

RC19 Newsletter – December 2019

RC19 Presidential Letter 2019

Dear RC19 Members,

We have almost reached the end of 2019 and, as usual, the time has come to reflect on our annual conference and discuss future RC19 activities.

On August 28-30, 2019, our annual conference took place in Mannheim, Germany. The co-organizers of the conference were Bernhard Ebbinghaus, Alexandra Kaasch, Hildegard Theobald, and Claus Wendt. On the behalf of the RC19 Board, I would like to thank them for their hard work, which paid off, as the conference was extremely successful. First, the key-note speakers, Ian Gough and Ito Peng, provided us with new insight climate change and the care-migration nexus, respectively. Second, more than 70 papers were presented. As usual, the diversity of the topics covered and the average quality of the papers were impressive to say the least. Finally, social activities, including a memorable visit to Max-Weber-Haus in beautiful Heidelberg, allowed the about 100 participants to relax and interact with one another. RC19 conferences are not as big as other social science and policy conferences but friendly and the more personal experience they provide to participants is unmatched.

In 2020, RC19 members will meet on two occasions. First, from July 14-18, RC19 will organize 16 sessions at the Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology, which will take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The RC19 program coordinators for this conference are Yumi Garcia Garcia dos Santos and I. At this point, I would like to thank the RC19 members who agreed to organize sessions at the Fourth ISA Forum.

Second, the next regular RC19 conference will take place in Taipei, Taiwan on December 3-4, 2020. These dates have been selected to avoid the typhoon season and the hot days of summer in Taiwan. The organizers for this event are Shih-Jiunn Shi, Yeun Wen Ku, Chung-Yang Yeh, and Shu-Yung Wang. The call for papers will be circulated in early 2020.

In 2021, our annual conference will take place at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. The co-organizers are Monica Budowski and Daniel Künzler. The exact dates for the conference will be announced in due course but we aim for late August 2021.

Finally, in 2022, RC19 will organize sessions at the 2022 XX ISA World Congress of Sociology, which will take place in Melbourne, Australia. As usual, RC19 will not organize an annual conference the year of the ISA Congress.

As an organization, RC19 thrives only when members provide feedback about how to improve our activities and our work as an organization. Like in the past, the RC19 Board always welcomes your advice about how to make our organization better and more successful, in the years to come. No organization can survive and thrive without committed board members and members at large, and RC19 have plenty of them.

Thank you again for supporting RC19.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Béland, President of RC19 and James McGill Professor, McGill University

Calls for Panels and Papers

Second International Conference on Policy Diffusion and Development Cooperation

São Paulo, 25-27 May 2020

The Second International Conference on Policy Diffusion and Development Cooperation will take place in São Paulo, 25-27 May 2020. Paper submission to the panel **“Beyond Coercion, Emulation, Competition and Learning: The Frontiers of Causal Mechanisms in Research on Social Policy Diffusion”** is possible until **15 December 2019**. If you are interested and expect to need more time to prepare a submission, please email amanda.shriwise@uni-bremen.de, as it may be possible to submit proposals very early in 2020.

The panel welcomes both theoretical and empirical contributions that critically engage with diffusion mechanisms in research on social policy and that provide links for further theory development. The full description of the conference and our panel (= panel 6) can be found here: <https://policydiffusion.com/icpddc-2020/>

Paper proposals (max. 1000 words) need to be submitted through the conference website.

For any questions please contact Johanna Kuhlmann (johanna.kuhlmann@uni-bremen.de) and Amanda Shriwise (amanda.shriwise@uni-bremen.de).

Exploring Postgender

Organised by the Work in Progress Seminar Series and the Malta Sociological Association

Valletta, 14 March 2020

In some societies, gender-neutral terms are gaining influence, in the attempt towards ensuring that gender is not used as a means of blocking individuals from fulfilling their personal freedom, choices and opportunities in life. Postgendered theory claims that the removal of binary gender is liberatory and allows for a more inclusive society. The aim of this conference is to create a space for a discussion and exploration of postgenderism and its effects on society.

