



SUN

DISCOVER
YOUR
FUTURE

Alex Blower | Further Education Project Leader
Welcome to the (Social) Justice League!

WORKING IN OUTREACH



- 2012-2015 *Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer (BCU)*
- 2015-2019 *UK Student Recruitment and Outreach Officer (Southampton)*
- 2016-2019 *PhD Education and Inequality (Wolverhampton)*
- 2019- *Further Education Project Leader (SUN)*

AIMS



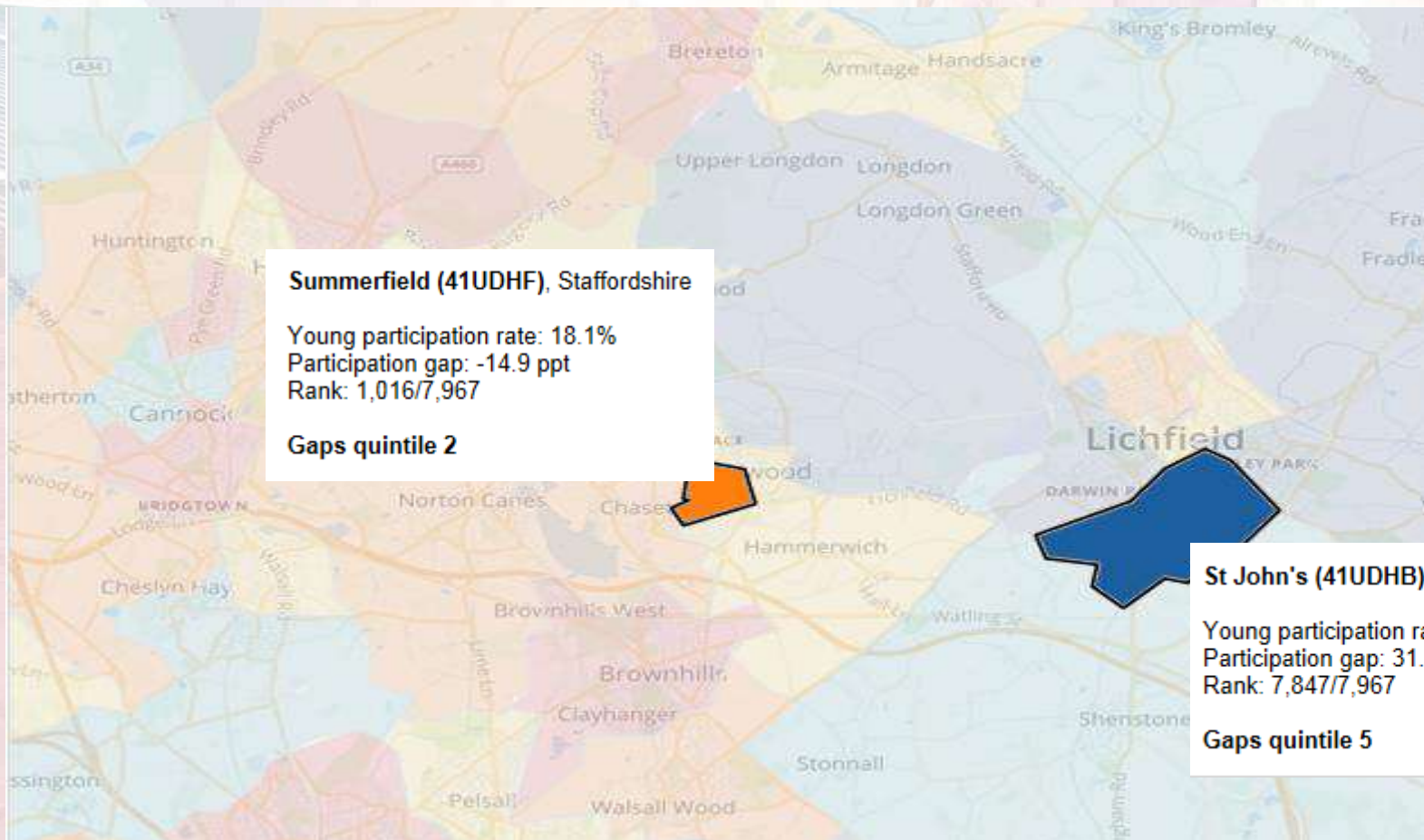
- Why we should care about the work that we conduct
- Societal change and the widening equality gap
- Can we conduct activity to widen access to Higher Education badly?
- How do we work to facilitate more equitable access to Higher Education?

