvantage in breastfeeding duration, which was linked to higher mortality risks, but no gender disparities in the consumption of other food items. Sibling gender and birth order also mattered for breastfeeding duration: Young girls with older sisters but with no brothers were most disadvantaged.

### **Conclusion**

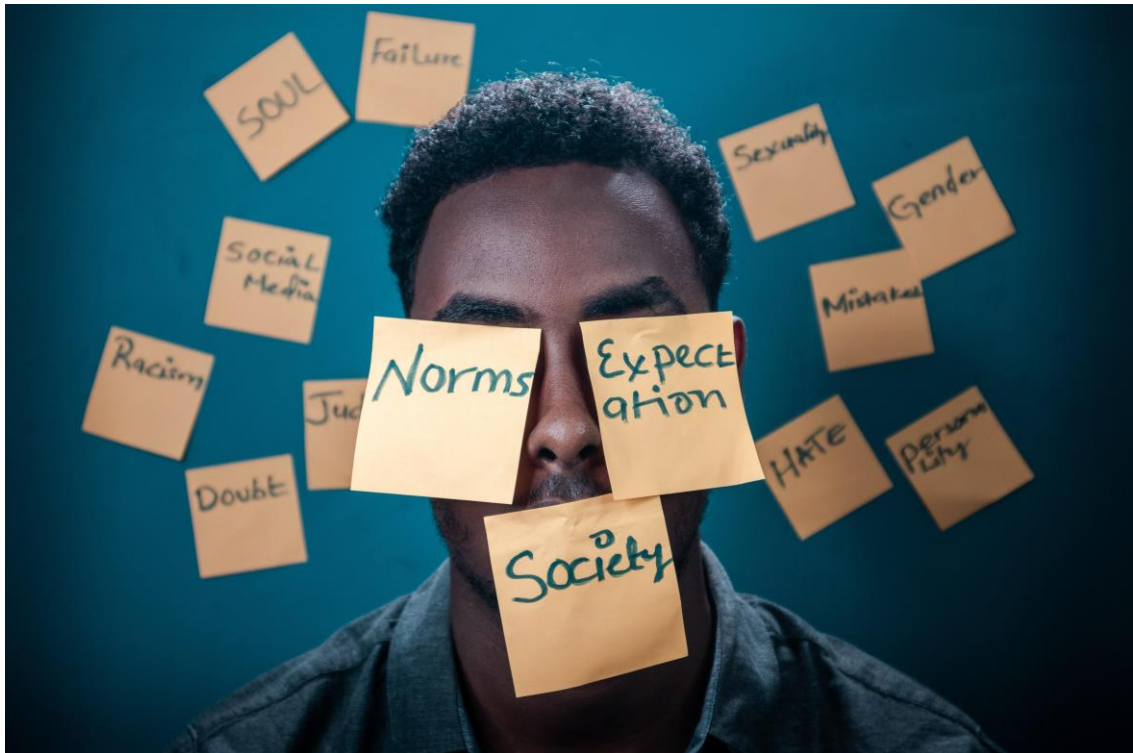
While we did not find evidence of postnatal discrimination in access to solid and semi-solid foods, girls in Nepal face a disadvantage in breastfeeding duration. Girls with older sisters but no older brothers facing the greatest disadvantage, with risks being particularly concentrated for girls aged 1–4 years. This disadvantage is linked to an increased risk of mortality. To address this, community-based health programs could be expanded to continue targeted healthcare for children beyond 12 months of age, with particular focus on nutrition monitoring and health service provision for girls.

Read more [here](#).

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**ARTICLE: Dr Ricky Kanabar - 'In and out of unemployment—Labour market transitions and the role of testosterone'**



Dr Ricky Kanabar co-authored article can be found in the journal [Economics & Human Biology](#)

Biological processes have provided new insights into diverging labour market trajectories. This paper uses population variation in testosterone levels to explain transition probabilities into and out of unemployment. We examine labour market transitions for 2004 initially employed and 111 initially unemployed British men from the UK Household Longitudinal Study (“Understanding Society”) between 2011 and 2013. We address the endogeneity of testosterone levels by using genetic variation as instrumental variables (Mendelian Randomization). We find that for both initially unemployed men as well as initially employed men, higher testosterone levels reduce the risk of unemployment. Based on previous studies and descriptive evidence, we argue that these effects are likely driven by differences in cognitive and non-cognitive skills as well as job search behaviour of men with higher testosterone levels. Our findings suggest that latent biological processes can affect job search behaviour and labour market outcomes without necessarily relating to illness and disability.