WIPSS and MSA invite contributions on related themes such as:

- Is Postgenderism the future of human society?
- Is a postgendered society the way forward for gender equality?
- What is a postgendered society?
- Does Postgenderism redefine what is human?

Please submit your abstracts by **6 January 2020** to: michael.briguglio@um.edu.mt

More information: <http://www.maltasociologicalassociation.com/2019/10/call-for-abstracts-exploring-postgender.html>

Social Citizenship, Solidarity and Sustainability - The changing landscape of welfare in the Nordic countries

Nordic ESPAnet workshop for doctoral students and early-career researchers

14-15 May 2020, Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway

Ongoing changes in the Nordic welfare states call for new understanding of social citizenship and solidarity among citizens, communities and societies, as well as social groups citizens groups. The Nordic countries are faced with unprecedented structural transformations in the labour market under the fourth industrial revolution (digitalisation, robotisation, automatisisation) and stronger global interdependencies (immigration, transnational enterprises, off-shoring of production). Demographic ageing and climate change have intensified discussions on how to bring about social justice in an ecologically and financially sustainable manner. New social movements have mobilised for recognition of their demands and a right to representation in the deliberation of welfare policies. Shifting balances in power between the EU, national, regional and local level of governance have changed how welfare policies are deliberated and implemented. However, the effects are asymmetrical in terms of who has benefitted from these changes and where these processes have increased social inequalities. Nordic welfare states have been unequally affected by such processes of change and also responded differently to them. We invite papers by doctoral students and early-career researchers that address the diverse processes of change the Nordic welfare states and other European countries face in one or more policy area. Both quantitative and qualitative investigations are welcome. Papers may either focus on developments in a single country or adopt a comparative perspective. Papers addressing the Nordic and other European welfare states from a theoretical and conceptual perspective are also welcome.

In order to apply for take a part in the workshop, please send an abstract of 4-500 words, by **18 December 2019**. Accepted participants will be asked to provide a full paper (5000-8000 words) by **30 April 2020**. Participation fee: NOK 1400 (including 2 x lunch, dinner).

For more information, please contact Dr Lars E. F. Johannessen larsem@oslomet.no and see <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/towards-resilient-nordic-welfare-states/nordic-espanet>

BEYOND INEQUALITY? SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST”**17th Annual Conference of the East Asian Social Policy Research Network & 27th Annual Conference of the Foundation for International Studies on Social Security
26-28 June 2020, Lingnan University, Hong Kong**

The idea of social investment has received much attention from policymakers and social policy analysts in East Asia, Western Europe and globally. At the same time, debates have been ongoing about whether the focus on human capital formation, labour market inclusion and empowerment can effectively alleviate contemporary social and economic inequalities. Several studies have found that the middle classes are often the primary beneficiaries of social investment, that successful policy packages are difficult to implement and transfer across jurisdictions and may be insufficient to address the impact of automation and the digitisation of our daily lives.

Despite much social policy innovation in Hong Kong and elsewhere across East Asia, income inequality has continued to increase sharply since the 1997 East Asian and 2008 global financial crises. Efforts to reduce poverty and address rising income inequality in many European countries have stalled. The EU Social Investment Package aims to secure ‘more adequate and sustainable social policies through investing in people's skills and capabilities’ but has struggled to curb the variation of inequality levels and trends among its member states.

Against this background, in an exciting development, the 2020 annual conferences of the East Asian Social Policy Research Network (EASP) and Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (FISS) are joining together to examine ‘social security’ and ‘social welfare’ policies and to re-imagine the role of private and collective income transfer programmes in successfully alleviating contemporary social inequalities. New approaches to compare and contrast policy structures between East and West are warranted given the need to facilitate cross-regional policy learning in the context of migration and increasingly shared processes of technological, demographic, and economic change.

We particularly welcome theoretical or empirical contributions studying how specific social policy structures may produce effective complementarities with existing regional social investment paradigms. We equally encourage contributions with a comparative and global perspective, particularly those including both East Asian and Western cases. It is a long tradition of EASP and FISS to invite papers by postgraduate students and early-career researchers as well as established scholars working in the field of social welfare, social security, and social policy analysis.