When I grow up I
want to be a Schools and
Colleges Liaison Officer



**Complete
Accident!**

WHY WE SHOULD CARE



INEQUALITY



Inequality: The IFS Deaton Review

The IFS is launching a major new £2.5 million study of inequalities, funded by the Nuffield Foundation and chaired by Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Angus Deaton.

Read more at our new dedicated website
www.ifs.org.uk/inequality

Aiming to understand inequality not just of income, but of health, wealth and opportunity too, this five-year study will be one of the most ambitious of its kind. Our aim is to answer some of the most fundamental questions about the nature of inequality in the 21st century, the forces shaping it, and what can, and should, be done about it.

With Sir Angus in the chair, the panel overseeing the project includes world-leading experts in sociology, demography, epidemiology, political science, philosophy and economics. We will commission work from many more leading experts to help us understand inequalities in outcomes by gender, ethnicity, geography, age and education. Our analysis will cover the full breadth of the income and wealth distributions – not just what is happening at the very top and very bottom.

"I am delighted that IFS and the Nuffield Foundation have launched this review, and am honoured that I have been asked to chair it. It is an exciting prospect to work with so many distinguished scholars in so many disciplines to try to understand more about the nature of inequality, what it is about inequality that upsets so many people, and what might be done about it."

Professor Sir Angus Deaton, Nobel Laureate and Chair of the Review

Press release

Class privilege remains entrenched as social mobility stagnates

The Social Mobility Commission's State of the Nation 2018 to 2019 report highlights inequality in Britain and sets out key findings and recommendations.

Published 30 April 2019

From: [Social Mobility Commission](#)

[Social Mobility Commission: State of the Nation](#)

SOCIAL MOBILITY COMMISSION: THE STATE OF THE NATION



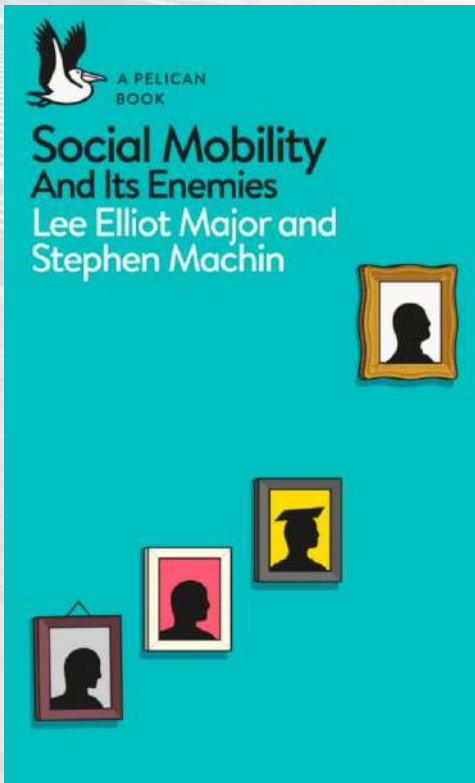
'People from working class backgrounds are much more likely to be paid below the voluntary living wage than those from more advantaged backgrounds (27 per cent vs. 17 per cent), showing entrenched social mobility problems within the low paid workforce'

'Increasing numbers of students from low income families are entering university by age 19, although their better off peers are still much more likely to do so. However, despite increases in university entry, students eligible for FSM are very unlikely to go to the most selective universities, with only five per cent gaining entrance (compared to 12 per cent of all students)'

'Almost all forms of adult education have been in decline since 2010. Those who do receive education or training are more likely to be affluent; 49 per cent of the poorest adults have received no training since leaving school, compared to 20 per cent of the richest'

'Cuts to budgets and efforts to improve schools in recent years have had unintended consequences for poorer students. Reforms to the curriculum, although well intentioned, were implemented too quickly for some young people, and disadvantaged students lost out disproportionately during the implementation'

THE WIDENING GAP OF INEQUALITY



The Gini Coefficient, Intergenerational Elasticity and The Great Gatsby Curve

'The growing divide in life's resources has taken its toll on many Britons. We are a society of unequals: not just in terms of the money we earn, but the wealth we own, the attitudes we have, and the political beliefs we hold'

