

Audio Transcription

Nick Ellison - Developments in British Social Policy

Julia Waldman: So tell me a bit about how you came to edit the two books on Developments in British Social Policy

Nick Ellison: OK, right well one interesting thing was that the politics lot had done a few books on developments in British politics and I thought it would be a really good way of doing it for Social Policy but that's not the whole answer by any means. I think the crucial thing was that there was a job to be done there in terms of introducing students to the range of social policy issues, particularly as they relate to the UK at least in the first instance, we shouldn't forget of course that there is a huge comparative angle to social policy but sticking at the moment with the UK, those books (and they both did the same kind of job) were aimed at introducing students to a range of conceptual or theoretical issues, they also looked at different areas of social policy and we got some really good authors and contributors that took a part, really in some of the key areas around social security, housing and so on and so forth. Then the third section in each case was looking at the future of social policy in a way in which you might even expand the subject, so it isn't just about, you know, employment, social security and housing but also about the environment, it might also be about disabilities, it might be about the whole range of issues, which you know, occupy the margins in one sense but are increasingly pushing into the main stream of some of the things we discussed.