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# Thinking about the idea of a ‘Thatcherite Legacy’

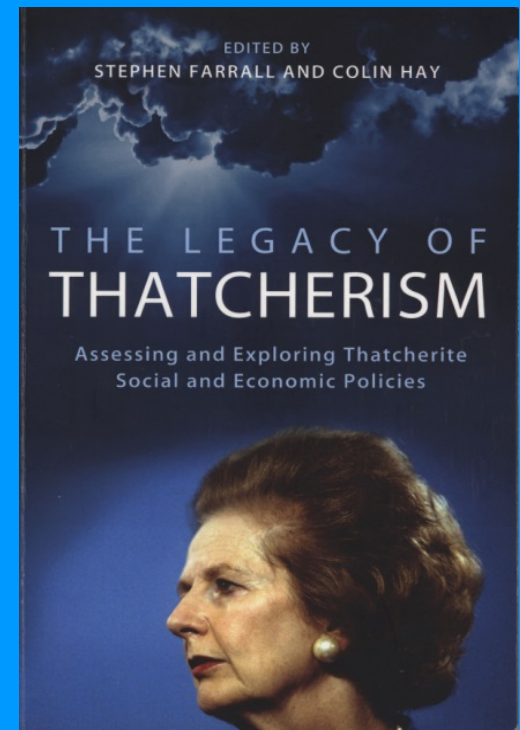
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30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Sheffield Univ.



# An Outline

- Explore how others have characterised MT's influence.
- Think about neo-lib/neo-con influences.
- Outline some of the things we need to bear in mind when thinking about MT's legacy.





# How have others characterised her legacy?

- Left + Right have focused on her as a hero/anti-hero. “ She saved us” vs. “She destroyed us”.
- Tended to overly personalise matters.
- Similarities with Ronald Reagan, Bob Hawke, Roger Douglas and Ruth Richardson.
- Neo-Liberalism and Neo-Conservatism.



# Neo-Con/Neo-Lib Tensions

- Neo-liberalism: reduce inflation; limit govt spending; reduce the state; reduce income tax (esp. if progressive); free markets; not worried about unemployment.
- Neo-conservatism: (re)impose traditional values (respect of property/authority, decency, discipline); state to police/enforce moral behaviour; reduce dependency culture; uphold importance of the family; restoration of social hierarchy.