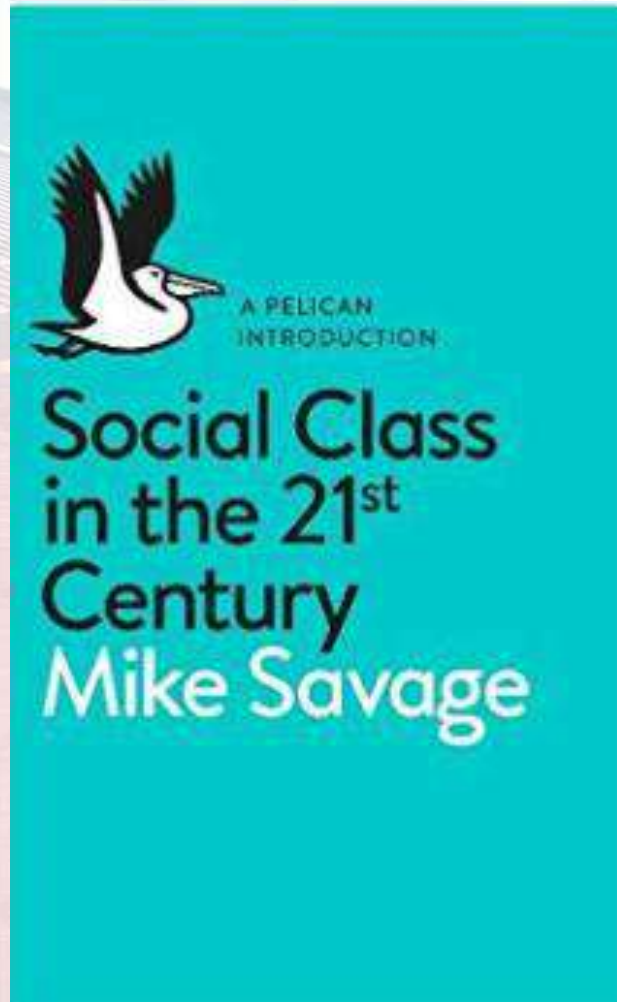
Societal Change



Societal Change



SOCIETAL CHANGE



WHEELS OF FORTUNE

Classifying British people according to their levels of the three capitals — wealth, culture and networks — results in seven classes, including two polar opposites, an elite and a 'precariat'.

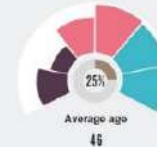
- **Economic capital**
A. Income
B. Savings and property
- **Cultural capital**
A. Emerging cultural capital (such as sport or gigs)
B. Highbrow cultural capital (classical music or theatre)
- **Social capital**
A. Average social status of acquaintances
B. Number of different occupations in your social group

