The state of the Welfare State: Social Justice and British Politics

Tuesday 24 March 2015
6pm - 7:30pm
Location:
Room KLT
SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

A Panel Discussion with:
Paul O'Connell, Zoe Williams, James Brown and Andrew Lilico

It is becoming increasingly evident that the future of the welfare state will be a key battleground in the forthcoming General Election campaign. Consequently the Centre for Human Rights Law at SOAS and Just Fair, a charity working on social justice, human rights and the welfare state, have brought together a host of key commentators and academics. The event will take the form of a panel debate between academics and experts who have written on the subject from multiple perspectives. It provides a unique opportunity to interrogate approaches to welfare policy, recent reforms, and their impact on human rights and justice.

Dr. Paul O'Connell is a reader at SOAS teaching Public Law and has published extensively on the impact of globalisation on human rights and on the comparative protection of socio-economic rights. He is currently working on a project which critically interrogates the relationship between globalisation and human rights.

Zoe Williams is a political commentator for both the Guardian and the New Statesman and writes from a left-wing and feminist perspective. She is increasingly focusing on economic and welfare issues in the run up to the election.

James Brown joined the Institute for Fiscal Studies in 2005 and is a senior research economist. His research focuses on the impact of the personal tax and benefit system on families' incomes and their incentives to work, save and invest.

Dr. Andrew Lilico is Executive Director and Principal of Europe Economics. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Economic Affairs and Chairman of the IEA/Sunday Times Monetary Policy Committee. As Chief Economist of Policy Exchange from 2009-10 he produced what the BBC has described as the "essential theory" behind the Coalition's initial deficit reduction strategy.

Jamie Burton [Panel Chair] is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers with expertise in judicial review and human rights. He is also the co-founder and Chair of Just Fair.