

Some Useful Sources

Fran Bennett* and Jane Lewis**

*Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford
E-mail: fran.bennett@socres.ox.ac.uk

**Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford
E-mail: jane.lewis@socres.ox.ac.uk

1 Key reading

There are no 'key texts' for this particular issue. Readers wishing to understand the way in which the concept of individualisation has been used sociologically should look at the works of Ulrich Beck and Elizabeth Beck-Gernsheim:

Beck, U. (1986), *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*, London: Sage.

Beck-Gernsheim, E. (1999), 'On the way to a post-familial family: from a community of need to elective affinities', *Theory, Culture and Society*, 15, 34, 53–70.

On gender and individualisation, and a discussion of the problems and possibilities of an adult worker model family in particular, see:

Lewis, J. (2001), 'The decline of the male breadwinner model: implications for work and care', *Social Politics*, 8, 2, 152–169.

Lewis, J. (2003), 'Gender and welfare state change', *European Societies*, 4, 4, 331–357.

Lister, R. (2003), *Citizenship Feminist Perspectives*, Basingstoke: Macmillan, 2nd edn.

2 Some useful sources on gender and individualisation: tax and benefits unit

Commission on Social Justice (1994), *Social Justice: Strategies for National Renewal*, London: Vintage.

Report of the Commission on Social Justice, which sets out proposals to move towards greater emphasis on non-means-tested, and hence individualised, benefits.

Duncan, A., Giles, C. and Webb, S. (1994), *Social Security Reform and Women's Independent Incomes*, Manchester: Equal Opportunities Commission; and

Esam, P. and Berthoud, R. (1991), *Independent Benefits for Men and Women*, London: Policy Studies Institute.

Use tax and benefits modelling to assess the impact of various possible reforms to the benefits system to make it more individualised.

Lister, R. (1992), *Women's Economic Dependency and Social Security*, Manchester: Equal Opportunities Commission.

Argues that individualisation has different implications in different parts of the benefits system, and that improving women's access to an independent benefit income may undermine their access to an independent income from paid employment.

McLaughlin, E., Yeates, N. and Kelly, G. (2002), *Social Protection and Units of Assessment*, London: Trades Union Congress.

Recent examination commissioned by the TUC of issues relating to the unit of assessment for benefits (including means-tested and non-means-tested) and taxation.

Roll, J. (1991), *What is a Family? Benefit Models and Social Realities*, London: Family Policy Studies Centre.

Clear discussion of the benefit unit and its relation to reality, in terms of the sharing of resources and assumptions made about this in analysis and policy development.