ELITE
Wealthiest and most privileged



ESTABLISHED MIDDLE CLASS

Most gregarious and the second wealthiest



TECHNICAL MIDDLE CLASS

Small, distinctive and prosperous group



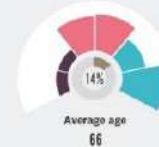
NEW AFFLUENT WORKERS

Lots of cultural interests and average wealth



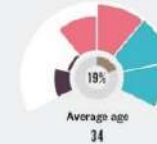
TRADITIONAL WORKING CLASS

Low for economic, social and cultural factors



EMERGENT SERVICE WORKERS

Financially insecure but high for social and cultural factors



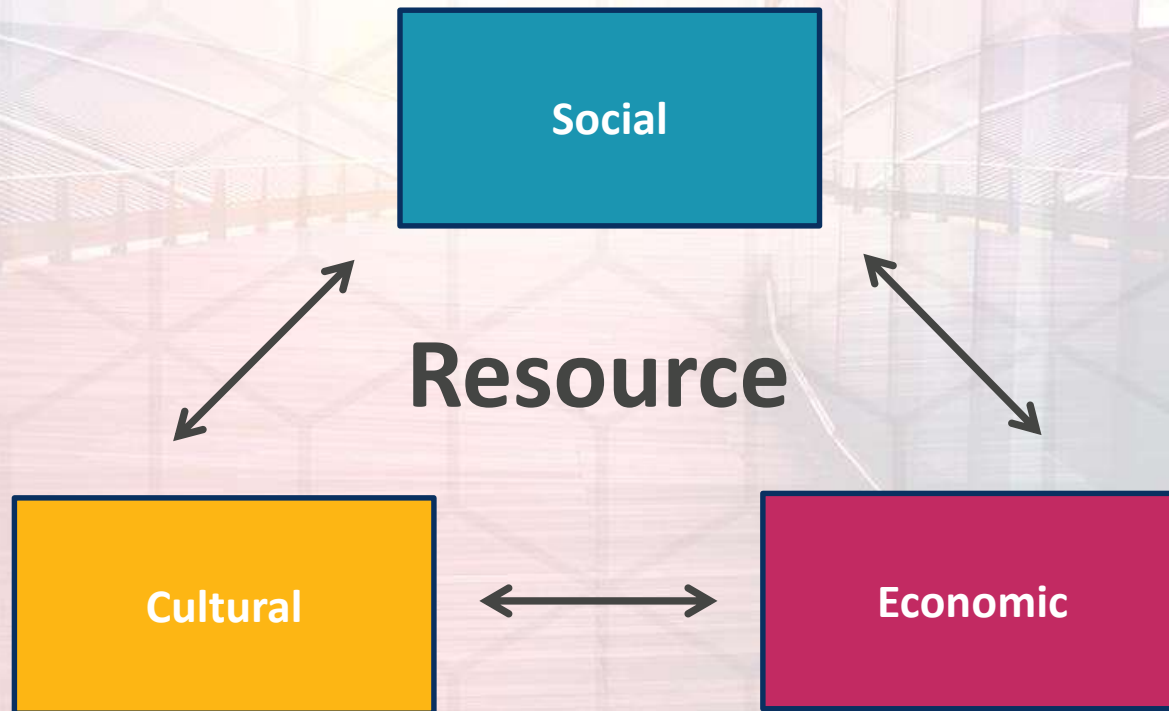
PRECARIAT

Poorest and most deprived



©nature

[The Great British Class Calculator](#)



WHICH GROUP ARE THE STUDENTS THAT WE WORK WITH IN?



