Welfare reform: contexts & research challenges

Welfare Reform in Scotland: research, policy and the third sector
Glasgow, 28 May 2019

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Changing contexts

- Labour market
- Housing system
- Urban system
Changing labour market

- Labour market polarisation
- Rise of in-work poverty
- Exclusionary forms of employment

Change in employment 1993-2006 by wages
16 European countries

Changing labour market

- Labour market polarisation
- Rise of in-work poverty
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Scot Govt (2019) HBAI analysis
Changing labour market

- Labour market polarisation
- Rise of in-work poverty
- Exclusionary forms of employment

- **1-in-3** people in employment in *exclusionary employment*:
  - 1-in-6 in poverty
  - 1-in-6 in low quality work
  - 1-in-10 has poor security

- **Of these**, 1-in-3 reports no progress over last five years

Bailey (2016) *Critical Social Policy*
Changing housing system

- Rise of private renting
- Rise of poverty in private renting
- Rise of child poverty in private renting

Not poor

FRS/HBAI data for Scotland
Changing housing system

- Rise of private renting
- Rise of poverty in private renting
- Rise of child poverty in private renting

FRS/HBAI data for Scotland
Scots Under 40 in poverty

![Graph showing the share of poor among different housing types for Scots under 40 from 1995 to 2015.]
Changing housing system

- Rise of private renting
- Rise of poverty in private renting
- Rise of child poverty in private renting

FRS/HBAI data for Scotland
Changing urban system

- Suburbanisation of poverty
- New locations for disadvantage
- New forms of disadvantage
- Displacement of low income groups from inner urban locations
- Rising proportions in older, cheaper suburbs – less concentrated, less visible
- Some locational advantages but more disadvantages, esp. transport/access?
- Disconnection from traditional communities, services and representation/voice?
Researching welfare reform

• Criticisms of UK Government for lack of evidence to support welfare reforms
  – Impacts on labour market and welfare claims
  – Wider impacts – health, education, crime …

• Opportunities from new research infrastructure: 
  *Administrative Data Research Partnership – Scotland*

• Realising this potential requires:
  – Commitment to evidencing welfare reforms
  – Commitment to data sharing – SG, DWP, others
  – Engagement with research during policy design