

All in it together: Are benefits ever a lifestyle choice?

Film premiere and panel session 2013-11-07

1. Introduction

1.1. Metadata

- Notes from the All in it together: Are benefits ever a lifestyle choice Film premiere and panel discussion 2013-11-07
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r2pMYif0Ri-BERwpVspAdo7cTI1HAHSfYe-z86M4/edit>
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2. Notes

2.1. Introduction

- <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/festival-events/specific-2013/lifestyle-choice.aspx>
- Roger Harington
 - <http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=4565>
- Gipsil
 - <http://www.gipsil.org.uk/>
- Social media
 - @doleanimators
 - hashtag
 - #allinittogether
 - <https://twitter.com/search?q=%23allinittogether>
- Awards for All

- <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/Awards-For-All>
- ESRC
 - <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/>

2.2. Film Showing

- <http://youtu.be/p5ig-UHRsNk>
- This was an animation film storytelling the impact of welfare reform changes in Leeds in the past year or so
- It was not all in the words, there was a change in the shopfronts that was subtle too
- This was mainly a story about rhetoric and how many people are struggling under welfare reform especially those that are in poor health and social circumstances

2.3. Panel discussion

- Chair
 - Emma Stone
 - <https://twitter.com/jrfemma>
 - Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Panelists
 - Sue Marsh
 - <http://www.theguardian.com/profile/marsh-sue>
 - <https://twitter.com/suey2y>
 - <http://diaryofabenefitscrounger.blogspot.co.uk/>
 - Graham Whitton (sp?)
 - Save the children
 - Hilary Wainwright
 - <http://www.redpepper.org.uk/by/hilary-wainwright/>
 - Sue
 - Isobella in the film
 - Rheumatoid arthritis
- Panel reaction
 - Angry
 - Reality of living on the dole is grim
 - Children are in poverty in households that have people in work and out of work
 - People are vexed with politicians
 - Is this why people aren't voting?
- Feedback
 - How to balance the media led debate seemingly biased towards 'benefit malingering lingering scroungers' tones to 'benefits help the needy and are a good things' tones
 - Local print media vs National print media
 - The turn against New Labour
 - British Social Attitudes Survey NATCEN
 - <http://www.bsa-30.natcen.ac.uk/>

- Movement towards greater sympathy for people on struggling with welfare reform
- Following public opinion and leading public opinion
- Are the BBC getting squeezed by the politicians that are in power to show their view of the world?
- DWP are badly run from the top and badly organised in terms of helping people cope in the age of austerity
- Some people are starving
- Manchester CAB service Punishing Poverty report
 - http://www.manchestercab.org/news_more.asp?news_id=19¤t_id=1
- Sanctions
 - Unfair and unjustified and badly implemented
 - Nick Hodgkinson Sanctions in Bradford
 - <http://www.bradford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/04083714-512E-4B75-A358-3A7B8F8F69D0/0/CLASPMInutes4April2013.pdf>
 - 7.2 unemployed job seeker per job
 - 7000 people sanctioned
 - Sanctions are having no money
 - Does making people destitute help people find a job?
 - No
 - <http://stupidsanctions.tumblr.com/>
- Low-pay no-pay cycle
 - <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/understanding-recurrent-poverty>
- Finding work on the government work programme
 - Some are getting success in finding work outside the programme
- Homelessness of children is growing
- The government are moving people into poverty
- We need solidarity
 - Claimants Action in the 1970s
 - <http://radicalhistorynetwork.blogspot.co.uk/2009/10/claimants-and-unemployed-issues-and.html>
 - Community pressure
- Social security is about all of us
- Discussion
 - I mainly chatted with Lukasz Kowalski about formal versus informal methods of coping and about contrasts with now in Leeds, the 1980s in Doncaster, and now and in the past in different parts of Poland and with polish work seeking organisations.

3. References

- <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/festival-events/specific-2013/lifestyle-choice.aspx>

- <http://youtu.be/p5ig-UHRsNk>
- <http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/latest-news/top-stories/leeds-film-gives-a-voice-to-people-on-the-benefits-frontline-1-6148474>
- <http://animateddocs.wordpress.com/2013/10/19/all-in-this-together-are-benefits-ever-a-lifestyle-choice-by-dole-animators/>