

Centre for
the Analysis of
Social Policy (CASP)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the **CASP 2020 Winter Newsletter**

Dear all

I do hope that you and your loved ones are keeping well.

The last few months have not been easy but our members have continued working on COVID related issues, taught on various undergraduate and post-graduate programmes and published papers on topical policy subjects. We have also been successful - gaining grants, launching major research projects, winning prizes and being invited to sit on various significant committees. I am delighted to announce that we have now added a CASP series of Blogs to our activities. Please look out for these on our website.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and I wish you all a very restful holiday.

Merry Christmas from me.

Kind regards
Rachel

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

CASP Announcements



'Pop-up' Research Centre for *Decolonising knowledge in teaching, research and practice (DECKNO)*

Based in the Department of Social & Policy Sciences at the University of Bath, the new Centre for [*Decolonising Knowledge in Teaching, Research and Practice*](#) (DECKNO) aims to explore the problem of Eurocentrism in the social sciences and to consider its socioeconomic, pedagogical, ecological, scientific and policy implications. The new hub will engage with what Nelson Maldonado Torres calls the 'decolonial turn' in the world. The deconstruction of the Eurocentric episteme of social sciences will enrich the scientific knowledge that influences society, by means of the creation of with what B. de S. Santos calls an 'ecology of knowledges' that exist in the world.

We are encouraging discussions among scholars, artists, activists and practitioners around the need to decolonise teaching, research and professional practices, methods, theory, epistemology. We are contributing to the work done by the Teaching & Learning hub at Bath, the SWDTP PGR training, and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team.

Visit our website [here](#)

Contact us

Dr Ana Cecilia Dinerstein

A.C.Dinerstein@bath.ac.uk

DECKNO's founder and convenor.



New Programme: Strengthening security and social welfare in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENASP-CP)

The [MENA Social Policy \(MENASP\) Network](#) ([University of Bath](#), UK) is delighted to announce a new four-year (2020-2024) research and public engagement programme: Strengthening security and social welfare in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENASP-CP).

Funded by the [UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council \(AHRC\)](#) under the [GCRF Network Plus](#) scheme, the programme will be run in partnership with the ODI (London) as well as a consortium of Arab Universities, NGOs and international bodies such as Friends of the British Council (USA) and the UNDP

regional hub (Jordan). MENASP-CP will undertake an exciting programme of training and capacity building, research commissioning (up to £800,000) and policy innovation, as well as knowledge sharing to shift the analysis of conflict prevention in the MENA region to include social protection.

On 2 December 2020, the programme was launched virtually to an audience of policy makers, academics and civil society organisations working with or in the Middle East and North Africa region and within the social protection and conflict prevention sectors. Guest speakers included Jonathan Powell, CEO and Founder of Inter-Mediate and former Chief peace negotiator for the UK Government (Northern Ireland) and Special Envoy (Libya), and Vice Chancellor Prof Ian White, University of Bath, and included presentations from the core network management team, including representatives from the CASP Network, before a stimulating question and answer session.

*To find out more about the network please
contact menasp_network@bath.ac.uk.*

CASP Member's Work on Covid-19



Stay home, eat out and other mixed messages: Why embracing uncertainty about the evidence would have bolstered Covid communications

Msc Public Policy student Andy Dunne discusses how the Covid crisis was communicated through mixed messages such as from 'Stay home' to 'Stay Alert.'

'Switching out of campaigning mode by changing the tone, acknowledging limitations and patchy evidence within the complex situation we are in, could have all paid off with greater public acceptance'

Read the full blog post [here](#)



An evidence-based theory of change for reducing SARS-CoV-2 transmission in reopened schools

Professor Harry Rutter co-authored an article looking at the reopening of schools after they were shut during the lockdown earlier this year.

Highlights from the article:

- Schools have been closed worldwide to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission but are beginning to reopen in a number of countries.
- Existing guidance on measures to prevention transmission has not developed a comprehensive framework or theory of change.
- We present a framework for measures informed by the occupational health hierarchy of control and a theory of change.
- We theorise that, together, such measures offer a means of disrupting SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

Read the full study [here](#)



Anticipated Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Family Members Affected by Addiction

Professor Richard Velleman co-authored this article looking at the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on those affected family members of individuals suffering from addiction.

Aim: Although affected family members of individuals suffering from addiction (AFMs) show elevated levels of stress and strain they have been not adequately addressed by research and care. To date, there are no reliable data on the effects of the social restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic on burden and care offers for AFMs.

While mainly an increase in strain due to the effects of the pandemic regarding increased risk behavior by the addicted family member and an increase of interpersonal conflicts is expected, also some possible positive effects on subgroups of AFMs were reported.