Depending on the final selection of submitted papers and panels, the conference will comprise the following streams (as well as any other aspects of social policy in an Open Stream):

- 1: Welfare States & Welfare Regimes
- 2: Social Security & Social Justice
- 3: Governance, Democracy & Participation
- 4: Migration, Social Rights & Citizenship Stratification
- 5: Population & Demographic Change
- 6: Health & Human Well-being
- 7: Economic & Social Inequalities
- 8: Poverty & Social Inclusion
- 9: Education & Vocational Training
- 10: Ageing & Gerontechnology

- 11: Labour Markets & Employment
- 12: Housing & Urbanisation
- 13: Gender Inequality & Work-Family Reconciliation
- 14: Sustainability, Environmental Management & Social Security

Those wishing to present a paper should **submit an abstract** of between 200 and 300 words. Information enclosed with any abstract should include: *stream number, title of paper; author name(s); affiliation(s); and email address of one corresponding author.*

Those wishing to organise a panel should **submit a panel proposal**. Information enclosed with any panel proposal should include: *title of panel; objective of panel (between 200 and 300 words); names and affiliations of all panel organiser(s) and participating members; along with abstracts of three or four papers (between 200 and 300 words each); an e-mail address of one corresponding panel organiser.*

Submissions for the 17th annual EASP conference should be sent to easp2020hk@gmail.com.

Submissions for the FISS 2020 Conference should be sent to fiss2020hk@gmail.com.

The deadline for abstracts and panel proposals is **6 March 2020**.

Further details about the conference programme and venue will be announced shortly. For any queries, please contact stefankuehner@LU.edu.hk or Julie.Janssens@uantwerpen.be.

Expert workshop ‘non-take-up and coverage’ of social benefits

11-13 March, Brussels (Belgium)

organized in the context of the InGRID-2 project, funded by the European Commission

The University of Antwerp and the Federal Public Service for Social Security (Belgium) are organizing an expert workshop on non-take-up and coverage of social security and social assistance benefits in developed welfare states. This workshop will bring together experts from academia and public administrations, to discuss new advances in research, best practices related to monitoring coverage and non-take-up, as well as innovative policies that aim to limit the (negative effects of) non-take-up of social benefits. We welcome both qualitative and quantitative research, as well as policy and field experiences.

Applicants are expected to present a research paper that is directly related to one of the topics mentioned below. Policy-makers and practitioners from public administrations can present a technical policy note rather than a research paper.

The expected contributions should cover at least one of the following themes:

- The measurement and monitoring of non-take-up
- Innovative research into the causes and consequences of non-take-up
- Policy solutions to combat non-take-up
- Measuring and conceptualizing coverage
- Coverage of social policies in practice

Further information on this workshop including information on the application procedure can be found at <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/expert-workshops/call-28-expert-workshop-ua> .

The deadline for submissions is **8 January 2020**. (Participation is free of charge and travel and accommodation will be (partially) reimbursed.)

International Research Conference *Decent Care Work? Transnational Home Care Arrangements*

May 27-29, 2020, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main/Germany

The ageing of industrialized societies in combination with the absence of an adequate (welfare) state response is engendering an alarming deficit in care work. This has paved the way for the commodification of care, formerly a typical case of feminized, reproductive work, carried out informally and unpaid within the family. This conference examines if and how a sea change concerning the commodification and formalization of elderly care work is gradually affecting the public understanding of *decent work* and *decent care*.

We draw on the findings of a collaborative research project of transnationally operating care agencies, which recruit migrant live-in carers from Central and Eastern Europe for work in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The project has examined how agencies, care receivers and care givers negotiate their expectations regarding decent care and decent work in these transnational home care arrangements. It also includes the perspectives of stakeholders in the field, for example trade unions, associations, NGOs, care workers' networks and activists, care workers' stay-behind relatives and others.

The conference seeks to bring this study into dialogue with the findings of current international research. It offers new insights by bringing together researchers in the fields of migration, labor, gender, care markets as well as care workers' organizations. By highlighting deficiencies in the economic, political and social regulation of elderly care work, it aims to shed light on the fundamental contradictions between decent care and decent work.

