

# Mary Reader

October 2022

STICERD  
London School of Economics  
Houghton Street  
London  
WC2A 2AE

<https://maryreader.com>  
[m.reader@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.reader@lse.ac.uk)  
(+44) 7720 608375

## Education

2017 – 2019 Master of Public Administration, London School of Economics, *Distinction*.

2013 – 2016 B.A. Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of Oxford, *First Class*.

## Research experience

2022 – Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant, LSE-Gates Hub for Equal Representation in the Economy, London School of Economics

2020 – 2022 Research Officer, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics

2019 – 2020 Research Assistant, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics

2020 – 2021 Senior Researcher, Education Policy Institute

2016 – 2019 Researcher, Rachel Reeves MP

## Working papers and work-in-progress

1. THE INFANT HEALTH EFFECTS OF STARTING UNIVERSAL CHILD BENEFITS IN PREGNANCY: EVIDENCE FROM ENGLAND AND WALES  
**Revised and Resubmitted to the *Journal of Health Economics*.**
2. DOES CUTTING CHILD BENEFITS REDUCE FERTILITY IN LARGER FAMILIES? EVIDENCE FROM THE UK'S TWO-CHILD LIMIT (with Jonathan Portes and Ruth Patrick). Submitted to *The Review of Economics and Statistics*.
3. MAKING WORK PAY? THE LABOUR MARKET EFFECTS OF CAPPING CHILD BENEFITS IN LARGER FAMILIES (with Aaron Reeves and Kitty Stewart). Work in progress (advanced draft).
4. DOES CAPPING BENEFITS PUSH PEOPLE TOWARDS OR AWAY FROM WORK? A NATURAL EXPERIMENT FROM THE UK (with Aaron Reeves and Kitty Stewart). Work in progress (advanced draft).
5. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WELFARE ACTIVITY IN ENGLAND, 1979-2019: A PRIVATISATION OF RESPONSIBILITY? (with Tania Burchardt). Work in progress (advanced draft).
6. FROM LUMP TO BUMP: THE IMPACT OF PREGNANCY CASH TRANSFERS ON BIRTHWEIGHT IN ENGLAND (with Kitty Stewart). Work in progress (early draft).
7. LEVELLING DOWN? UNDERSTANDING THE DECLINE OF THE MAINTAINED EARLY YEARS SECTOR IN ENGLAND (with Ludovica Gambaro and Kitty Stewart). Work in progress (early draft).

## Book chapters and research reports

8. SIZE MATTERS: EXPERIENCES OF LARGER FAMILIES ON A LOW INCOME DURING COVID-19 (with Kate Andersen). In Garthwaite, K., Patrick, R., Power, M., Tarrant, A., and Warnock, R. (eds).

*COVID-19 Collaborations: Researching poverty and low-income family life during the pandemic.* Policy Press. Policy Press, forthcoming, 2022.

9. THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENTS' RECORD ON EARLY CHILDHOOD FROM MAY 2015 TO PRE-COVID 2020: POLICIES, SPENDING AND OUTCOMES (with Kitty Stewart). *Social Policies and Distributional Outcomes Research Paper 8*. London: Centre of Analysis for Social Exclusion, 2021.
10. REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN ENGLAND: ATTAINMENT, ABSENCE AND EXCLUSIONS (with Jo Hutchinson). London: The Education Policy Institute, 2021.
11. EDUCATION IN ENGLAND: ANNUAL REPORT 2020 (with Jo Hutchinson and Avinash Akhal). London: The Education Policy Institute, 2020.
12. EVERYDAY WORK (with Rachel Reeves MP). Wakefield: GMB, 2020.
13. ELEANOR RATHBONE (with Rachel Reeves MP). In Dale, Iain, and Smith, Jacqui (eds) *The Honourable Ladies: Volume I: Profiles of Women MPs 1918-1996*. London: Biteback, 2018.
14. FAIR FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH: PUTTING PARITY INTO PRACTICE (with Harry Quilter-Pinner). London: The Institute for Public Policy Research, 2018.

## Other writing

15. Who paid the price of George Osborne's two-child benefit cap? Britain's poorest children (with Jonathan Portes), *The Guardian*, 6 April 2022.
16. Prioritise early years to reduce childhood inequalities (with Kitty Stewart), *LSE Research Magazine*, 4 May 2021.
17. The UK is now falling behind both European countries and the US in its support for larger families (with Megan Curran), *LSE British Politics and Policy*, 6 April 2021.
18. We are now seeing the effect of successive Tory governments on child poverty – the repercussions will be felt for generations (with Kitty Stewart), *The Independent*, 1 February 2021.
19. Vulnerable pupils are being excluded from schools and it's not always legal, *The Telegraph*, 26 February 2020.

## Awards and grants

'Fertility impacts of the two-child limit', Co-Investigator with Jonathan Portes.

Nuffield Foundation, £18,646, May 2021.

'Investigating the impact of the Health in Pregnancy Grant in England', Co-Investigator with Kitty Stewart.

STICERD Research Grant, LSE, £4,874, April 2021.

Titmuss Meinhardt Research Funding, Department of Social Policy, LSE, £10,000, September 2019.

George W. Jones Prize for Best-Performing Master of Public Administration (MPA) Student 2018/19, London School of Economics and Political Science.

Prize for Best Master of Public Administration (MPA) Dissertation 2018/19, London School of Economics and Political Science.

Henry S.Q. Henriques Prize for Most Distinguished Scholar within the five Final Honour Schools of Jurisprudence, Classics, Modern History and PPE (Worcester College, University of Oxford).

Placed in the 97th percentile of PPE students across the University

## Other qualifications and skills

Real Analysis Summer School, 2021, London School of Economics.

UKMOD Tax-benefit microsimulation Training, 2019, University of Essex.

*Languages:* English (native), French (intermediate)

*Programming:* Stata, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

*Data Protection:* Accredited Researcher at the Office for National Statistics

## References

Professor Daniel Sturm

Department of Economics

The London School of Economics

`d.m.sturm@lse.ac.uk`

Dr Kitty Stewart

Department of Social Policy

The London School of Economics

`k.j.stewart@lse.ac.uk`

Professor Jonathan Portes

School of Politics and Economics

King's College London

`jonathan.portes@kcl.ac.uk`

Dr Berkay Özcan

Department of Social Policy

The London School of Economics

`b.ozcan@lse.ac.uk`