BREADLINE EUROPE

The measurement of poverty

Edited by David Gordon and Peter Townsend
## Contents

Acknowledgements \hspace{1cm} v

Notes on contributors \hspace{1cm} vi

one \hspace{1cm} Introduction: the measurement of poverty in Europe \hspace{1cm} 1
   Peter Townsend and David Gordon

Part I: Resolving poverty: the need for a scientific consensus on concept and measurement

two \hspace{1cm} The international build up: poverty and the spirit of the time \hspace{1cm} 25
   Jacques Baudot

three \hspace{1cm} Reducing poverty: the implications of the 1995 Copenhagen Agreement for research on poverty \hspace{1cm} 35
   John Langmore

four \hspace{1cm} Measuring absolute and overall poverty \hspace{1cm} 49
   David Gordon

five \hspace{1cm} Absolute and overall poverty: a European history and proposal for measurement \hspace{1cm} 79
   David Gordon, Christina Pantazis and Peter Townsend

six \hspace{1cm} Women and poverty: a new research methodology \hspace{1cm} 107
   Elisabetta Ruspini

seven \hspace{1cm} Horses for discourses: poverty, purpose and closure in minimum income standards policy \hspace{1cm} 141
   John Veit-Wilson

eight \hspace{1cm} Poverty, inequality and health \hspace{1cm} 165
   Björn Halleröd

Part II: European analysis of poverty and social exclusion

nine \hspace{1cm} Poverty in Finland and Europe \hspace{1cm} 191
   Markku Lindqvist

ten \hspace{1cm} Poverty and affluence in Ireland: a comparison of income and deprivation approaches to the measurement of poverty \hspace{1cm} 203
   Richard Layte, Brian Nolan and Christopher Whelan
eleven  Child poverty in comparative perspective 223
    Jonathan Bradshaw

twelve  Poverty and the poor in Central and Eastern Europe 251
    Ludmila Dziewiecka-Bokun

thirteen  Poverty in Hungary and in Central and Eastern Europe 267
    Zsuzsa Ferge

fourteen  Measurement and definitions of poverty in Russia 307
    Simon Clarke

fifteen  What is social exclusion? 357
    Ruth Levitas

sixteen  Social exclusion: concepts and evidence 385
    Tania Burchardt

seventeen  Trajectories of social exclusion: the wider context for 407
    the third and first worlds
    Graham Room

eighteen  Conclusion 441
    Peter Townsend and David Gordon

Index 453
Acknowledgements

The chapters in this book were all developed from papers presented at six Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded conferences in Bristol, Budapest and London, between 1998 and 2000. We would like to thank the large number of people who helped organise and run these conferences. In particular Helen Anderson, Doreen Bailey, Claire Biddlecombe, Sally Burrell, Danny Dorling, Eldin Fahmy, Katherine Green, Pauline Heslop, Richard Hodder Williams, Pat Sage, George Davey Smith, Christina Pantazis, Demi Patsios, Mary Shaw and Gamini Wedande who all helped to make the conferences run so smoothly. We would also like to thank all our colleagues in the Centre for International Poverty Research in Bristol and Professor Jonathan Bradshaw from the University of York for all their help with the conferences in Bristol.

We would also like to thank Tom Bigg and Jane Seymore of the United Nations Environment and Development – UK Committee (UNED-UK), Hilary Bleadon and Ray Thomas of the Royal Statistical Society and Andrew Cawdell and Ian Forbes of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences for helping to organise the joint conferences with these organisations. We would also like to thank Robert Kis of the Alliance of Social Professionals in Hungary, and Zsuzsa Ferge and Katalin Tausz of the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Eotvos University, Budapest, for their help and hospitality.

We would also like to thank the staff at United Nations Division for Social Policy for their encouragement and support.

Finally, we would like to thank our long-suffering editors at The Policy Press, Dawn Rushen and Karen Bowler, for all their help and efforts with this publication.

We acknowledge the financial support of ESRC Seminar Series grant R45126470397 on Developing Poverty Measures and the Soros Foundation in Budapest.
Notes on contributors

Jacques Baudot is Head of the UN Secretariat and Coordinator of the 1995 World Summit on Social Development. His current interest is the follow-up of this UN Summit, including the Copenhagen Seminars for Social Progress and an International Symposium for Social Development to be located in Geneva.

Jonathan Bradshaw is Professor of Social Policy at the University of York. He is Associate Director of the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York. His recent research includes a national study on non-resident fathers, comparative research on the employment of lone parents, poverty and social exclusion in Britain and a study of the outcomes of child poverty. His chapter in this collection is based on work undertaken as part of the latter which was a project in the ESRC Programme of Research on Children 5–16. He is also president of the Foundation for International Studies in Social Security.