Four key areas will be addressed during the conference: (1) Transnational (1) Commodification, Marketization and Corporatization of Live-in Care (2) Expectations, Contradictions and Social Inequalities in Transnational Home Care Arrangements (3) Agency and (Self-) Organizing of Live-in Care Workers (4) Regularization of Transnational Care Work

This set of questions requires an interdisciplinary analysis. Therefore, the conference aims at bringing together researchers from a variety of disciplines including anthropology, gerontology, sociology, history, geography, socio-legal studies, gender and migration studies, labor and social/public policy studies.

Abstracts of 150 words are to be submitted through the ConfTool application at the following address: <https://www.conftool.com/decent-care-work2020/> by **Tuesday, December 31, 2019**. Please select at least one of the above-mentioned key areas that best suits your submission.

We welcome proposals from researchers at all stages of their career. Please note that unfortunately we cannot cover expenses for travel and accommodation. The conference fee (€100 /reduced fee €60) also applies to accepted speakers.

If you have any questions, please contact decentcarework@soz.uni-frankfurt.de.

For more information see <http://decent-care-work.net/en/conference/>

Calls for contributions

The intersections of Economic Insecurity, Non-Standard Employment and Gender in Southern Europe

Call for Papers on the Open Access Journal “Frontiers in Sociology”

This call aims at collecting contributions that explore the relation between non-standard work and economic insecurity using an intersectional framework. We are interested in contributions that explore Southern Europe in a comparative or single country perspective. We welcome all approaches - theoretical and empirical, substantive and methodological, micro and macro, qualitative and quantitative, as well as geographically specific research.

The complete call and the information is available at <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/11866/the-intersections-of-economic-insecurity-non-standard-employment-and-gender-in-southern-europe>

We welcome expression of interest at lara.maestriperi@gmail.com.

The abstract submission: **February 15th 2020**.

Global Dynamics of Social Policy series - Call for Proposals

SERIES EDITORS

Lorraine Frisina Doetter, Delia González de Reufels, Kerstin Martens and Marianne Ulriksen

ABOUT THE SERIES

This series welcomes studies on the waves, ruptures and transformative periods of welfare state expansion and retrenchment globally, that is, across nation states and the world as well as across history since the inception of the modern Western welfare state in the nineteenth century. It takes a comprehensive and globalized perspective on social policy, and the

approach will help to locate and explain episodes of retrenchment, austerity, and tendencies toward dewelfarization in particular countries, policy areas and/or social risk-groups by reference to prior, simultaneous or anticipated episodes of expansion or contraction in other countries, areas, and risks. One of the aims of this series is to address the different constellations that emerge between political and economic actors including international and intergovernmental organizations, political actors and bodies, and business enterprises. A better understanding of these dynamics improves the reader’s grasp of social policy making, social policy outputs and ultimately the outcomes of social policy.

CONTACT FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals can be sent to the series editors, or Palgrave editor Sharla Plant sharla.plant@palgrave.com.

Calls for Participation

Sustainable Care International Conference

CARE: challenges and solutions for a sustainable future

Hosted by the Sustainable Care programme

1-2 April 2020 in Sheffield, UK

Registration is now open. Early bird rates are available until 17 January 2020.

Around the world, arrangements for the care of people who need help to manage daily life are evolving. Care is needed ‘at home’ and ‘across continents’; it must meet the needs of individuals and of families and communities; it must be possible alongside paid work and connect with health services. It can occur at any life stage, is of incalculable value, yet comes at no small cost; its consequences for families and social relations truly matter.

Changing families, longer lives and shifting economic and policy contexts lie behind this evolution. Yet today, care arrangements are not sustainable; too often they fail to deliver wellbeing. Forms of care work are diversifying, yet care remains low status work. Users offered ‘choice’ face rationed services. Public systems are under strain, market actors struggle and the role of technologies remains unclear.

Organised by the Sustainable Care: connecting people and systems team based in the UK, this conference offers a space for critical analysis, constructive debate and forward thinking. It will provide ‘food for thought’ and a guide to action for researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and all who consider decent care a vital issue of our time. We hope you will join us.

