

PRESIDENTIAL PANEL

WEDNESDAY, 20 APRIL 2022
16:45 -17:45

ADDRESSING DEEP INEQUALITIES: NEW AGENDAS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Torsten Bell, Resolution Foundation; **Daniel Edmiston**, University of Leeds;

Sarah Kerr, University College London

Chaired by Gurminder K Bhambra, University of Sussex

The postwar period in the UK saw the consolidation of the welfare state, increasing democratization, a fast-growing economy, and declining income inequality. This lasted till the late seventies, since when we have witnessed a reversal. The last decade, in particular, has seen the starkest decline in living standards. This panel brings together three speakers who have made significant and potentially transformative contributions to current debates on inequality and public policy.

This conference will take place just as people are experiencing increases to National Insurance contributions and a steep rise in energy bills. As [Daniel Edmiston](#) argues, there has been an increased likelihood over the last decade for women, children, larger families, and some ethnic minorities, of falling into a 'deep poverty' unmitigated by full time work. The Resolution Foundation has been at the forefront of arguments against the new forms of inequality. Recent analysis by its Chief Executive, [Torsten Bell](#), suggests that the 10% of family budgets that the poorest third of households spend on energy bills is comparable to what richer households spend on eating out and holidays. This suggests that 'deep wealth' needs to be addressed alongside 'deep poverty'. As [Sarah Kerr](#) has argued, sociology and public policy needs to confront issues of unearned wealth and the undeserving rich.

Torsten Bell, Resolution Foundation

Torsten is the Chief Executive of the Resolution Foundation, a think tank that combines analytical rigour with policy prescriptions to improve the living standards of those in Britain on low to middle incomes. He has a background in economic policy, and his research focuses on economic change, inequality, the labour market, tax and benefits, and wealth. Prior to leading the Resolution Foundation, Torsten was Director of Policy for the Labour Party. He has also worked in HM Treasury, as a member of the Council of Economic Advisers during the financial crisis and as a civil servant. Torsten is a trustee of the Child Poverty Action Group and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Daniel Edmiston, University of Leeds

Daniel Edmiston is a Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. Prior to this, he worked for the Economic and Social Research Council, the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, and the University of Oxford. His research is academic and applied in nature, focusing on poverty and inequality, welfare politics and social citizenship.

Sarah Kerr, University College London

Sarah Kerr is an Economic and Social Research Council-funded doctoral student at UCL Institute of Education, writing about wealth and poverty in social policy. She also works as a consultant in the field of policy and evidence for public policy making.