

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS: ILLUMINATING WELFARE

By Stephen Sinclair

Bristol: Policy Press, 2016. ISBN: 9781447313922; £19.99 (pbk).

As this textbook's author notes, "Given its significance and ubiquity, it is perhaps surprising that Social Policy—the discipline that is devoted to studying social problems and welfare policies—is not familiar to many people" (p. 3). Social Policy lecturers often express regret that our subject does not enjoy the popularity we think it deserves, and we are always on the lookout for material that fosters wider interest in the subject. This book promises to "illuminate" welfare; its stated aim is to "... introduce readers to Social Policy analysis and to help them think coherently about social problems and how societies collectively respond to them" (p. 1). Whilst students and teachers will clearly have to look elsewhere if they require the more standard Social Policy introduction (containing a chapter on social security, one on health etc.), Sinclair's book, by providing students new to Social Policy with some key tools of analysis, makes a unique contribution.

The introductory chapter provides the most accessible and non-confusing discussion about "what is Social Policy?" I have seen; the chapter then helpfully divides Social Policy analysis into four dimensions—empirical, distributional, critical and ethical. Each subsequent chapter title poses a question which is then understood and answered via the application of relevant theories and concepts. Chapter Two ("What is a social problem?") centres on a key message of many introductory undergraduate Social Policy courses—that what one regards as a social "problem" reflects one's ideological perspective. Chapter Three ("Who benefits from welfare?") revisits Richard Titmuss' landmark "social division of welfare"; after noting Titmuss' success at drawing attention to middle class men's tax reliefs and company cars, it reports more recent contributions, including feminists' insights about women's unpaid caring work. After Chapter Four ("Who is a member of society?") covers expected territory on social exclusion, Chapter Five ("How does inequality persist?") discusses the distribution of income and wealth, which is dramatically more unequal in Britain now than it was in the period from the advent of the Beveridgean Welfare State in the 1940s to the late 1970s. Sinclair's discussion of this inequality is trademarked by an emphasis on "social closure," whereby dominant groups in society restrict access to resources.

Chapter Six, entitled "Why are people so mistaken about welfare? Myth," brings me to Sinclair's political stance. In it, he lists five widely held "opinions" which, he insists, are really "misconceptions" (p. 123) that are debunked in this and his other chapters. I more-or-less agree with one of the five ("Social welfare gives too much to the undeserving, is a disincentive to employment and many claimants defraud the system") yet Sinclair affords little space to persuading sceptical readers like me to change our minds. Instead, much of Chapter Six is devoted to explaining why we and the general public are so misguided; unsurprisingly, the right-wing press is mentioned, as are what he calls "comforting

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# How To Write A Social Policy Paper

**Daniël Janssen, Rob Neutelings**



## How To Write A Social Policy Paper:

**The Columbia Guide to Social Work Writing** Warren J. Green, Barbara Levy Simon, 2012 Social work practitioners write for a variety of publications and they are expected to show fluency in a number of related fields Whether the target is a course instructor scholarly journal fellowship organization or general news outlet social workers must be clear persuasive and comprehensive in their writing especially on provocative subjects This first of its kind guide features top scholars and educators providing a much needed introduction to social work writing and scholarship Foregrounding the process of social work writing the coeditors particularly emphasize how to think about and approach one's subject in a productive manner The guide begins with an overview of social work writing from the 1880s to the present and then follows with ideal strategies for academic paper writing social work journal writing and social work research writing A section on applied professional writing addresses student composition in field education writing for and about clinical practice the effective communication of policy information to diverse audiences program and proposal development advocacy and administrative writing The concluding section focuses on specific fields of practice including writing on child and family welfare contemporary social issues aging and intervention in global contexts Grounding their essays in systematic observations induction and deduction and a wealth of real world examples the contributors describe the conceptualization development and presentation of social work writing in ways that better secure its power and relevance Social Work and the Making of Social Policy Klammer, Ute, Leiber, Simone, 2020-12-16 Bringing together international case studies this book offers theoretical and empirical insights into the interaction between social work and social policy Moving beyond existing studies on policy practice the book employs the policy cycle as a core analytical frame and focuses on the influence of social workers in the problem definition agenda setting policy formulation and implementation of social policy Twenty three contributors offer examples of policy making from seven different countries and demonstrate how social work practitioners can become political actors while also encouraging policy makers to become aware of the potential of social work for the social policy making process

*Handbook for Social Work Writing* Susan E. Mason, Wendy Zeitlin, 2024-03-28 This concise accessible and engaging handbook offers a companion for social work students to acquire professional and competency based writing skills Written by experienced educators the book builds writing proficiency by introducing a social work based guide to academic writing and professional communication Each chapter addresses a specific area of social work writing and development progressing from coursework and beginning fieldwork to practice based assessments and reports The authors integrate a series of scaffolded activities throughout for readers to cultivate awareness and further technique and with sections explaining contemporary communication methods and common writing challenges readers will be prepared to use technology both to strengthen their writing and to ease the overall process Excellent for use in courses across the social work curriculum and as a personal guide the Handbook for Social Work Writing provides students with on the spot guidance for any type of academic or professional

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universality in relation to specific social programs the field of social policy and the modern welfare state The book argues that while universality is a core value undergirding certain areas of state intervention most notably health care and education the contributory principle of social insurance and the selectivity principle of income assistance are also highly significant precepts in practice     Social Policy and Social Work: An Introduction Jo Cunningham, Steve Cunningham, 2012-01-26 An understanding of social policy is crucial for social workers as it underpins and shapes the legislative framework that they work within From safeguarding service users and enabling them to improve their lives to protecting the most vulnerable in society social policy also has a vital role to play within social work education It is important therefore for students to engage critically with social policy This book introduces policy and shows how it has changed and evolved over time how it reflects changes in society and how it is applied to everyday practice     **Writing Skills for Social Workers** Karen Healy, Joan Mulholland, 2012-03-05 Social workers are required to communicate in writing for a range of purposes and to write effectively for a range of audiences This new edition of the best selling Writing Skills for Social Workers aims to raise the profile of writing skills in social work practice It encourages the development of writing techniques which will stand the reader in good stead throughout their professional career Examples of the types of writing covered include Case notes Reports Proposals Literature reviews Journal articles Funding applications

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