

Putting the show on the road

FUSE seminar September 8 2015

Professor Helen Roberts

UCL Institute of Child Health

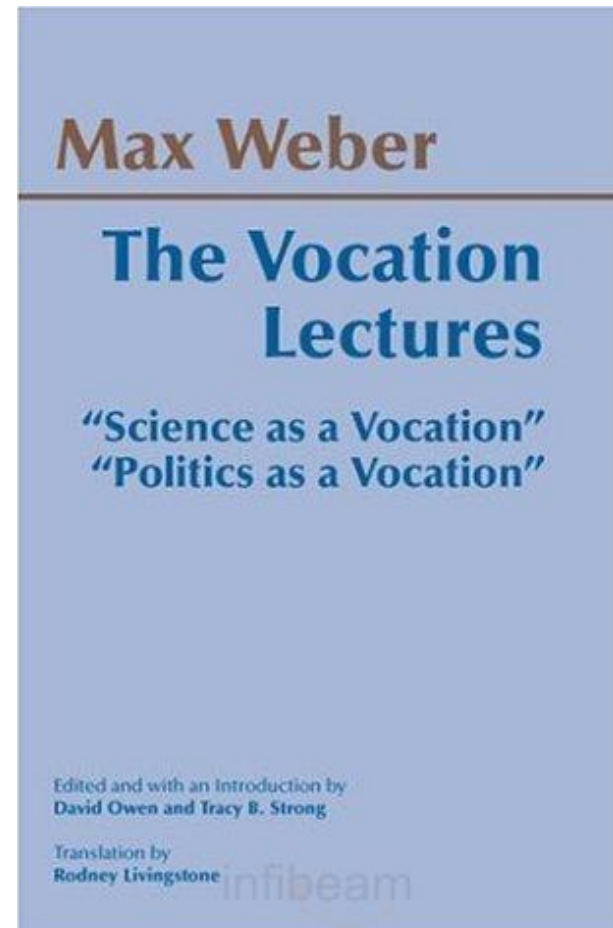
Max Weber: Economy and Society

In the field of scientific research...the bureaucratization of research institutes is also a function of the increasing demand for material means of operation. ...The mass of researchers and instructors are separated from their 'means of production' in the same way as the workers are separated from theirs. (p938)

Academics and politics/policy people bring different things to the table

Science as a vocation is a commitment to evidence.

Politics as a vocation commits you to responsibility where the pursuit of good ends may take precedence.



Everything is data, but data isn't everything ...



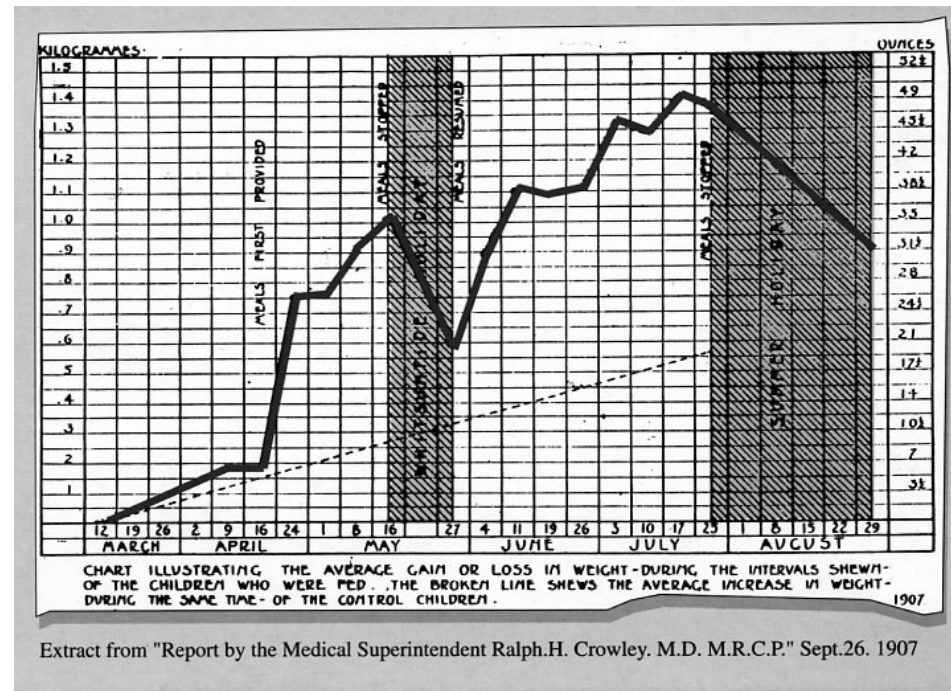
“The first lesson that you must learn is that, when I call for statistics about the rate of infant mortality, what I want is proof that fewer babies died when I was prime minister than when anyone else was prime minister. That is a political statistic.”

Winston Churchill (1945) to Iain Macleod cited in *The Life of Politics* (1968), Henry Fairlie, Methuen, pp. 203-204

School meal experiment - Bradford

In April 1907 Dr Ralph Crowley, School medical Officer was granted £50 from the Lord Mayor of Bradford to cover the costs of an experiment and selected 109 underfed children.

