

Call for papers for the mid-term conference of ESA Research Network 26 (Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare)

Theme: *From the cradle to the grave? Social policy in diverse temporal and spatial contexts*

*** PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, currently the dates below are maintained, but the situation is being monitored. For potential updates, please visit <https://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn26-sociology-social-policy-and-social-welfare> ***

The ESA Research Network Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare (RN26) invites network members and other sociologists/social scientists interested in the topic to submit abstracts to our mid-term conference, taking place on **March 11-12 2021 in Berlin, Germany**. The event is organized in cooperation with the Research Network on Old-Age Provision (FNA) of the German Federal Pension Insurance. We are very happy to welcome Ivan Harsløf (Oslo Metropolitan University) for the keynote speech.

Intended to provide social welfare and protection 'from the cradle to the grave', social policy is inextricably linked with issues of age(ing) and the life course of individuals. *Time matters* with regard to the situation of different (age) groups, life phases, trajectories and transitions between these phases, to name only a few aspects. In contemporary societies, new challenges arise, like providing for old age in the context of demographic changes or new patterns of intergenerational relations. What is more, social policy and welfare provision vary across time and space, calling for longitudinal research designs as well as cross-national or local comparisons. A wide literature deals with shifts in policies, institutional change and 'life cycles' of ideas. At the same time, social and economic changes in contemporary societies bring forth *new social risks* and thus new challenges for social policy making and implementation.

The research network invites contributions addressing theoretical perspectives and/or empirical studies related to the afore-sketched themes, opening the floor for a broad range of researchers who – in one way or another – deal with social policy and social welfare referring to 1) age(ing), particular age groups (e.g. children and youth or the elderly), generations, individual life courses etc. and/or 2) (more generally) social policy (health care, housing, labor market, pensions, social care and social assistance) in diverse temporal and spatial contexts, e.g. covering new social risks and resulting challenges or dynamics and change across time and space. A few examples for questions that could be dealt with at the mid-term conference are as follows: *How are life courses structured by different institutional settings? How do they change? How does social policy respond to 'old' and 'new' social risks? How do institutional contexts and individual action affect the situation of different (age) groups?*

Abstracts should not exceed 250 words. They will be peer-reviewed and selected for presentation by the network coordinators (see below). Any contributions related to the aforementioned topic are welcome. An e-mail of notification will be sent to the presenting authors during December 2020. We encourage especially early career scholars to take part. The latter may get some of their expenses refunded by sending a short application to h.turba@uni-kassel.de prior to the conference.

Abstract Submission Deadline: **December 1, 2020.**

Abstracts should be submitted by e-mail to the coordinators of RN26:

Hannu Turba, University of Kassel, Germany, h.turba@uni-kassel.de (chair)

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