TRADITIONAL WORKING CLASS

Low for economic, social and cultural factors

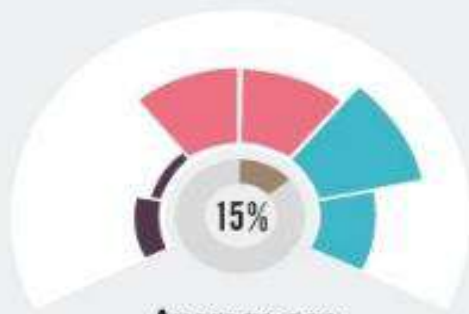


Average age

66

PRECARIAT

Poorest and most deprived



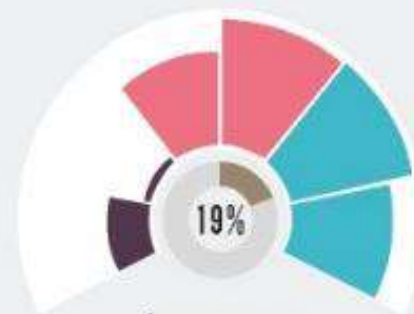
Average age

50

©nature

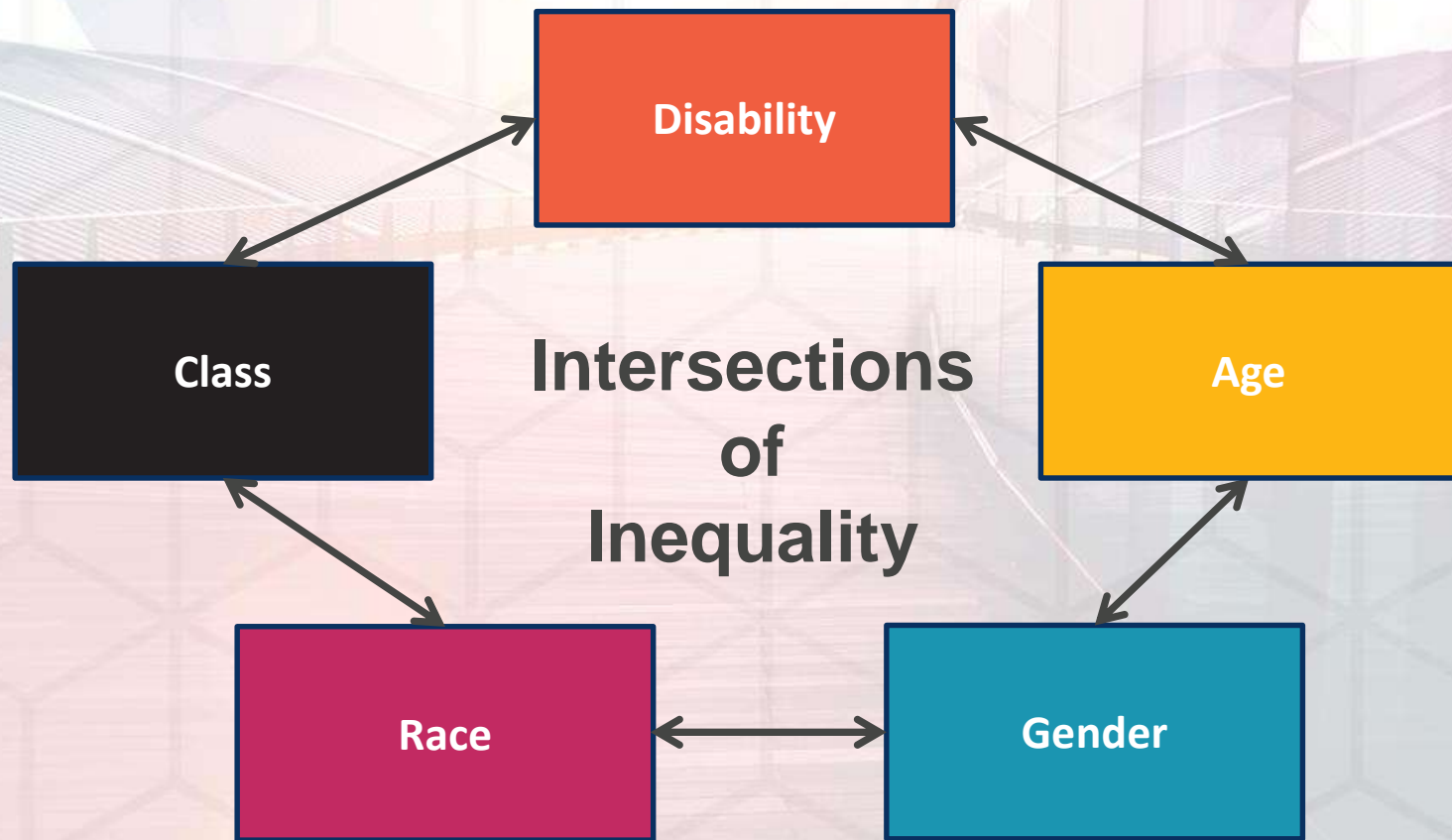
EMERGENT SERVICE WORKERS

Financially insecure but high for social and cultural factors



Average age

34



The Race for \$100

Can we conduct activity to widen access to Higher Education badly?

UNDER REPRESENTED STUDENTS HAVE LOWER ASPIRATIONS ?



NEWS

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Ofsted chief says poor white communities lack 'aspiration and drive'

By Judith Burns
Education reporter, BBC News

🕒 21 June 2018

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‘This is not just a matter of gender. Ethnicity makes a difference too. Leicester City Council told the House of Commons Education Select Committee of their experience that in parts of Leicester, ‘the white working class culture is characterised by low aspirations and negative attitudes to education’ in a way not seen with other ethnic groups.’ (HEPI, 2016)

WE SHOULD RAISE ASPIRATIONS?



RAISE ASPIRATIONS?



Dictionary

Search for a word



aspiration
/ˌaspɪˈreɪʃən/


noun

1. [Original Article](#) [Free Access](#)

2. **Challenging discourses of aspiration: The role of expectations and attainment in access to higher education**