40 were given breakfast and dinner during the school week. They were weighed each week, and the record was contrasted with the 69 children also weighed weekly but not fed at school. None of the children were fed in the holidays. There was drop in weight during the Whit holiday and at the close of the experiment. The same year, the Green Lanes kitchens were set up to provide school meals.

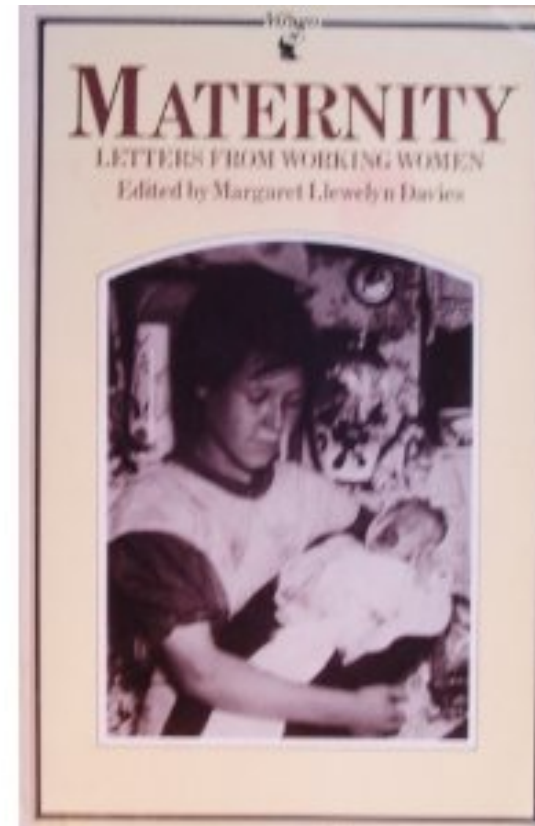


Extract from "Report by the Medical Superintendent Ralph.H. Crowley. M.D. M.R.C.P." Sept.26. 1907

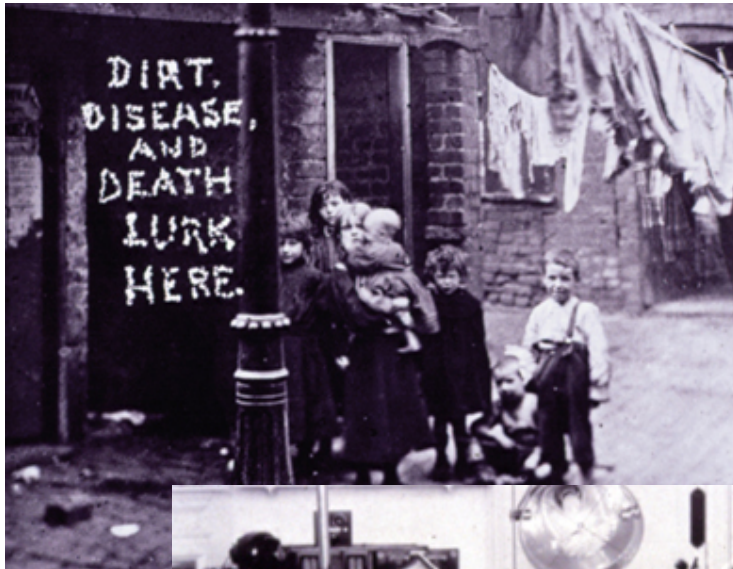
Green Lane Primary School Bradford

Maternity- letters from working women, Ed Margaret Llewellyn Davies, London, Virago, 1977 (First published in 1915)

160 letters written by members of the Women's Co-operative Guild sent in 1914 in response to an appeal from the General Secretary Miss Davies for direct experiences of childbirth and childrearing to be used in campaigning for reforms to set up child and maternity centres.

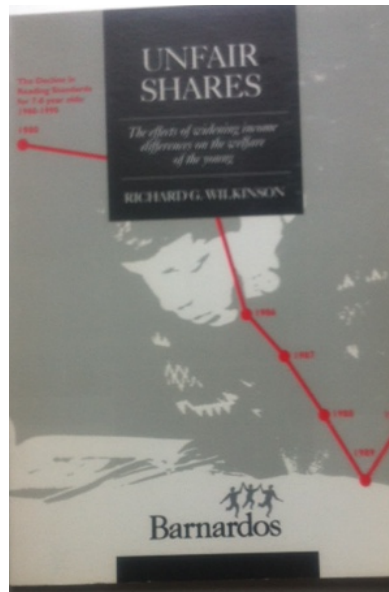


Pictures and stories: Barnardo's



More then and now

Richard Wilkinson's Unfair Shares 1994



The then secretary of state for health, Virginia Bottomley wrote to the senior director to say how disappointed she was that we had published this.

