

# **Working and poor, but for how long? An analysis of in-work poverty transitions in the UK**

**Rod Hick and Alba Lanau**

## **Abstract**

There has been growing concern about the problem of in-work poverty in the UK in recent years, with a one study showing that, for the first time on record, half of all people living in poverty are in families where someone is in work (MacInness *et al.*, 2013). However, despite this growing concern, the evidence base on in-work poverty is not large and, in particular, we know very little about the experience of in-work poverty over time.

This paper will present early findings from a Nuffield Foundation-funded project examining in-work poverty in the UK. The focus of this project is to investigate the nature and scale of in-work poverty and the contribution made by policy to alleviate poverty amongst working families. In particular, the paper will focus on movement in and out of in-work poverty, drawing on data from the longitudinal survey, *Understanding Society*.

## **Biography**

Dr Rod Hick is a Lecturer in Social Policy at Cardiff University. His research interests are the conceptualisation, measurement and analysis of poverty; the capability approach; and social security policy. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and in 2015 was awarded the Best Paper Prize at the Foundations for International Studies on Social Security conference in Hong Kong, China. He is currently leading a Nuffield Foundation-funded project investigating the nature and scale of in-work poverty in the UK and the contribution made by policy to alleviating poverty amongst working families.

Dr Alba Lanau is a Research Associate at Cardiff University. She recently obtained a PhD in Social Policy from the University of Bristol. Her thesis examined changes in the patterning of youth poverty and transitions in six European countries. Her main areas of interest are poverty, inequality, theories of social change and youth transitions.