



Bristol Poverty Institute presents:
Poverty and Social Justice in a Post-COVID World
The Seventh Peter Townsend Memorial Conference
5-6 June 2024 (in-person and online)

Delegate Pack: Day 1 (Weds 5th June, Bristol)

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Conference summary

The [Bristol Poverty Institute](#) (BPI) are delighted to welcome you to our conference on [Poverty and Social Justice in a Post-COVID World](#). This important conference marks the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research at the University of Bristol, which established the foundations the BPI has built upon since our launch in 2017.

We aim to attract a broad audience, representing the public, private and civil sectors alongside academics from across the globe at all career stages. Together, we will explore how the pandemic has impacted on different dimensions of poverty and how we can combine our different expertise, approaches, and perspectives to help improve the lives of those suffering from poverty and address issues of social justice.

The COVID pandemic wreaked havoc across the world, disrupting all of our lives. Inevitably, some were worse affected than others and, as with many things, it was often those already marginalised who felt the heaviest impact. New inequalities emerged and existing inequalities were exposed and exacerbated. Many of these have persisted long beyond the peak of the pandemic and, even now, when life has settled into a so-called 'new normal' for many. Political choices resulted in a pandemic that was experienced unequally, killed unequally and impoverished unequally and this has reduced trust in government and health systems.

We need to explore and understand all of the ways that the pandemic has impacted on our societies and what needs to be done to mitigate the negative impacts and harness the opportunities. In order to do this, we need to bring together a multi-sector audience – including those with lived experience – with varied perspectives, approaches and knowledge. Our conference seeks to do this, across our two-day programme with a mix of thematic and regionally focussed sessions and a combination of in-person and online engagement opportunities to try to open the door for everyone to be part of the conversation.

The conference will be delivered across two days: the first in-person in Bristol and the second, online. On [Day 1](#) (Wednesday 5th June), we will convene in-person in the fantastic Wills Hall Conference Centre in Bristol to explore the impacts of the pandemic on different dimensions of poverty within the UK, with thematic sessions on topics such as mental health, structural inequalities, education, employment, and social mobility, as well as dedicated networking spaces. On [Day 2](#) (Thursday 6th June), we will bring together a global online audience to take a journey around the world with us exploring the impacts of the pandemic in different regions. We will start with an Asia and Oceania-focused session in the morning, moving on to Europe and Africa in the middle of the day and, finally, the Americas later in the day, corresponding with respective time zones.

Code of Conduct

Our conference is an inclusive event, with attendees from a wide range of backgrounds. Please be respectful of other attendees and avoid language or comments which could be perceived as offensive, derogatory, or inciting hatred. Questions for speakers and/or comments in the Q&As should please relate to the topic of the presentations themselves. Attendees whose comments or questions are deemed inappropriate may be asked to leave. Please note that the speaker's comments are their own opinion and don't necessarily represent the BPI or the University of Bristol.



Your Hosts: The Bristol Poverty Institute

About the Bristol Poverty Institute

The [Bristol Poverty Institute](#) (BPI) is dedicated to multi-disciplinary research on the causes, effects, and measurement of poverty to inform effective policy and practice. We tackle poverty-relevant issues at all scales from the local to the global, and actively seek to co-produce our research with partners representing different disciplines, sectors, and nationalities.

The Bristol Poverty Institute is a Specialist Research Institute at the University of Bristol, working in partnership with NGOs, CSOs, governments and private sector bodies united by the common goal of SDG1: *To reduce poverty in all its forms everywhere*. We support researchers from across the University to develop and expand their internal and external networks, promote inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, showcase and promote their work, catalyse and support new routes for engagement and research, and link up with other opportunities across the University and beyond.

Our researchers work on a wide range of poverty-relevant issues from a range of disciplinary perspectives across all of the University's Faculties, with particular strengths and coalescence around the themes of child health and development, education, livelihoods and debt, and food and nutrition, all of which contribute to the multidimensional nature of poverty. Through our work we aim to cement the University of Bristol's position as a global centre of research excellence on the causes, effects and measurements of poverty. This will increase our potential for impact on policy and practice, driven by our ultimate aim of reducing the extent, scale and severity of poverty around the globe.