Read the full article [here](#)

CASP Members News

Professor Yvonne Jewkes wins ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2020 for societal impact.

Professor Jewkes was shortlisted in recognition of her efforts in shaping the design of 15 prisons, including several in Australia and New Zealand, and a new women's prison in Limerick, Ireland. Read more [here](#)

In October **Professor Richard Velleman** Chaired the funding panel for the Belgian Federal Research Programme on Drugs, comprising experts from Belgium, Holland, France and the UK, as well as senior Government officials from various ministries.

The EU just released a story on **Professor Lynn Prince Cooke's** ERC project, NEWFAMSTRAT. It provides an overview of the purpose of the research, as well as some findings thus far. It can be found [here](#)

Dr Piotr Ozieranski has just received news of a successful grant application shared with colleagues in Lund. This will allow him to expand his work on the pharmaceutical industry and health care sector. Piotr's research featured in The Sunday Times and also in BMJ Open raising important questions about transparency in patient organisation finances. This has been one of the most widely read papers in BMJ Open only surpassed by papers on COVID

Professor Richard Velleman was re-elected as a Trustee (and treasurer) of AFINet (Addiction and the Family International Network - <http://www.afinetwork.info/>, a free-to-join Network, providing a platform which

brings together researchers, policy-makers and practitioners; promotes the well-being of family members, friends and colleagues who are affected by or concerned about another person's problems with or addiction to alcohol, drugs or gambling; and develops research, policy and practice in the field.

Professor Velleman also gave the first in a new series of monthly AFINet Webinars - <http://www.afinetwork.info/webinar-series> on the topic: "In Their Own Right: Family Members Affected by Alcohol and other Drug Misuse or Gambling" <https://youtu.be/dAg9SnNlyk4>

Rachel Forrester-Jones and colleagues have been successful in gaining a Quality-Related Research Strategic Priority Fund to continue their work on the CASP Policy Labs - work on Healthy Ageing begins immediately.

CASP Events

Fabian Women's Network event

Professor Tina Skinner was invited to speak at the Fabian Women's Network event on Thursday 12th November. Tina spoke on the topic of the pay gap for women with a disability.

Other speakers included Shadow Chancellor Anneliese Dodds MP and Mary-Ann Stephenson from the Women's Budget Group.



Tourette's Syndrome: I swear it's no joke

DR. RACHEL
FORRESTER-JONES

Research
on
Tourette's
Syndrome

TED^x
BathUniversity
x = independently
organized TED event



Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones, Director of CASP, took part in the TEDxBathUniversity event on the 28th November.

'Tourette's syndrome: I swear it's no joke'

'Our research exploring the lives of people with Tourette's syndrome has shown how jokes about Tourette's are viewed by many participants as simply reiterating stereotypes. In this talk, I discuss how we are now working

with comedians who themselves have Tourette's to provide a richer understanding of the condition.'

CASP Member's Recent Publications



Declarations of Pharma funding are still not transparent enough, says critics

Dr Piotr Ozieranski features in this [The BMJ](#) article discussing the disclosure rates and transparency of pharmaceutical companies funding.

'The overall 55.9% disclosure rate for healthcare professionals is only one side of the story. The other side is that disclosure rates differ considerably across companies. It would make sense for The Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (ABPI) to try and unpack why some companies achieve disclosure rates close to 100%, while others perform far worse'

Read the full article [here](#)



Dark Nudges and Sludge in Big Alcohol: Behavioral Economics, Cognitive Biases, and Alcohol Industry Corporate Social Responsibility

Professor Harry Rutter coauthored an article looking alcohol consumption and how nudge-type approaches are used in the alcohol industry.

Policy Points

- Nudges steer people toward certain options but also allow them to go their own way. “Dark nudges” aim to change consumer behavior against their best interests. “Sludge” uses cognitive biases to make behavior change more difficult.

- We have identified dark nudges and sludge in alcohol industry corporate social responsibility (CSR) materials. These undermine the information on alcohol harms that they disseminate, and may normalize or encourage alcohol consumption.
- Policymakers and practitioners should be aware of how dark nudges and sludge are used by the alcohol industry to promote misinformation about alcohol harms to the public

Read the full article [here](#)



Tourettes is no laughing matter as comedians team up with researchers to tackle stigma