Neil Harrison , Richard Waller

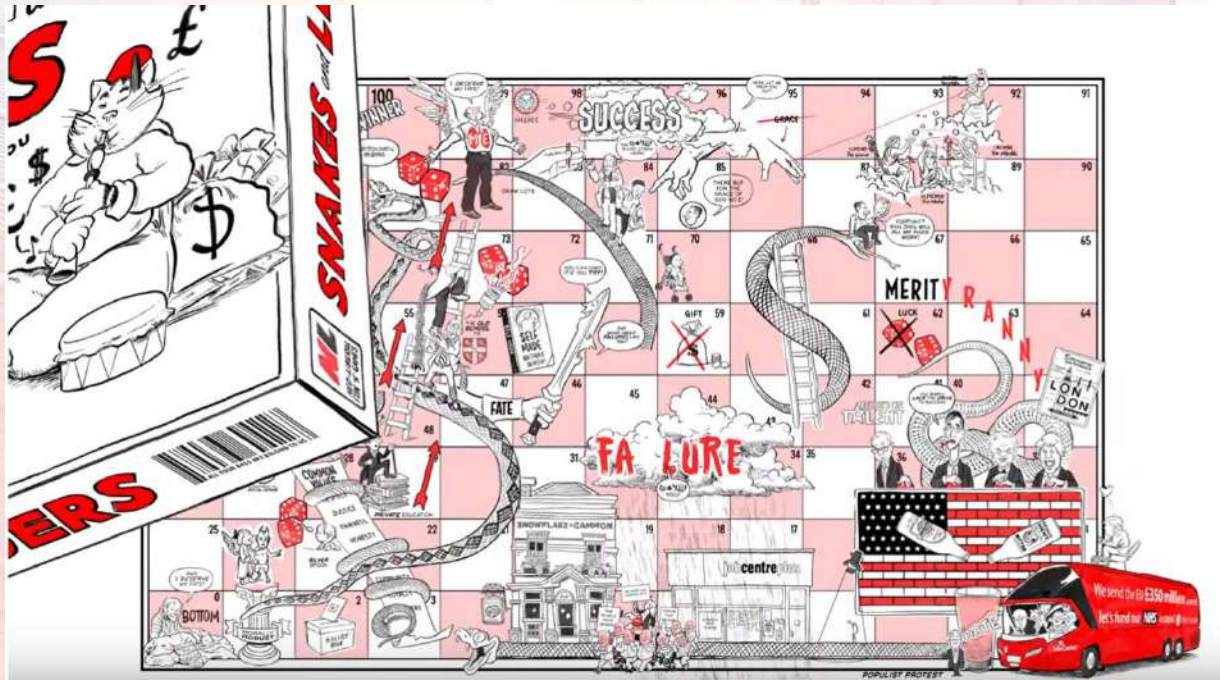
First published: 19 September 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/berj.3475> | Cited by: 1

aspiration
/ˌɛkspekˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ 

noun

1. a strong belief that something will happen or be the case.
"reality had not lived up to expectations"
synonyms: supposition, assumption, belief, presupposition, presumption, conjecture, surmise, reckoning, calculation, prediction, forecast, projection; [More](#)
2. **MATHEMATICS**
another term for [expected value](#).

The Tyranny of Merit



The Tyranny of Merit

THE EMBEDDED OR CONTINGENT 'CHOICE'?



**The historical socially
embedded 'choice'**
(familiar route inside familial
experience)

Vs.

**The contingent socially
mobile 'choice'**
(socially mobile trajectory outside of
familial experience)

Ball, S.J., Reay, D. and David, M. (2002) 'Ethnic Choosing':
Minority ethnic students, social class and higher education
choice. *Race ethnicity and education* [online], 5(4), pp. 333-357

A DOUBLE-BIND OF RISK?



Option 1

Go for the 'safe bet' of a familiar trajectory which the members of your immediate social network have experience navigating (even though there's a chance of being stuck in precarious employment)

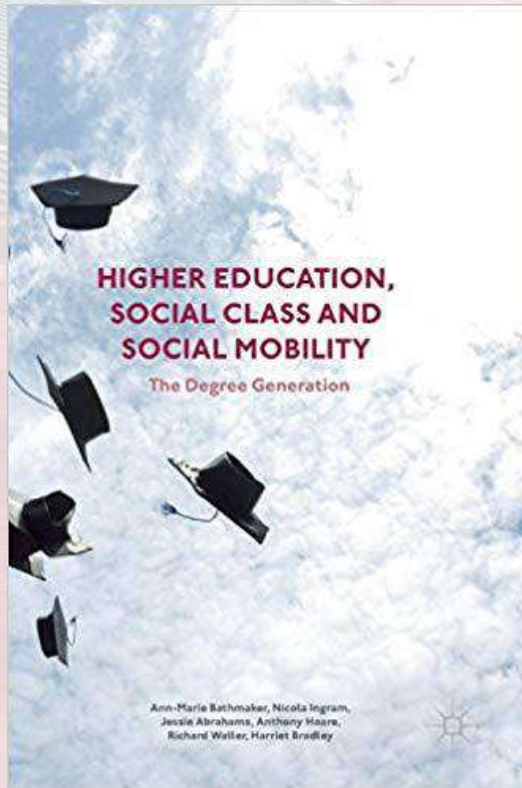
Option 2

Follow a new educational trajectory outside of the family's experience involving the deferment of paid work, the accrual of student debt and possibly moving away from close friends/family members who support you, whilst at the same time finding ways to access the knowledge and social networks to facilitate successful entry in to HE (all of which isn't easily accessible)



Exam Success

IT DOESN'T STOP AT GETTING IN...



