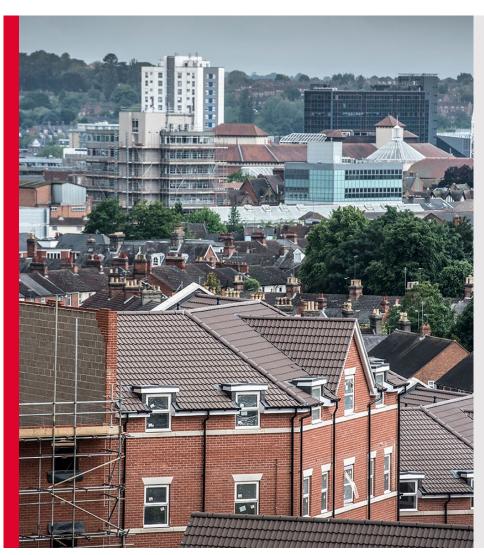# The research heritage across MiSoC's prestigious expertise

How our experts made a difference throughout 30 years of research innovation

MiSoC's research leaders have had considerable impact on policy-making and practice across three decades, including two ground-breaking new approaches to social science which have had unparalleled lasting impact.

1 Measuring social class

Back in 1994, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, now part of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), commissioned the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to undertake a review of government social classifications.

This work was led by ISER's Professor David Rose with Professor David Pevalin and Professor Karen O'Reilly. The National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) was constructed to measure the employment relations and conditions of occupations and has become the Government's official measure of social class.

Since 2001, the NS-SEC has been available for use in all official statistics and surveys. More recently, as a result of an EU Sixth Framework Programme project co-ordinated by the Office of National Statistics, a similar classification to NS-SEC has been produced for comparative European research, the European Socio-Economic Classification.
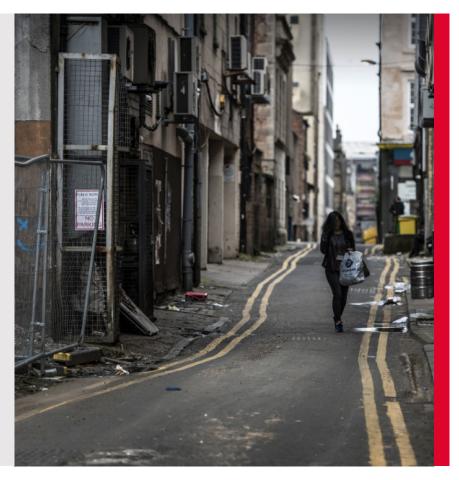
2 Measuring poverty

As a result of MiSoC's research, a measure of persistent poverty was one of the four statutory measures of child poverty named in the Child Poverty Act 2010, against which future governments have to report progress.

In 2011, Professor Stephen Jenkins published *Changing Fortunes: Income Mobility and Poverty Dynamics in Britain*, the culmination of a sustained body of research carried out in ISER over a period of many years. This work demonstrates the importance of taking a longitudinal view of poverty and inequality – looking at how individuals' incomes change over time, and how these changes relate to changes in family structure, employment and the tax-benefit system. These methods have provided the template for the way in which poverty dynamics are summarised in the UK's income statistics: the Low-Income Dynamics supplements to the *Households Below Average Income* publication, a crucial source for policy making, using data from our panel studies.

3 Some of our past research leaders at MiSoC

Our past research leaders include these world-leading experts:

Professor Mike Brewer – previous MiSoC Director and now Chief Economist at the Resolution Foundation. He is an expert on Universal Credit reforms and understanding child poverty in the UK

Professor Stephen P Jenkins – President, Society for the Analysis of Economic Inequality, Professor of Economics and Social Policy, LSE, world-renowned expert on child poverty

Professor Lucinda Platt, Professor of Social Policy and Sociology, LSE. She is an expert on child poverty and ethnic inequalities

Professor John Ermisch is Emeritus Professor of family demography at the University of Oxford, a senior research fellow at Nuffield College, a Fellow of the British Academy (since 1995) and an associate of the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science. His research is concerned with the structure and dynamics of families and their interaction with wider society

Professor Jonathan Gershuny CBE FBA, Professor of Economic Sociology in the Social Research Institute, UCL, and Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Oxford. He is the Director of the ESRC Centre for Time Use Research (2014-2024) and Fellow of the British Academy since 2002

Professor David Voas, Professor of Social Science and Head of the Department of Social Science at the UCL Institute of Education. He is a leading scholar on religious change and value change in modern societies, the intergenerational transmission of religion and values, and attitudes of and towards ethno-religious minorities

Professor Steve Pudney, previous MiSoC Director and now Professor of Health Econometrics at the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield and expert on health and disabilities, poverty and the welfare state

Professor David Rose, MiSoC's founder and Emeritus Professor at the University of Essex, lead researcher on the construction of the new National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification in 1994

Professor David Pevalin, Honorary Professor at the University of Essex and Principal Investigator on a multi-phase project to rebase the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification for the 2021 Census funded by the Office for National Statistics