

# Place, poverty, work and technology

What about working class boys?

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# Structure of the argument

- Technological change, rise of the service sector and feminised labour markets
- Credentialisation and income polarisation
- Gender gap in educational attainment
- Discursive construction of boys - from lad to yob
- Neo-liberal individualisation
- What is to be done?

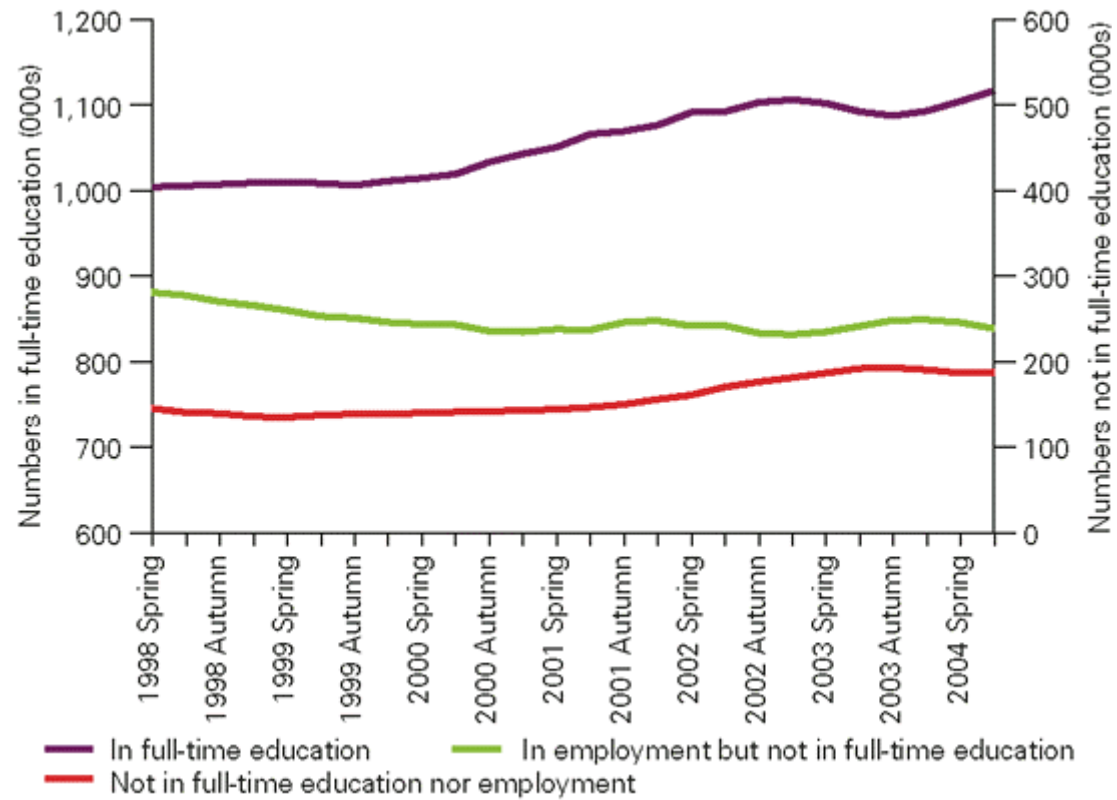
# Disadvantaged youth

- Lack of work for the less qualified is being reproduced throughout the labour market in low employment regions, representing a major problem for younger workers with few qualifications and not just for those with no qualifications nearing the end of their working lives (Erdem and Glyn 2001, 37)

## Unemployment rates for young workers, 2003-4



# 16 and 17 year olds by education and labour market status, 1998-2004



# Moral discourse of class condescension

- From lad to yob
- moral attributes
- embodied characteristics disqualify youth in deferential jobs

# Rights and responsibilities

- From welfare to workfare
- Individualisation
- Focus on workers not on jobs

# What is to be done

- New educational structures
- Labour market policies
- Minimum wage
- Education/employment links
- Longitudinal research programme

# Employment sector of 18-21 year olds