'Fitting in' or 'standing out': Working-class students in UK higher education

[D Reay](#), [G Crozier](#), [J Clayton](#) - British educational research ..., 2010 - Wiley Online Library

... habitus, and the article explores how the four different institutional habituses result in a range of experiences of **fitting** in and **standing out** in higher ... **Our** research is taking place at a time when in the UK and globally, there is concern about 'widening participation' and breaking ...

☆ [Cited by 567](#) [Related articles](#) [All 10 versions](#) [Web of Science: 213](#)

'Strangers in paradise'? Working-class students in elite universities

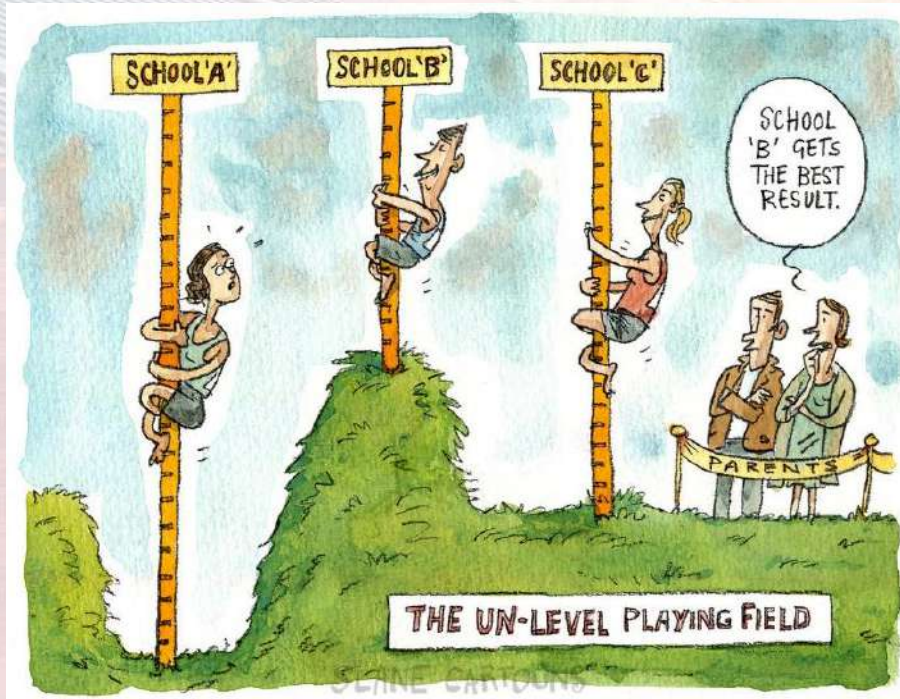
[D Reay](#), [G Crozier](#), [J Clayton](#) - Sociology, 2009 - journals.sagepub.com

This article draws on case studies of nine working-class students at Southern, an elite university. 1 It attempts to understand the complexities of identities in flux through Bourdieu's notions of habitus and field. Bourdieu (1990a) argues that when an individual encounters an ...

☆ [Cited by 599](#) [Related articles](#) [All 15 versions](#) [Web of Science: 216](#)

**So how do we do work to widen
access to Higher Education well?**

LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD



Provide resource for
development of future
expectations

Social

Cultural

Economic

CHALLENGE UNHELPFUL INSTITUTIONAL NARRATIVES & PRACTICES



The Telegraph

Education

Universities are now admitting twice as many BTEC students as they did a decade ago, amid fears of falling standards.

Higher education institutions have become “increasingly open” to accepting school leavers with vocational qualifications rather than the traditional A-levels, a new report by Universities UK (UUK) has found.

In 2008, there were 49,250 students who were offered places at British universities with BTEC qualifications. But by 2017 this had more than doubled, with more than 100,000 BTEC students winning university places, according to figures from Ucas.

Which? University

International Baccalaureate (IB) students: applying to university

The number of students applying to higher education with the IB has doubled in the last decade; in 2008 there were 1,035 acceptances, while in 2017 there were 2,190 acceptances – a figure that has remained pretty stable for the last few years.

