

## Editorial

**JAN PAHL and EMMA WINCUP**

This is the first number of the *Journal of Social Policy* to be put together by the new editorial team, so we are taking this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and to say something about our plans for the journal. The editorial team is based in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research at the University of Kent and consists of Professor Jan Pahl and Dr Emma Wincup (joint editors), and Jane Dennett (administrator).

Jan Pahl is Professor of Social Policy at the University of Kent. Her particular areas of interest are the control and allocation of money within the family, financial exclusion, domestic violence, family policy, health and social care, gender, social security and poverty.

Emma Wincup is Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Kent. Her areas of expertise are criminology and criminal justice policy, housing and homelessness, drug and alcohol use, and qualitative research. She is on the Editorial Board of the journal *Qualitative Research*.

Jane Dennett has worked as a researcher on a range of social policy topics, mainly within the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the University of Kent. She already has experience of working on the *Journal of Social Policy*, since she was the administrator at the time when Ken Judge was editor in the 1980s.

We hope that our wide range – in terms of interests, expertise and age – will help us to go on producing a journal which will appeal to a wide range of readers, both in the UK and internationally.

We should like to begin by thanking our predecessors, Professor Michael Hill, Dr Helen Jones and Pennie Bovell. The journal flourished under their editorship and we are very grateful to them for the smoothly running systems which they handed over to us. We should also like to thank Patrick McCartan, Kathy Stanford and Jeanette Gilbert at Cambridge University Press for all their help and support.

The new editorial team aims to maintain the current high standards of the journal and to develop some new directions. In particular, we hope to publish articles which will reflect the diversity of social policy, advance theoretical perspectives, illuminate current and future policy debates, and cover a range of national and international issues. We hope to have some special issues focusing on key policy debates, though the majority of numbers of the journal will continue to be broad in scope. We welcome articles with an international or comparative

focus, reports of original research using quantitative and/or qualitative methods and cutting edge reviews of particular areas of social policy.

We also hope to raise the profile of the journal, and of social policy more generally, by putting out press releases highlighting articles of a wider general interest. Much of social policy deals with issues which are regularly in the media, but 'social policy' as an academic discipline is not a familiar term to many of our potential students. We hope that at least some of our authors will be willing to make themselves available to respond to enquiries from journalists and others.

Our long-term aim is to make the *Journal of Social Policy*, both in its on-line and printed versions, a resource where academics and students, policy makers, practitioners and the media will look for an understanding of the key issues in the social policy debates of the day. We have more space for articles now that the *Social Policy Digest* has gone on-line at <http://uk.cambridge.org/journals/jsp>.

Finally, we should like to express our thanks to all those who write for the *Journal of Social Policy*, who referee articles, review books and contribute in many other ways. We are very aware that the high quality of the journal reflects your hard work, more than our editorial input. As new editors we welcome offers of articles for publication, proposals for special issues, and comments on possible future directions for the journal. We would also be delighted to hear from anyone who does not currently write for the journal or referee articles, but who would like to do so; similarly Angus Erskine, book review editor for the journal, would be pleased to hear from anyone who does not review books for the journal, but would like to do so in the future.

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