For further information please see

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/sustainable_welfare_beyond_growth

Calls for Applications

New Master's Programme at the University of Tübingen

The Ministry of Education of the state of Baden-Württemberg has recently approved the introduction of a new degree programme, Master of Public Policy and Social change (MPPSC), at the University of Tübingen. MPPSC is an international programme, taught and examined in English and delivered by an international team of faculty members. The programme provides students with knowledge of the relevant sociological and political science theories and methodological skills enabling them to analyse and critically assess policies and social change. A core element of the programme is its international comparative focus. Students will critically assess the performance of countries and effectiveness of policies in dealing with social change and societal and economic challenges. The guiding principles of the course are research excellence, societal relevance, and ethical responsibility.

At its core, the MPPSC programme is based on three pillars: a) (comparative) public policy analysis; b) the analysis of social structures and social change; and c) advanced methods. In addition to the core obligatory courses within the three pillars, students can choose from various specialisation courses in comparative public policy, the analysis of social inequalities, and the effectiveness of interventions. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to choose from interdisciplinary electives in (a) comparative (European) politics, (b) ethics and sustainability, and (c) economics and econometrics.

MPPSC, a joint venture between the Institute of Political Science and the Department of Sociology, will be open for applications **between 3 February and 31 May 2020**.

For more information, visit the programme website at <https://uni-tuebingen.de/fakultaeten/wirtschafts-und-sozialwissenschaftliche-fakultaet/faecher/fachbereich-sozialwissenschaften/ifp/studium/studium/master/master-of-public-policy-and-social-change-ma/> or contact MPPSC Program Lead Dr. Mikko Kuisma at mikko.kuisma@uni-tuebingen.de.

Recent Publications

Aulenbacher, Brigitte, Atzmüller, Roland, Brand, Ulrich, Décieux, Fabienne, Fischer, Karin, Sauer, Birgit (eds.) (2019) „Capitalism Transformation. Movements and Countermovements in the 21st Century“ Cheltenham: [Edward Elgar](#)

Saikkonen, Paula, Hänninen, Sakari, Lehtelä, Kirsi-Marja (2019) "The Relational Nordic Welfare State: between ideology and utopia" Cheltenham: [Edward Elgar](#)

Briguglio, Michael and Caruana, Christabelle (2018) 'Why do men join the men's rights movement in Malta', [Interface](#) - A journal for and about social movements, 10 (1-2): pp 279-296

Briguglio, Michael (2019) *WASP (Write a Scientific Paper): Discourse Analysis*, [Early Human Development](#), a peer-reviewed journal published by Elsevier, Netherlands (Science Direct). 133: pp 62-64

Koch, Max (2019) The State in the Transformation to a Sustainable Postgrowth Economy, [Environmental Politics](#)

Köhler, Gabriele and Dhakal, Thakur [Moving towards a shock responsive and resilient social protection system; A roadmap for Nepal](#). Paper prepared for the 5th International Symposium on Asian Development Studies Kathmandu, Nepal. 23-24 October 2019.

Köhler, Gabriele and Namala, Annie and Gabriele Köhler, "Transformations necessary to leave no one behind. Social exclusion in South Asia". pp. 313 to 352. "The politics of social inclusion. Bridging knowledge and policies towards social change." Gabriele Koehler, Alberto Cimadamore, Fadia Kiwan, Pedro Monreal Gonzalez (eds.) CROP/UNESCO-MOST. [Columbia University Press](#).

Noy, Shiri "Banking on Health: The World Bank and Health Sector Reform". [Palgrave Macmillan](#)

Gough, Ian "Heat, Greed and Human Need: Climate Change, Capitalism and Sustainable Wellbeing" (2017). Cheltenham: [Edward Elgar](#)

Gough, Ian, LSE, 'Universal basic services: A theoretical and moral framework' in [Political Quarterly](#), 2019.

Harris, Joseph. 2019. "The Politics of Expanding Healthcare Access to the Poor and Informal Sectors." [Sociological Forum](#). 34(4).