Bristol Poverty Institute Advisory Board

- [Professor Yoav Ben-Shlomo](#), Professor of Clinical Epidemiology
- [Professor Sharon Collard](#), Research Director of Personal Finance Research Centre and Chair in Personal Finance
- [Dr Tigist Grieve](#), Lecturer in Social Policy
- [Professor Guy Howard](#), Global Challenges Research Chair in Environmental and Infrastructure Resilience and Professor of Engineering
- [Dr Camilla Morelli](#), Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology
- [Professor Julie Mytton](#), Professor of Public Health
- [Professor Tonia Novitz](#), Professor of Labour Law
- [Dr Caitlin Robinson](#), Senior Research Fellow in Geographical Sciences
- [Professor Leon Tikly](#), Global Challenges Research Chair in Education, Director of the Centre for Comparative and International Research in Education, and Professor of Education



Bristol Poverty Institute Team Members



Professor David Gordon
Bristol Poverty Institute Director



Dr Lauren Winch
Bristol Poverty Institute Manager



Mr Joe Jezewski
Bristol Poverty Institute Development
Associate



Ms Tracey Jarvis
Bristol Poverty Institute Administrator



Ms Magdalena Burr Palma
Bristol Poverty Institute Conference Administrator

Bristol Poverty Institute links

- Twitter/X: [Twitter/X: @bristolpoverty](https://twitter.com/bristolpoverty)
- Website: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/poverty-institute/>
- Newsletter: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/poverty-institute/key-resources/bpi-newsletter/>
- Email for general enquiries: bristol-poverty-institute@bristol.ac.uk
- Email for conference enquiries: bpi-conference-2024@bristol.ac.uk
- SharePoint (University of Bristol only): <https://uob.sharepoint.com/sites/bpi>



Day 1 Programme

09:00-09:20	Registration and refreshments
09:20-10:00	<p>BPI introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Lauren Winch, University of Bristol <i>Housekeeping and BPI Introduction</i> • Professor Esther Dermott, University of Bristol <i>Welcome Address</i> • Professor David Gordon, University of Bristol <i>The state we're in</i>
10:00-11:30	<p>Education, Employment and Escalating Inequalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Sharon Collard, University of Bristol <i>Inequalities in financial wellbeing in the UK</i> • Mr Alex Collinson, Trades Union Congress (TUC) <i>The rise of in-work poverty, and how to tackle it</i> • Professor Jane Millar, Child Poverty Action Group/University of Bath <i>Ending child poverty in the UK – why and how</i> • Dr William Baker, University of Bristol <i>The rise of food banks in schools in England</i> <p><i>Chair: Professor Sharon Collard</i></p>
11:30-12:00	Break/Networking
12:00-13:30	<p>Mental Health, Poverty, and the Pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tricia Jessiman, University of Bristol <i>Evaluating universal free school meal provision in two London secondary schools</i> • Mrs Dinithi Wijedasa, University of Bristol <i>The mental health of children and young people in care in England: Longitudinal patterns and associated factors</i> • Professor Laura Howe, University of Bristol <i>Poverty, adversity and the life course development of physical and mental health</i> <p><i>Chair: Professor Julie Mytton</i></p>
13:30-14:30	Lunch/Networking
14:30-16:00	<p>Structural Inequalities and Social Justice (breakouts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Singleton, University of Bristol on behalf of Tony Bunyan, Statewatch <i>Monitoring the state: civil liberties, policing and poverty</i> • Professor Saffron Karlsen, University of Bristol <i>“Light in a very dark time.” Pandemic lessons for inclusive policymaking</i> <p><i>Chair: Professor David Gordon</i></p>
16:00-16:20	Break/Networking
16:20-17:00	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Peter Matejic, Joseph Rowntree Foundation <i>The Deepening of UK Poverty</i> • Professor David Gordon, University of Bristol <i>Closing remarks</i>
17:00-18:30	Drinks reception/Networking



Speaker Biographies and Talks

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Professor Esther Dermott, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Professor Esther Dermott](#) is Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Bristol and an international expert on families and parenting. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge, an MSc in Social Sciences from the University of Edinburgh, and PhD in Sociology from the University of Essex. At Bristol, she previously held the roles of Deputy Dean, Faculty Research Director for Social Sciences and Law, and Head of the School for Policy Studies. She took up the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean for Arts, Law, and Social Sciences in August 2023.