Tania Burchardt is a Research Fellow at the ESRC Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is currently working on a project about the relationship between benefits and employment for disabled people; more broadly her research interests include definitions and measurement of social exclusion, and changing patterns of public and private welfare provision. Recent publications include *Enduring economic exclusion: Disabled people, income and work* (York Publishing Services, 2000), and ‘The dynamics of being disabled’, *Journal of Social Policy*, 2000, no 4.

Simon Clarke is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Russian Research Programme in the Centre for Comparative Labour Studies at the University of Warwick, and is Scientific Director of the Institute for Comparative Labour Relations Research (ISITO) in Moscow. He has conducted extensive research in Russia on the social impact of the ‘transition to a market economy’, and particularly on labour and employment.

Ludmila Dziewiecka-Bokun is Professor of Sociology at the Wroclaw University, Poland. Her research interests include theory of the welfare
state, comparative studies of social policy in modern societies, and analyses of poverty and social exclusion phenomena in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Zsuzsa Ferge** is Professor of Sociology at ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary. She is founder of the first postwar school of social policy in Hungary and is a member of the European Academy and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Her main research interests are social stratification, the structuring and reproduction of social inequalities, poverty, social and societal policy and, more particularly, the interrelation between state formation, social policy and the civilisation process.

**David Gordon** is the Head of the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Social Justice and also the Director of the Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research, University of Bristol. He combined his background in biology and geology with anti-poverty policy while helping to find safe public water supplies in the South Pacific. He has researched and published in the fields of the scientific measurement of poverty, crime and poverty, childhood disability, area-based anti-poverty measures, the casual effects of poverty on ill-health, housing policy and rural poverty.

**Björn Halleröd** is Professor in Sociology at the Umeå University, Sweden. He has also been a visiting scholar at the Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia. His research interests are the distribution of economic resources, living conditions and poverty. He is presently engaged in research on poverty in Sweden and other European countries, intra-household distribution of resources, and inequality and health.

**John Langmore** began work as Director of the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economics and Social Affairs in the United Nations Secretariat in January 1997. He has published extensively on many issues in the areas of national and international economic and social policy, international peace and security and the environment.

**Richard Layte** is a Research Officer at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) whose main interest is in the economic sociology of labour markets and their impact on individual and household experience of poverty and deprivation.

Markku Lindqvist is a Senior Researcher at Statistics Finland. His main research interests are household income distribution, private household consumption and public consumption households, and poverty and social exclusion. He worked for Eurostat in the late 1990s and has been a member of several Eurostat expert groups concerning household budget surveys, poverty and social exclusion.

Brian Nolan is a Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). He has published extensively in the areas of poverty, income inequality, tax and social welfare policy, and the labour market. He is currently working on a programme of research on poverty and income inequality based on the European Community Household Panel Survey, and on a number of collaborative cross-country research projects on low pay, earnings inequality and unemployment.

Christina Pantazis is a member of the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Social Justice at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol. Her interests lie in the areas of crime and poverty, inequality and social exclusion, and also crime, criminalisation and social harm. She has co-edited (with David Gordon) Breadline Britain in the 1990s (Avebury, 1997) and Tackling inequalities: Where are we now and what can be done? (The Policy Press, 2000). She is co-editor of Radical Statistics, the journal of the Radical Statistics Group.

Graham Room has been Professor of Economic and Social Policy at the University of Bath since 1992. He has acted as consultant to the European Commission on the development of its programmes in the field of poverty and social exclusion. He was special adviser to the UK House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities in 1994 and founding editor of the Journal of European Social Policy.

Elisabetta Ruspini is Professor of Sociology of the Family at the University of Padova. Her research interests include gender issues, comparative welfare research, social and family policies, poverty and the
study of living conditions. She has published a number of articles and contributed papers to national and international conferences in the fields of longitudinal research and research on poverty.

**Peter Townsend** is Professor of International Social Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of Bristol. Since 1995 he has published reports on poverty, unemployment and health on behalf of the UN, UNDP, the EU, UNRISD and the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Currently he is working with UNICEF on child poverty, and with the Welsh Assembly on a review of the allocation of NHS resources.

**John Veit-Wilson** is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy of the University of Northumbria and Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. His research interests are in concepts and measures of needs, poverty and deprivation, and in the ways in which these ideas and minimum income standards are used in government policy making in the UK and other countries.

**Christopher Whelan** is a Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). He is an associate editor of the *European Sociological Review* and has published on a variety of topics in sociology and social policy journals. He is currently involved in a research programme related to the Irish National Poverty Strategy and an EU Fifth Framework project focusing on the dynamics of social change in Europe.