The PM endorses Wilkinson and Pickett's *Spirit Level*

“Ask anyone of any political colour the kind of country they want to see and they'll say a Britain that is richer, that is safer.. s greener... fairer and where opportunity is more equal... Research by Richard Wilkinson and Katie Pickett has shown that among the richest countries, it's the more unequal ones that do worse according to almost every quality of life indicator.... So the best indicator of a country's rank on these measures of general well-being is not the difference in wealth between them, but the difference in wealth within them”.

http://www.conservatives.com/News/Speeches/2009/11/David_Cameron_The_Big_Society.aspx

Safety as a social value

- How do the children in hostile environments make it do adulthood ?
- What strategies do they use to keep themselves safe, and what strategies do their parents use ?
- Why do we remove children from dangerous families, but tolerate dangerous places ?





Corkerhill Glasgow in the 1990s

Roberts H Smith S and Bryce C (1995) *Children at Risk Safety as a Social Value*, Open University Press. Interview with group of professionals (p.75)

“ so we have to educate them [parents] to see that the home is about the most unsafe place you can be.. The idea of trying to supply a house with all these things is fine, but it’s trying to encourage people to use them. .. You’re trying to encourage people to change what they do in a home.’

Accidents happen to children who are...

- overprotected – they will be nervous and unsure and therefore unsafe – or they may rebel
- under protected – they will be unaware of the dangers
- not supervised
- angry



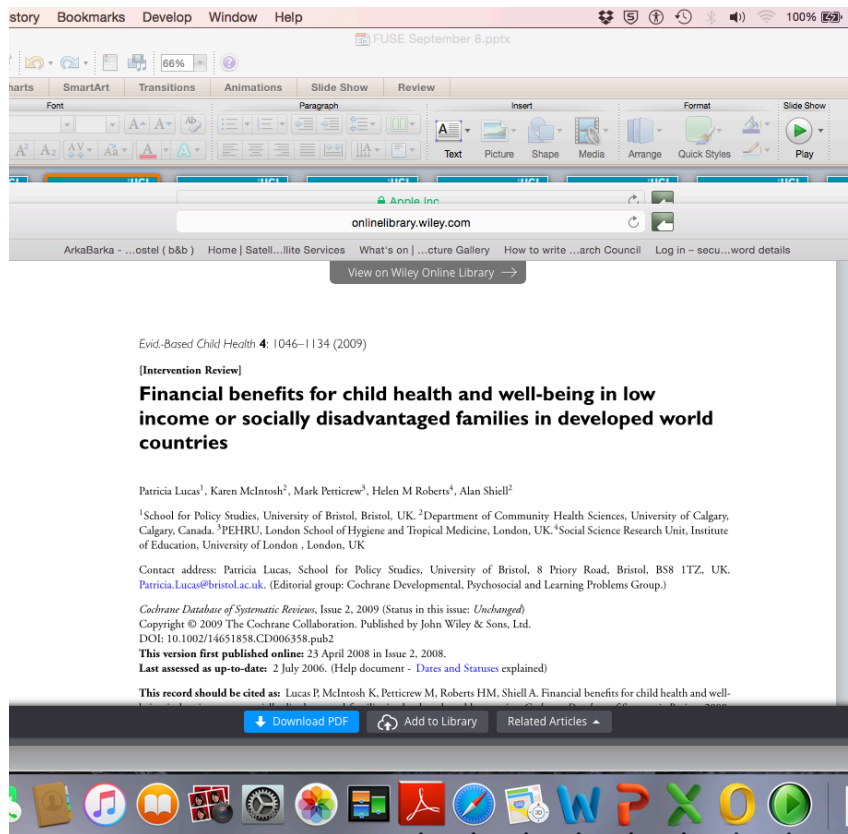
Reduce the risk by...

- Setting a good example (especially when crossing the road)
- Making sure home and garden are as safe as possible
- Never leaving them alone



Does money work ?

Cochrane review



JRF study 2013

The impact of increases in income on cognitive development appears roughly comparable with spending similar amounts on school or early education programmes. Increasing household income could substantially reduce differences in schooling outcomes, while also improving wider aspects of childrens' well-being.

K.Cooper and K Stewart (2013) Does money affect children's outcomes. JRF York

Closing the gap 2008

- Reducing health inequities is, for the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, an ethical imperative. Social injustice is killing people on a grand scale .

www.who.int/social_determinants



Tabloid 'solutions' – ideas with strong face validity

- Licences for smokers
- Separate queues in the supermarket for alcohol
- Letters to parents of fat kids
- Exercise hours for large firms



Greek traffic management

- Attempts to reduce traffic
- Odd and even numbered number plates on different days
- Tax breaks for greener cars
- The consequences of interventions with strong face validity aren't always what the experts think they might be



Daytime takeaway food sales could be banned near Salford schools

29 May 2013 Last updated at 11:42



The new plan would ban the sale of hot food within 400m (1,300ft) of a school

Takeaways near schools in Salford could

Changing the food, housing and transport networks ...(easier said than done...)

‘The difference between highly walk-able and non-walk-able communities is an average of about 7 pounds in body weight.’

Richard Jackson, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children Annual General Meeting Lecture, 2006

Losing one glove is certainly painful,
but nothing compared to the pain of losing one,
throwing away the other
and finding the first one again.

Piet Hein