Elsewhere, she is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Families, Relationships and Societies*, founding editor of a book series on children and families, and a Board Member of Bristol University Press. She is also currently Co-Investigator on the ESRC Centre for SocioDigital Futures and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, the Royal Society of Arts, and the Higher Education Academy.

Welcome address

Professor Esther Dermott will be officially opening the conference with a welcome address.



Bristol Poverty Institute University of Bristol

Professor David Gordon, Bristol Poverty Institute, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Professor David Gordon](#) is Professor of Social Justice and the Director of the [Bristol Poverty Institute](#) at the University of Bristol, UK. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the UNICEF Office of Research, a member of the International Network for Research on Inequalities in Child Health, a board member of the International Society for Child Indicators and was a fellow of the International Social Science Council's Comparative Research Programme on Poverty.

He has written and edited over a hundred books, papers and reports on poverty, health inequalities and social exclusion, social justice and social policy. In 2006 and 2007, he was given the tremendous honour of addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations about child and youth poverty. In 2018, he had the honour of being elected as a Fellow of the British Academy for his work on poverty research.

Abstract: The state we're in

Following the COVID19 pandemic the UK witnessed increasing rates of destitution, fuel poverty, food insecurity and the largest increase in child poverty in 30 years. This introductory talk will discuss how and why this has occurred, what the future may hold and the potential for eradicating poverty in the UK during the 21st Century.



Bristol Poverty Institute

University of Bristol

Dr Lauren Winch, Bristol Poverty Institute, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Dr Lauren Winch](#) is the Manager of the [Bristol Poverty Institute](#) (BPI), where she leads on strategic and operational management of all aspects of BPI activity. Through her work Lauren aims to cement the University's position as a global centre of research excellence on the causes, effects, and measurements of poverty. This will increase its potential for impact on policy and practice, driven by the ultimate aim of reducing the extent and severity of poverty at all scales from the local to the global.

Alongside her BPI role, Lauren is also the International Research Development (IRD) Manager in the Division for Research, Enterprise and Innovation. This role involves leading a portfolio of international research development activities, reviewing strategic approaches to research development, designing and overseeing delivery of funding schemes, and building collaborations within and beyond the University to enhance its global reputation and impact.

Prior to joining the University, Lauren was a Senior International Policy Manager at the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), where she managed large interdisciplinary International Development programmes in collaboration with a range of national and international funding partners including DFID, SIDA, and NWO. Lauren has a strong interdisciplinary research background, with a degree in Human Sciences from the University of Oxford, a Masters in African Archaeology from UCL, and a PhD in Archaeology and Anthropology from the University of Bristol. Her academic and professional career has focussed on the intersections between society, culture, and environment.

Welcome and Housekeeping

Lauren will be introducing the Bristol Poverty Institute and providing key information for attendees on the day.



EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND ESCALATING INEQUALITIES

Dr William Baker, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Dr William Baker](#)'s research is broadly within the sociology of education and unifying theme in his research is understanding the causes and consequences of educational inequalities. In recent years he has been pioneering research into the rise of food charity in schools. Against a backdrop of growing food insecurity in the UK, a growing number of schools are running their own food banks. He draws on both quantitative and qualitative to make sense of this development. Dr Baker's research in this area has been covered by the BBC, The Independent and many other major news sources.

Abstract: The rise of food banks in schools in England

Millions of families across the UK are struggling to put food on the table and large numbers of children are arriving at school too hungry to learn. This talk will present findings about the rise of charitable food aid in English schools. Drawing on quantitative data, the talk will show how there are now more food banks in schools than outside of them. The talk will also draw on qualitative data and relevant research to discuss how and why this is happening and its broader significance.



Professor Sharon Collard, University of Bristol (Chair)



Speaker biography

[Professor Sharon Collard](#) is Research Co-Director at the University of Bristol's [Personal Finance Research Centre](#), and Co-Director at the [Bristol Hub for Gambling Harms Research](#). Her research explores the intersections between vulnerability and personal finance including tracking the financial impact of COVID-19 and the rising cost of living on UK households and a programme of work on gambling harms that has, to date, looked at the role of financial services in reducing gambling-related financial harms; the links between gambling and problem debt; and the family dynamics of harmful gambling. Sharon is a Board Member of the Pensions Policy Institute and a Research Affiliate at the University of Sydney. Between 2016 and 2022 she was a member of the UK Financial Services Consumer Panel. Sharon is also a valued member of the BPI Advisory Board.