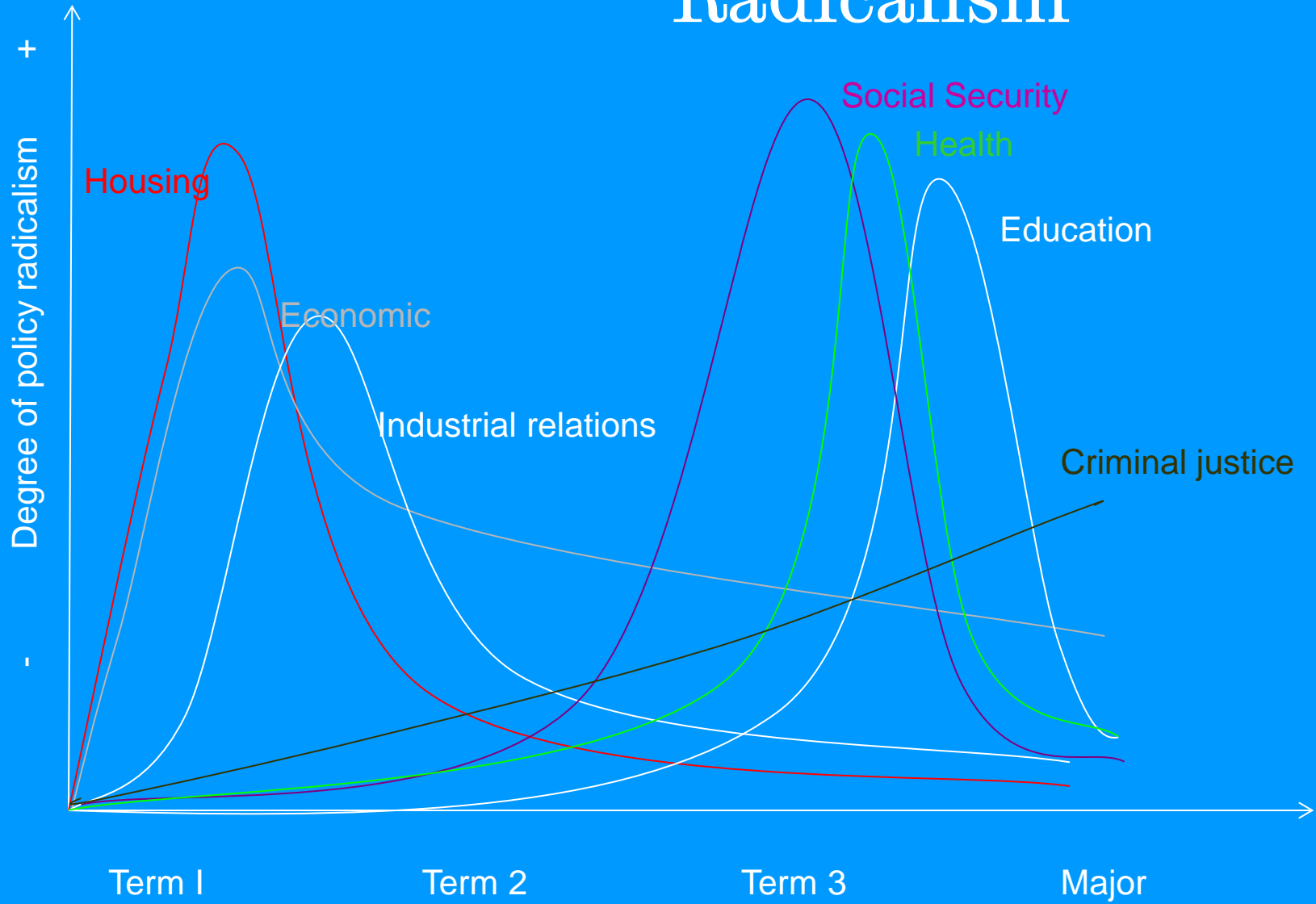


# Things to keep in mind when thinking about a Thatcherite Legacy

- Discursive; policy; social attitudes; legislative programme; implementation; impact; institutional change.
- All are different things.
- Thatcherism was of all of them at various stages, so need to think about temporality of Thatcherism and of policy change.



# Periodising Thatcherite Radicalism





# Things to keep in mind when thinking about a Thatcherite Legacy

- Expressed ideas do not always bear fruit (or do so only slowly). 5-10years.
- Policies/Acts may work against one another (social security + unemployment)
- Legislative changes do not always lead to policy or distributive changes
- Assessments are often short term – yet change may take years.



# Things to keep in mind when thinking about a Thatcherite Legacy

- Politics sometimes does not progress smoothly or evenly.
- 1983-1987 the 'lost' administration (expected to lose 1983 GE); had to give some power to 'Wets' in first cabinet – who then plotted against her.
- Great strides in the economy, housing, social security; EC, agriculture = less.





# Things to keep in mind when thinking about a Thatcherite Legacy

- In social science, we tend to work in silos, so few have examined how changes in housing may effect (for example) crime rates. 'Cascade/SpilloverEffects'?
- Social attitudes: change slowly; inter-generational replacement; Thatcher as an attracting force which brought 'Thatcherites' into the party?



# Things to keep in mind when thinking about a Thatcherite Legacy

- So 'Thatcherite' dominance of some key Depts came after 1990. M Howard; P Lilley; M Portillo; N Lamont; etc.
- Activities may produce unintended or counter-intuitive consequences.
- (EG social work in the CJS: 'eradicated' by Howard; reintroduced by CRCs?)



# Things to keep in mind when thinking about a Thatcherite Legacy

- Some institutions will work to support the establishment of a legacy. The creation of 'New Labour' for example.
- Thatcher needed Heath's Selston Man to forge a path?
- So ideas may be stripped of their labels, but continue to have purchase.
- Some changes gonna happen anyway ...



# Outline of current work

## ESRC grant :

- Analyses of BCS, BSAS, GHS, BES + national level data. Data sets to be made available autumn 2015.
- 40min documentary film made (Doc Fest 2015)
- <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/law/research/projects/crimetrajectories>
- Email newsletter (s.farrall@sheffield.ac.uk)
- Twittering: @Thatcher\_legacy