

Partnerships for Social Justice

Achieving equitable public services: two half day online workshops Understandings of Inequality - 24 June 2020

Social inequities are often reinforced by public service systems that can replicate discrimination and exclusion. Responses to the current COVID-19 crisis have highlighted historical injustices and differences in impact relating, for example, to age, gender, ethnicity, migrant status and disability. At the same time, the cross-sector response to the crisis highlights the potential of public services to be reconfigured at scale to make reducing inequity a mainstream and routine concern rather than a marginal issue.

We are holding two, half-day sessions to explore how public service policymakers and practitioners understand and work to challenge inequity, drawing on the diverse perspectives of participants from public service, voluntary sector and academic backgrounds. Workshop 1 is focused on *Understandings of Inequality* and Workshop 2 is focused on *Leadership for Equity*. Participants are welcome to attend both sessions.

Pre-conference contributions of policy and practice that relate to COVID-19 and inequalities are invited, as a lens through which to explore how public service responses can create or prevent inequalities for particular populations.

We will describe more general existing evidence in these two key areas that can potentially support positive change. We will also explore how research and existing good practice might support future service development:

Understandings of Inequality

- How should we define inequality and what competing understandings exist? What does inclusion in public services look like and how can change be measured?
- To what extent do public service practitioners and policymakers understand the complex interplay of social, institutional and individual factors that help maintain inequities?
- What examples from COVID-19 policy and practice illustrate current understanding?
- How can we generate shared understanding to support equitable practice and what prevents this?
- What are the priorities for future research in this area?

KEY SPEAKERS:

Understandings of Inequality: Wendy Bottero has recently published 'A Sense of Inequality', a book that explores - what shapes people's everyday understandings of inequality? How are understandings of inequality located in everyday concerns, moral values and principles of justice? What provokes everyday 'views' or framings of inequality.

Workshop 1: Understanding Inequalities 24 June 2020

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/13b0130963ff4fc69ea5084c6933fa4f>

Pre-conference: Please send us your examples of how public service policy and practice has created or reduced inequalities for particular population groups (in general or relating to COVID-19 responses)

10:00	Welcome Chair: Professor Sarah Salway University of Sheffield Introduction to the platform – Arkadiusz Zadka
10:05	Understandings of Inequality: what does the existing research tell us? Ghazala Mir and Morgan Campbell University of Leeds
10:20	Q & A plus chat feedback
10:30	Wendy Bottero: “ <i>Why do people so often put up with inequality - and how can it help us to understand why they sometimes don’t?</i> ” Q & A plus feedback (chat)
11:00	BREAK
11:10	BREAKOUT GROUPS <i>[with chat recorded] facilitators from each network to explore research questions and organisations interested in collaboration:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges and good practice - what works and what prevents implementation of good practice? Potential research questions • Priorities for service development – short, medium and longer term goals for service development in this area; potential research questions • Designing development research – what kinds of research design would support service development while modelling equitable practice? Examples of design eg implementation research; research into practice models • Research collaboration – which organisations would be interested in acting as sites for research in areas identified?
12:00	Recommendations, feedback, from facilitators for each group and next steps
12.30	Finish

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