Abstract: Inequalities in financial wellbeing in the UK

This presentation will use data from the [Financial Fairness Tracker](#) to consider the financial wellbeing of UK households since the pandemic.

Mr Alex Collison, Trades Union Congress (TUC)



Speaker biography

[Mr Alex Collinson](#) is the Research and Analysis Officer at the [Trades Union Congress](#) (TUC). His work primarily focuses on the labour market and household finances.



Abstract: The rise of in-work poverty, and how to tackle it

This talk will look at the rise of in-work poverty and the main drivers behind the rise. Following this, we'll explore the policies that would help to reverse the rise.

Professor Jane Millar, University of Bath



Speaker biography

[Professor Jane Millar](#), OBE, FBA, FAcSS is Professor Emerita in the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath. Her research interests include the design, implementation and impact of family policy, social security, and employment policy. She is also the Chair of the Trustees of [Child Poverty Action Group](#) (CPAG).

Abstract: Ending child poverty in the UK – why and how

There are 4.3 million children in the UK living in poor households – almost one in three children. Poverty blights their childhood - their health, their education, their present and future options. Parents need support to provide for their children with security and without constant worry. Policy has left children behind and even contributed to rising child poverty rates, for example through the benefit cap and the two-child limit.

Drawing on the Child Poverty Action Group publication, [Ending child poverty – why and how](#), this paper sets out the evidence on child poverty and puts forward solutions. These include abolishing some measures, introducing or expanding others, and – very importantly – committing to a comprehensive child poverty strategy.



MENTAL HEALTH, POVERTY, AND THE PANDEMIC

Professor Laura D Howe, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Professor Laura Howe](#) is a statistical epidemiologist at the University of Bristol whose research draws on life course and causal inference approaches to understand the development of physical and mental health across the life course, with a particular focus on the influences of socioeconomic deprivation and childhood adversity on health. She has experience of statistical methods for repeated measures data and methods for the integration of genetic data into epidemiological studies and has carried out methodological research in these areas.

Abstract: Poverty, adversity and the life course development of physical and mental health

Poverty and childhood adversity (for example child maltreatment, household dysfunction, or bullying) are both established risk factors for poor health, yet are generally researched in silos. Here, we will present evidence from analysis of the [Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#) (ALSPAC) that demonstrates the inter-relationships between poverty and childhood adversity, leading to cycles of cumulative disadvantage across the life course that were worsened by the pandemic. We show that both poverty and adversity influence adolescent health, including the co-morbidity of depression and overweight, an early marker of multi-faceted health disadvantage and complex health care needs.



Ms Tricia Jessiman, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Ms Tricia Jessiman](#) is a Senior Research Associate in Qualitative Public Health at the University of Bristol, and lead researcher for [PHIRST Insight](#). She has extensive experience of conducting evaluations in collaboration with local authority partners and has a particular interest in children and young people's health and wellbeing.

Abstract: Evaluating universal free school meal provision in two London secondary schools

In the UK, one in five households with children experienced food insecurity in 2022, defined as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Free school meals are a public health intervention aimed at reducing food insecurity amongst children. At the time of this study, the provision of universal free school meals (UFSM) to secondary school-aged children was a novel and untested intervention in the UK. A process and impact evaluation of UFSM aimed to understand the feasibility, acceptability, cost implications and lessons for the implementation of UFSM. We adopted a mixed-methods, quasi-experimental design. The intervention schools were one mainstream school and one school for students with special educational needs. Two other schools were used as comparators. The data collection comprised a cross sectional student survey during the pilot (n = 404); qualitative interviews with students (n = 28), parents (n = 20) and school staff (n = 12); and student observations of lunchtimes (n = 57) and school lunch uptake-data and cost information provided by the local authority delivering the pilot.

The study finds that UFSM in secondary schools is a feasible and acceptable intervention, with coherent goals of increased access to a healthy meal, reduced food insecurity and better nutrition. All participants perceived these goals were met. Acceptability was further enhanced by the perception that UFSM were supporting a greater proportion of low-income families than the national, targeted Free School Meal scheme, as well as being easier to implement. However, no effects of the intervention were seen in the quantitative findings on either hunger or food insecurity. Our research provides promising evidence in support of universal free school meals in secondary schools as a strategy for addressing growing food insecurity. Future research should robustly test the impact of universal free school meals in a larger sample of secondary schools, using before and after measures as well as a comparator group.