Read more [here](#).

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**ARTICLE / REVIEW - Dr Justin Rogers – ‘Twenty suicides of care experienced people in custody: A scoping review of the Ombudsman’s fatal incident reports for care experienced people who died in custodial settings between 2004 and 2020’**



**Dr Justin Rogers’** article was published in the Prison Service Journal

This article presents a review of the Prison and Probation Ombudsman’s (PPO) reports into fatal incidents from 2004- 2020. The review focuses on the reports of people who died in custody due to suicide and specifically those that had a care experience. Data shows that there continues to be a high number of suicides in the prison system. The reasons for people completing suicide are often complex and nuanced with each person’s loss of life having an individual context. However, statistics show there is an over representation of people with mental health and substance abuse difficulties in custody and when this is combined with the stress of life in prisons it presents an environment where suicide is prevalent

Read more [here](#)

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**ARTICLE: Dr Ricky Kanabar - 'What explains the UK Racial Wealth Gap?'**



Dr Ricky Kanabar's article was published on the Economic Observatory website.

Compared with white British households, ethnic minorities are more likely to live in households with lower levels of total net wealth and income, with fewer people in work. Differences in educational attainment and earnings are important for explaining wealth disparities among minority groups.

Read more [Here](#)

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**ARTICLE: Professor Lynn Prince Cooke et al - 'Paradox or Mitigation? Childless and Parent Gender Gaps across British, Finnish, and German Wage Distributions**



**Professor Lynn Prince Cooke**, Anna Erika Hägglund and **Rossella Icardi** have had an article published in *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*

Part of the welfare paradox is that generous family policies increase private sector employer discrimination particularly against higher-wage women. We argue instead that bundles of generous policies mitigate gender productivity differences among parents, and in turn the discrimination also affecting childless women. We test these assertions by estimating the two gaps across the British, Finnish, and German private sector wage distributions using 2000–2018 panel data and unconditional quantile regression. Because of smaller motherhood penalties below the median, parenthood gaps are smallest in Finland and Germany. In contrast, fatherhood premiums constitute most of the parenthood gap for high-wage German and British women, whereas high-wage British women are disadvantaged by motherhood

penalties and fatherhood premiums. The childless gap is also smaller across the bottom of the Finnish and German wage distributions. Overall, our advanced modeling strategy finds strong support for the mitigating effects of generous family policies on gender wage gaps.

Read more [here](#)

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## **INTERVIEWS: Professor Richard Vellman – ‘Addiction and the Family international Network’**



**Professor Richard Vellman** has completed a series of interviews about addiction and the family. During these interviews, he has talked as a researcher and one of the founders of [AFINet](#) (Addiction and the Family International Network).

His interview with the Society for the study of addiction



[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

His interview with the Drug research network Scotland

[Part 1](#)

Part 2 coming in September

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**RESEARCH REPORT: Professor Lynn Prince Cooke and Dr Kati Morosow – ‘The Impact of Taking Family Leaves Across Finnish Fathers’ Wage Distribution’**



**Professor Lynn Prince Cooke and Dr Kati Morosow’s article was published in the Journal 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.

Read more [here](#)

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**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: Dr Tina Skinner and Dr Matt Dixon - 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 **piece** 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 disability, gender, employment and income must be used to inform policy.

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**ARTICLE: Dr Jonathan James - “Maternal stress during pregnancy and children’s diet: Evidence from a population of low socioeconomic status”**



**Dr Jonathan James'** 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](#)



## **Other publications**

Bischof, G., Bischof, A., **Velleman, R.**, Orford, J., Kuhnert, R., Allen, J., Borgwardt, S. and Rumpf, H.J. Prevalence and self-rated health and depression of family members affected by addictive disorders: results of a nationwide cross-sectional study. In press: Addiction.



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