

Some Useful Sources on Equality and Inequality

Grace Kelly

School of Sociology and Social Policy, Queens University Belfast

Contributors to this themed section of *Social Policy and Society* have referred to a range of published sources within the sphere of equality studies research. The sources below provide additional useful information for those interested in further research on equality and inequality

Published books and papers

Breitenbach, E., Brown, A., Mackay, S. and Webb, J. (2002), *The Changing Politics of Gender Equality in Britain*, Hampshire: Palgrave. Provides an account of the development of gender equality policies and practices, together with a review of the changing politics of gender equality.

Rees, T. (1998), *Mainstreaming Equality in the European Union*, London: Routledge. Details the development of the EU's equal opportunities agenda from equal treatment through to mainstreaming in respect of employment and training measures.

McLaughlin, E. (2003) 'Equality and equity policy', in M. Hawkesworth and M. Kogan (eds), *The Encyclopedia of World Government and Politics*, 2nd edn, Vol. I, London: Routledge, pp. 711–23. Provides a review of the terrain of what may be termed equality policy and introduces the concept of a country's 'equality regime'.

Hawkesworth, M. and Kogan, M. (eds) (2003), *The Encyclopedia of World Government and Politics*, 2nd edn, Vol. I, London: Routledge. Is a substantial collection of state of the art essays on many equality relevant topics such as ethnic policy, health policy and so on, as well as essays on the institutions and processes of national and international governance.

A three-volume book series published by The Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights in 1996. The committee has since been replaced by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The three Employment Equality volumes are:

Vol. I: Fair Employment Law in Northern Ireland: Debates and Issues, D. Magill and S. Rose (eds)

Vol. II: Policy Aspects of Employment Equality in Northern Ireland, E. McLaughlin and P. Quirk (eds)

Vol. III: Public Views and Experiences of Fair Employment and Equality Issues in Northern Ireland, J. McVey and N. Hutson (eds)

Reports

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (2006), *Awareness of Equality Issues Amongst the General Public in Northern Ireland*, Belfast: The Northern Ireland Equality

Commission. Provides a breakdown of public attitudes on equality issues, awareness of and support for equality legislation.

Mackay, F. and Bilton, K. (2003), *Learning From Experience: Lessons in Mainstreaming Equal Opportunities*, Edinburgh: Scottish Executive. Is a comparative study on developments of mainstreaming practices in the 1990s at various government levels.

Breitenbach, E. and Galligan, Y. (2004), 'Gender equality indicators for Northern Ireland', www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk, Provides an overview of patterns of gender inequality in Northern Ireland across a range of policy areas, in some cases making comparison with UK and Southern Ireland. Recommendations are made with regard to the development of gender equality indicators for Northern Ireland.

McLaughlin, E. and Faris, N. (2004) *The Statutory Equality Duty, Section 75 – 'Report of the Independent Element of the Operational Review'*, www.nio.gov.uk Has been important in setting the agenda for the ongoing effectiveness review of the duty.

McLaughlin, E. and Monteith, M. (2006), 'Child and Family Poverty in Northern Ireland'. Uses a number of data sets and multiple poverty measures to document the extent and composition of child poverty in Northern Ireland. The full report can be accessed from www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk

McLaughlin, E., McCay, N. and Trewsdale, J. (1997–2000), *The Money Matters Series*, Belfast: Equal Opportunities Commission. This series contains four reports published between 1997 and 2000 on various aspects of gender inequality, fiscal policy and women's incomes. The series was produced for the Equal Opportunities Commission in Belfast, which has since been merged into the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

Working papers

Bennet, F. (2005), 'Gender and Benefits, Working Paper Series No 30', Equal Opportunities Commission. Examines social security benefits/tax credits in the UK and discusses ways in which they may reinforce inequalities between women and men.

Various authors (2004, 2005, 2006), nearly 30 Working and Conference Papers are available on equality and inequality at www.qub.ac.uk/hea.

Web sites

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland www.equalityni.org is an independent public body with a wide range of powers and responsibilities, including assisting and promoting the effective implementation of the statutory equality duties. A complete publications list is available from their website. The Commission replaced the former NI EOC and FEC.

A five-year review of their own equality schemes has been carried out by public authorities in Northern Ireland in order to evaluate their effectiveness in meeting the requirements of the statutory equality duties. Each authority has made their review public. One example is Department for Regional Development five-year review http://www.drdni.gov.uk/DRDwww_EquityAgenda. Other Northern Ireland government department websites can be accessed directly at www.nics.gov.uk

The Equality Research and Information branch of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency <http://www.equality.nisra.gov.uk/> provides information in relation to equality within the Northern Ireland public sector. The site provides a number of datasets specific to Section 75 categories and policy areas together with related publications. A series of relevant links is also provided.

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's Research Branch website www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk makes available a range of research reports in the area of Equality, Social Need and Community Relations.

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission website www.nihrc.org provides access and links to international and national Human Rights information and activities.

Democratic Dialogue is a think-tank based in Belfast with links across Ireland, Britain and further afield. Reports, discussion papers and briefing papers on a range of social and economic issues are available from their website www.democraticdialogue.org

The General Consumer Council Northern Ireland undertakes research and analysis of issues concerning the general public, a good example of which is their analysis of recent introduction of water charges in Northern Ireland <http://www.gccni.org.uk/water/>

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions www.eurofound.eu.int/index.htm provides data and analysis in relation to EU policies on working and living conditions. It is currently looking at the opportunities and challenges facing an enlarged EU. Research results are published in most cases free of charge. In certain cases access to internal documents may be requested.

A number of datasets and surveys contain attitudinal data on equality and social justice, while others contain outcomes data such as household income.

The International Social Survey Programme www.issp.org is an annual programme of cross-national collaboration on surveys covering attitudes and various social issues. Special topics have included social inequality, social support, and family and gender issues.

The World Values Survey www.worldvaluessurvey.org covers a similar set of topics.

The European Social Survey www.europeansocialsurvey.org began in 2001 and is funded by the European Commission, the European Science Foundation and 26 national Research Councils. The twin aims are to monitor changes in a wide range of social variables, including social exclusion, well-being and health in the context of a changing Europe. The survey also tries to raise the standards of quantitative social measurement. The website contains a list of publications using ESS data www.europa.eu.int/comm/publicopinion

The Luxembourg Income Study www.lisproject.org is a widely used dataset for comparative analyses of material well-being across Europe.

Walter Korpi and Joachim Palme have created a Social Rights database across Europe. The database and can be found at www.sofi.su.se/omsofi/review

A large number of public and civil society bodies offer links and information, which may be of use. These include:

The Equality Authority, Dublin www.equality.ie

CAJ www.caj.org.uk

The Children's Law Centre www.childrenslawcentre.org

The National Economic and Social Council www.nesc.ie

The National Economic and Social Forum www.nesf.ie

The Equality Studies Centre, Dublin www.ucd.ie/esc/

www.statistics.gov.uk

www.scottishparliament.uk

www.scotland.gov.uk

www.wales.gov.uk/assembly/data

www.eoc.org.uk/EOCeng/EOCCSS/AboutAbsoluteDuty.fr.pdf