Bristol Poverty Institute University of Bristol

Dr Julie Mytton, University of the West of England (Chair)



Speaker biography

[Dr Julie Mytton](#) qualified in medicine and worked in Primary Care, Community Paediatrics and Public Health before joining the University of the West of England, Bristol, UK in 2012. Julie is a Professor of Public Health and leads the Global Health Research theme in the [Centre for Public Health and Wellbeing](#). She has a longstanding interest in the impact of social and environmental factors leading to inequalities in health experience and outcomes of children and young people. Her global health research interests focus on building the evidence base and strengthening research capacity to inform injury prevention interventions and policy development. She is currently leading an NIHR Health Policy and Systems Research award to [improve road safety in Nepal](#). Julie is the UWE Director at the [Centre for Academic Child Health](#) and the [Training and Capacity Building Co-Lead at ARC West](#). Julie is also a valued member of the BPI Advisory Board.

Mrs Dinithi Wijedasa, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Mrs Dinithi Wijedasa](#) is an Associate Professor in Child and Family Welfare and the former head of the Children and Families Research Centre at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol. Dinithi has a background in developmental psychology with over 17 years of experience in researching outcomes and trajectories of vulnerable children in contact with child welfare services and living in out-of-home care such as children in State care, children adopted and those living with kin.



Dinithi has extensive experience in managing and analysing large datasets including Census microdata, longitudinal survey data and national administrative data on mental health and children in care. She has recently completed two ESRC-funded research studies on the mental health of children in State care and is currently leading a Nuffield Foundation-funded study to explore the referrals, prognosis and pathways of children in care through mental health services, compared with children in the general population, using individual-level national mental health datasets held by the NHS.

Abstract: The mental health of children and young people in care in England: Longitudinal patterns and associated factors

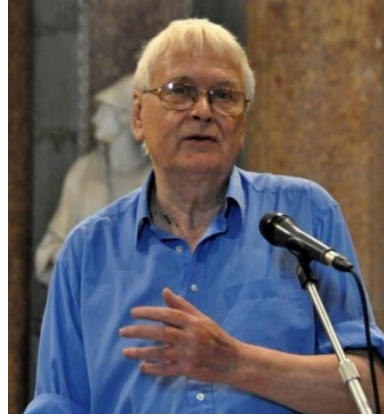
More than 80,000 children are growing up in State care in England at any given time. Around two-thirds of these children are taken into State care due to experiences of severe maltreatment such as abuse or neglect. The majority have also had experiences of disadvantage and poverty, often exacerbated by domestic violence, parental criminality and concerns regarding parental mental health and substance misuse at the time of their entry to care. Consequently, being taken into care is an intervention for this vulnerable group of children, with the expectation that State care will then ameliorate or stabilise their health and wellbeing outcomes, including their mental health.

Despite this, numerous research studies indicate that mental health concerns in this vulnerable child population remain high. Mental ill health experienced in childhood and adolescence can impact an individual's short and long-term health, well-being, and socioeconomic trajectories whilst exerting long-term pressure on the State's health and welfare systems through its impact on mental health services and the cost of interventions. To facilitate recovery and better mental health, it is important to understand if and how the mental health of children in care varies over time and the contextual factors that influence their mental health. This presentation will highlight some of the practice and policy-relevant findings from two ESRC-funded research studies which set out to answer these questions, utilising (1) a five-year longitudinal follow-up of the mental health of children in care in England through secondary analyses of longitudinal, national-level administrative data and (2) two waves of a survey of children and young people aged 11-18 years in care.



STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ann Singleton, University of Bristol on behalf of Tony Bunyan, Statewatch



Speaker biography: Ann Singleton

[Ann Singleton](#) is the Strategic Policy Lead at the [Migration Mobilities Bristol](#) (MMB) Specialist Research Institute, and a Reader in Migration Policy at the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol. She was also previously the Head of the Centre for the Study of Poverty and Social Justice at the University of Bristol.

