W2 Tutorial

Evidence, Economy, and Social Policy (2025-2026)

https://github.com/RhodaJiang/Evidence-Economy-and-Social-Policy-2025-2026-SEM2-

✉ ljiang3@ed.ac.uk

Icebreaker Activity: Name & Favourite Thing (8-10min)

- The first person says their name and one thing they like.
- The second person repeats the first person's name and their favourite thing, then adds their own name and favourite.
- The third person repeats the second person's name and favourite thing, then adds their own.
- Continue this pattern, with each person repeating the previous person's name and favourite thing, then adding their own.

Recap (10min)

Any open questions from lectures?

- What did you learn?
  - Lecture 1 - Evidence, Economy, and Social Policy: an introduction to the course
  - Lecture 2 - "Left" vs "Right" social policy? Why economic analyses are much more complex
- What points stood out?

Activity (20-25min)

Discussion questions:

- To what extent do you agree with Mirowski's argument that a neoliberal state is one that uses strong actions to shape the economy?

- To what extent do you think economic policy-making is based on evidence?

- What types of evidence do you think are most influential in economic policy debates and what are the consequences of that?

- For question 3, it might be useful to think of a current or recent example from the news to illustrate your argument.

Wrap-up

- (Lukas) Your job in this course: make claims precise, interrogate evidence, and argue transparently.

- Understanding "*capitalism*" and "*neoliberalism*"