CAREFULLY CONSIDER CONTEXT



Newcastle

Devonshire

Bedfordshire

London

Cultural

Resources

Social

Economic

TAKE STRENGTHS BASED APPROACHES



Changing Mindsets

A Office for Students funded project focused on closing attainment gaps in higher education

'Changing Mindsets is based on Dweck's Implicit Theories of Intelligence, in which Dweck argued that intelligence is malleable and that teachers can help pupils develop a growth mindset by praising their effort and persistence, over their innate intelligence. This iteration of Changing Mindsets is a student and staff workshop-based intervention that builds a growth mindset: the belief that intelligence is not a fixed characteristic and can be increased through effort'

[Changing Mindsets Project](#)

Sen's Capability Approach

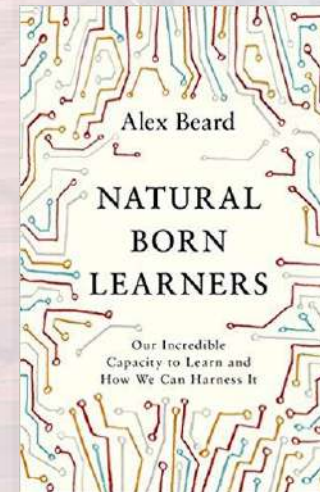
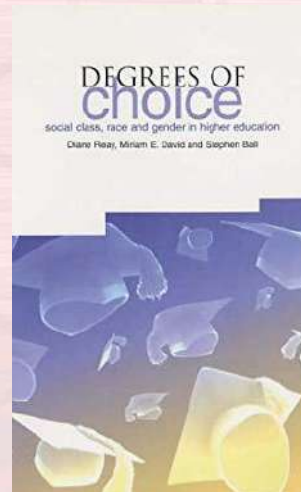
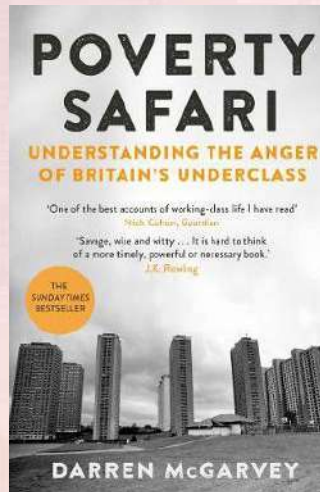
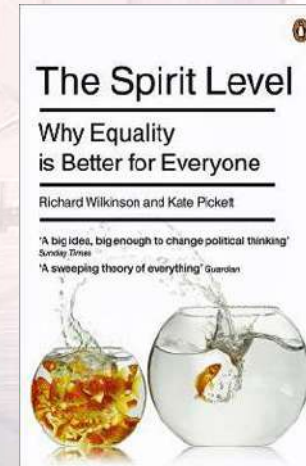
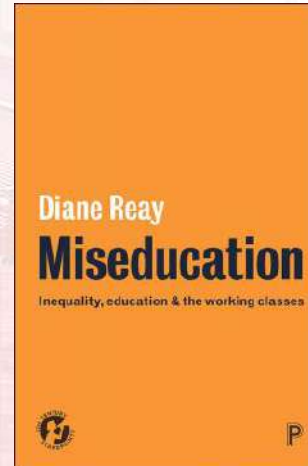
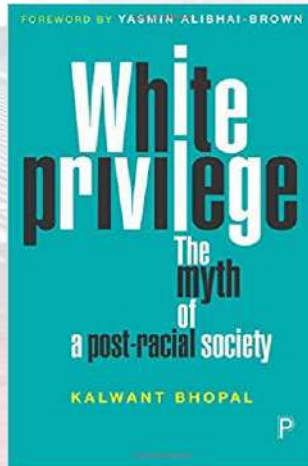


The Capability Approach is defined by its choice of focus upon the moral significance of individuals' capability of achieving the kind of lives they have reason to value. This distinguishes it from more established approaches to ethical evaluation, such as utilitarianism or resourceism, which focus exclusively on subjective well-being or the availability of means to the good life, respectively. A person's capability to live a good life is defined in terms of the set of valuable 'beings and doings' like being in good health or having loving relationships with others to which they have real access.

The Capability Approach was first articulated by the Indian economist and philosopher Amartya Sen in the 1980s, and remains most closely associated with him. It has been employed extensively in the context of human development, for example, by the United Nations Development Programme, as a broader, deeper alternative to narrowly economic metrics such as growth in GDP per capita. Here 'poverty' is understood as deprivation in the capability to live a good life, and 'development' is understood as capability expansion.

[Sen's Capability Approach](#)

INTERSTING READS





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www.sunoutreach.org



Southern Universities Network



@SUN_Admin



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