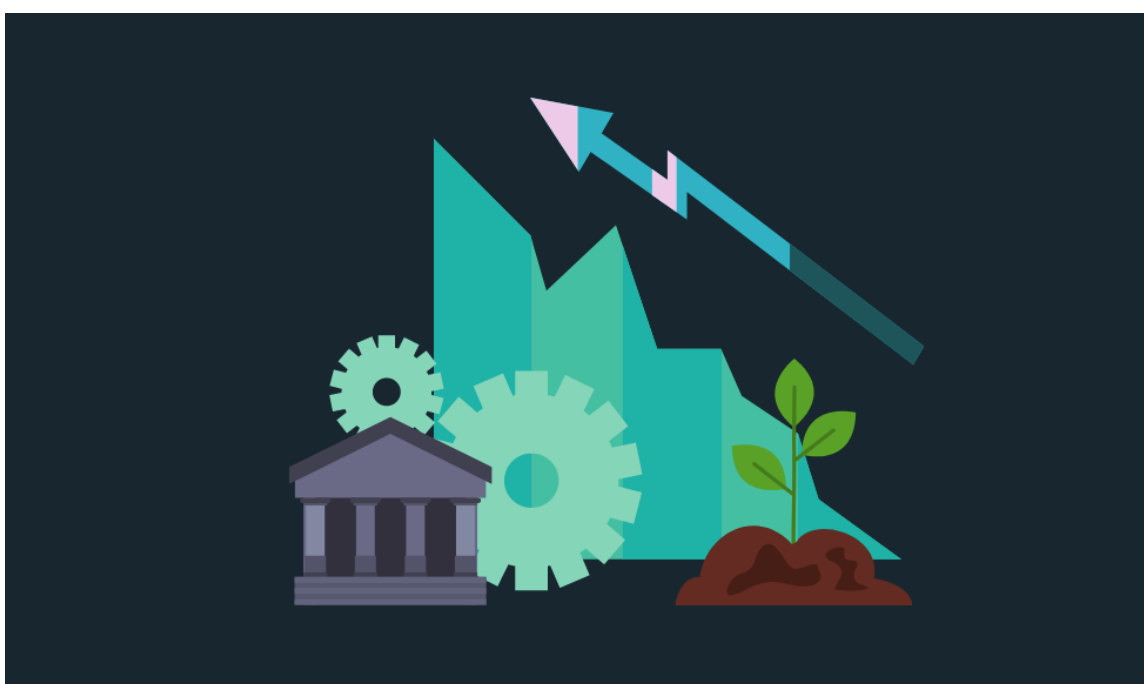
Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones and a former PhD student now at Oxford have teamed up with comedians with Tourettes Syndrome (TS) to challenge the stigma and stereotypes that exist.

Through their recent work, which saw Dr Melina Mali (Oxford) and Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones (Bath) conduct qualitative research drawing survey

responses from 68 people with TS followed by in-depth interviews with 16, the team highlights stories of the debilitating effects tics are having on people's lives.

Read more about the research [here](#)

View The Observer article [here](#)



A resilient and sustainable economic system needs to account for social justice

Dr Aurelie Charles and Damiano Sguotti discuss how a resilient and sustainable economic system needs to account for social justice.

What is the relationship between rising income inequality and increasing environmental damages? Both processes relate to the extraction of economic value without giving back.

Read more [here](#)



The Children's Society: Moving, Always Moving

CASP endorsed a report by The Children's Society on the normalisation of housing insecurity among children in low income households in England.

"Moving, Always Moving presents the stark reality that housing insecurity has become normalised and an accepted part of the society in which we live. Using sound and rigorous methodologies, the report describes the impact of having to move from 'home' to 'home' on the lives of young people, and the coping strategies they adopt. It will be of interest to policy makers and practitioners, and of wider interest too."

Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones

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

Read the full report [here](#)

Other Publications:

2020 Nadkarni, A., Bhatia, U., **Velleman, R.**, Agrawal, R. and Pathare, S. (2020) Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, and addiction treatment. *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, 62(4), 450-1.

2020 George, S., **Velleman, R.**, and Weobong, B. Should gambling be legalized in India? *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 42, 1–5 (early online). DOI: 10.1177/0253717620928761

2020 Schess, J., Kumar, S., **Velleman, R.**, Adhvaryu, A. and Nadkarni, A. “He was trapped in his own web” - Dependent drinking as a poverty trap: a qualitative study from Goa, India. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, early online. DOI: 10.1111/dar.13082

2020 Singla, D. R., Hollon, S.D., **Velleman, R.**, Weobong, B., Nadkarni, A., Fairburn, C.G., Bhat, B., Gurav, M., Anand, A., McCambridge, J., Dimidjian, S., & Patel, V. Temporal pathways of change in two randomized controlled trials for depression and harmful drinking in Goa, India. *Psychological Medicine*, 50, 68–76.



Copyright © 2020 Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are on the CASP mailing list.

Our mailing address is:

Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy

University of Bath

3 East, Claverton Down

Bath, Somerset, BA2 7AY

United Kingdom

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).