

Title: *Do Household Income-Related Changes Affect Educational and Behaviour Outcomes in Childhood and Adulthood?*

Author(s): Constantinos Kallis and Ian Plewis

Institution/Country: Institute of Education, University of London

The context for our study is provided by:

- (i) The short, medium and long-term UK government targets first to reduce and ultimately to eliminate child poverty by 2020.
- (ii) UK policies to increase lone parent employment and to reduce the number of children brought up in workless households.

Our study focuses on the potential to relate changes in income-related variables experienced during childhood to outcomes at the end of childhood and beyond in such a way as to be able to come to causal conclusions about:

- (i) the relation between poverty and children's outcomes, both intermediate outcomes such as educational qualifications and behaviour problems,
- (ii) final outcomes in adulthood such as having no educational qualifications.

In other words, the study is assessing whether, and to what extent, it is possible to go beyond the well-established association between poverty in all its forms on the one hand and poor outcomes on the other.

This association – usually based on cross-sectional data - can be explained in a number of ways, only some of which can be regarded as causal. It is important for policy makers to know what kind of social benefits, for example less crime and less unemployment, can be expected if family incomes were to rise or the level of parental employment to increase. Although easily stated, the question is a challenging one to answer, both in terms of the kinds of data needed and the statistical techniques to be applied. This study is guided by the view that a dynamic approach based on longitudinal data is the most useful way to tackle the fundamental question stated above.