Speaker biography: Tony Bunyan

[Tony Bunyan](#) is Director Emeritus of Statewatch and Honorary President of the Institute of Race Relations. Tony reflects on some key points of his lifetime work, monitoring the state and civil liberties in the UK and Europe. His work provides insight insights and lessons from history in addressing current state actions and challenges to policy on poverty.

“The struggle continues to defend and extend civil liberties and freedoms, democratic rights and accountability and to oppose authoritarianism, racism and anti-democratic forces.”

Tony’s contribution will be presented by Ann Singleton. *Photo source: MMB (2020)*

<https://migration.bristol.ac.uk/2020/11/24/tony-bunyan-retires-as-director-of-statewatch-after-30-years/>

Abstract: Monitoring the state: civil liberties, policing, and poverty

The need for independent monitoring of the actions of the state is an essential cornerstone in the defence of civil liberties, to challenge racism, inequalities in health, housing, and all dimensions of poverty. This contribution places policing in its historical context, considering the impact of the pandemic, continuities in policing and the disproportionate impacts on marginalised communities. During this general election year, it highlights the danger of the continued attack on civil liberties and democratic freedoms.



Professor Saffron Karlsen, University of Bristol



Speaker biography

[Professor Saffron Karlsen](#)'s work focuses on improving understanding the significance of ethnicity in people's lives, including its impact on social inclusion and its role in driving health and other inequalities. Her research provided the first nationally-representative empirical evidence on the impact of racism on health in the UK and has investigated ethnic and religious inequalities in the US, New Zealand, Kenya, India, Vietnam, Nigeria, and beyond. Saffron is dedicated to addressing inequalities and improving research, policy, and practice at local, national, and global levels, through the empowerment of marginalised communities. She currently collaborates with the Race Equality Foundation and local charities, Black South West Network, Babbasa, and 91 Ways. This work aims to connect research and community-led approaches to the generation and sharing of evidence, in ways which value diverse knowledge and expertise. She has advised the Scottish Executive, Cabinet Office, UK Statistics Authority, and New Zealand Health Department, and collaborated with Bristol City Council, the WHO, and the UN. Her work on ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 experiences, in partnership with the British Academy, was referenced by SAGE.

Abstract: "Light in a very dark time." Pandemic lessons for inclusive policymaking

The COVID-19 pandemic shone a particular light on ethnic inequalities in health. The horror that greeted emerging evidence of higher rates of infection, hospitalisation, and death amongst racialised groups, in the UK, US and elsewhere, demanded a policy response. This paper considers variations in the nature of these responses and their implications for racialised communities, drawing on two pieces of research conducted in Bristol. It highlights the particular ways in which national political discourse undermined a sense of integration and institutional trust among racialised groups in the city, directly exacerbating the negative consequences of the pandemic itself. It also illustrates the value of the more inclusive policy initiatives established in Bristol. Here, insights from empirical evidence - emphasising the significance of structural and socioeconomic, not biological or cultural, explanations for these inequalities - supported the development of approaches which empowered communities to drive responses to the pandemic, directly mitigating its effects. This research provides a powerful insight into the opportunities for effective social justice offered by collaborative approaches which centralise the expertise developed from lived experience.



CLOSING SESSION

Mr Peter Matejic, Chief Analyst, Joseph Rowntree Foundation



Speaker biography

[Mr Peter Matejic](#) is a Chief Analyst at the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) (JRF). Before joining JRF, Peter worked for almost 20 years in the Civil Service. He led on a number of issues at the Department of Work and Pensions, including poverty analysis, policies, and developing measures for persistent poverty and child poverty. Previously, he worked on fuel poverty and energy price analysis. Peter is interested in all elements of poverty measurement and is passionate about making sure analysis has impact. He oversees JRF's monitoring strategy and research reports.

Abstract: The deepening of UK Poverty

Four stark facts stand out when talking about poverty in the UK:

- Overall levels of poverty in the UK are high, and has been for decades;
- Poverty is falling more heavily on some groups than others;
- Poverty is deepening;
- Destitution and deep hardship is rising fastest of all.

If these are the facts, what has caused the situation, and what immediate and longer-term actions can be taken to finally start to move the dial over the next Parliament? This is the topic of this presentation, drawing on [JRF's UK Poverty Report](#), its destitution study and its policy work.

