



SCHOOL of
PUBLIC POLICY



International Network for Social Policy Teaching and Research

Annual Meeting

Preliminary Agenda

June 16–18, 2019
University of Zageb
Inter-University Centre
Dubrovnik, Croatia

Organizing committee: *Gojko Bezovan, Douglas J. Besharov, Neil Gilbert, and Georg Fischer*

Sunday, June 16

19:30 **Business Dinner**
KLARISA restaurant
Poljana P. Milicevica 4
Sponsored by the Oxford University Press

Dinner Speaker: Georg Fischer, former director, Analysis, Evaluation, and External Relations, European Commission [ret.]: **Income Inequality in Europe: a Central Challenge? Europe as an Entity or Conglomerate of Individual Countries.**

Monday, June 17

Challenges of Welfare Policies in Central and Eastern Europe

Inter-University Centre
Dubrovnik, Croatia

9:15–9:30 **Welcome and Introductions**
Gojko Bezovan, University of Zagreb
Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland
Neil Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley
Georg Fischer, former director, Analysis, Evaluation, and External Relations, European Commission [ret.]

The meeting will explore the policies, trends, and social issues that animate the contemporary policy discourse in and related to Central and Eastern European welfare states. In various stages of development, these welfare states confront a range of challenges in seeking to provide social protection, advance gender and economic equality, balance the demands of work and family life, and promote social investments for the development of human capital.

The opening session is organized around several presentations on recent trends in income, welfare, and inequality. These papers present a landscape assessment of the broad European experience and explore the regional trends in Central and Eastern Europe. They offer a comparative perspective on the economic well-being in these regions and the challenges of formulating social policies that further economic growth and decrease inequality. This perspective affords insights into the different experiences in Western and Southern Europe and Central and Eastern Europe, and their implications for the development of modern welfare states.

The second session focuses on specific social policy challenges encountered in the Central and Eastern European welfare states. With total fertility rates well below the standard 2.1 replacement rate, various efforts are being made to implement social policy initiatives designed to promote childbearing and strengthen the bonds of family life. At the same time, the increasing old age dependency ratio poses serious concerns about meeting the costs of public pensions and social care for the elderly. And new measures for the development of human capital are being promoted as welfare states increasingly shift the focus of financial aid designed to cushion unemployment and alleviate poverty from income maintenance to social investments which call for enhanced early education, skill training, and incentives to join the active labor force. The papers presented in this session analyze the policy alternatives and social forces surrounding these issues.

The conference concludes with a panel presentation that summarizes the contemporary challenges of welfare policies in the CEE regions, examines some of the current research that addresses these issues, and reflects on the emerging role of Eastern and Central European university education in the field of social policy.

9:30–10:45 **Trends in Income, Welfare, and Inequality in Europe**

European Perspective on Current Social Issues Ana Carla Pereira, Head of Unit for Modernisation of Social Protection Systems, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Income, Wealth, Employment and Beyond: Central and Eastern Europe Istvan Toth, Táarki Social Research Institute, Budapest; and Budapest Corvinus University

10:45–11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00–12:15 **Welfare and Pension Systems in Central and Eastern Europe**

Inequality in Income, Wealth and, Consumption in the Western Balkans Zsóka Kóczán, Research Department, IMF Washington and EBRD London

Population Aging and Financing Consumption of the Older Generation in the European Union Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak, SGH- Warsaw School of Economics

12:15–14:00 **Lunch**

14:00–15:45 **Policy Challenges for Central and Eastern Europe**

The Hasty Privatization of Pension Systems in Post-communist Europe Martin

Potucek, Institute of Sociological Studies and Center for Social and Economic Strategies (CESES); and Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Reforming Social Assistance: the Challenges of Activation Policy in Post-communist Countries? *Pawel Polawski*, Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw

Formal Long-term Care in Central and Eastern Europe in the Making: Practices and Challenges *Slavina Spasova*, European Social Observatory (OSE) and European Social Policy Network (ESPN)

15:45–16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00–17:30 **Panel Discussion on Social Policy Challenges, Research and Education in the Field**

Moderator: *Gojko Bežovan*, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Department of Social Policy

Panelists:

Mirna Jusić, Charles University
Jelena Matančević, University of Zagreb
Jekaterina Navickė, Vilnius University
Lucie Novotna, Masaryk University
Anis Ben Brik, Qatar Foundation

18:00 **Guided Tour of Old Dubrovnik (optional)**

19:30 **Business Dinner**
Restaurant Mimoza
Branitelja Dubrovnika 9

Dinner talk: Lynn Videka (chair) with comments from Young Jun Choi, Marit Skivenes, Birgit Pfau-Effinger, James Blackburn, and Martin Potucek: **Declining Birthrates (Almost) Worldwide.**

Tuesday, June 18

Business Meeting

Inter-University Centre
Dubrovnik, Croatia

9:15–9:30 **Welcome and Review of Agenda**
Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland
Neil Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley

9:30–10:00 **Rossi Award (Non-US version)**
Doug Besharov, University of Maryland

Plans for the institutionalization of a non-US version of the “Rossi Award for Contributions to the Theory or Practice of Program Evaluation”

Issues to be explored:

1. How the US award works: award committee, criteria, and past awardees
2. What should be the core membership of the Award Committee, including *ex officio* members?
3. What should be the criteria for awards?
Should the focus be on European research or development economics or both? Clearly, the choice has implications for the type of research (and researchers) that the award highlights. It also has implications for the backgrounds/experience of any additional members of the award committee.
4. What should be the name for a non-US “Rossi Award”?
5. What would be the best host/platform for presentation of award?

10:00–10:45 **Global Handbook Series (OUP)**
(Neil Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley)

Status Report on Approved Handbooks

Public Administration for Social Policy: Promising Practices and Emerging Challenges

Karen Baehler, American University, ed. (approved in 2017)

Social Program Design and Implementation Evaluation

Anu Rangarajan, Mathematica Policy Research; and Diane Paulsell, Mathematica Policy Research, eds. (approved in 2017)

Family Policy: A Life-Course Perspective

Neil Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley; Birgit Pfau-Effinger,

University of Hamburg; and Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland, eds. (approved in 2018)

Child Protection Systems

Jill Berrick, University of California, Berkeley; Neil Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley; and Marit Skivenes, University of Bergen, eds. (approved in 2018)

Handbook: To be Reviewed

International Handbook of Education: A Policy Research Approach

Paola Mattei, University of Milan and Xavier Dumay, University of Louvain, eds.

Reviewers: Laurence Whitehead, Oxford University; and others not yet designated.

10:45–11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00–12:15 **International Policy Exchange Series (OUP)**

(Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland)

Status Report on Approved Policy Exchanges

US Income Trends (working title)

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Manhattan Institute; and Daniel DiMartino, University of Indiana, eds. (approved May 2019)

Policy Exchanges: To be Reviewed

European Income Trends (working title)

Georg Fischer, European Commission (ret.); and Robert Strauss, European Commission, eds.

Reviewers: Timo Fleckenstein, London School of Economics; and Maria Jepsen, European Trade Union Institute.

The World Politics of Social Investment: The Welfare State in the Knowledge Economy

Julian Garritzmann, University of Zurich; Silja Hausermann, University of Zurich; and Bruno Palier, Sciences Po.

Reviewers: Espen Dahl, Oslo Metropolitan University; and Martin Potucek, Charles University.

The Future Adequacy of Pension Systems in Advanced Economies

Gijsbrecht Dekkers, Federal Planning Bureau of Belgium and KU Leuven; Amilcar Moreira, University of Lisbon; and Karel Van den Bosch, Federal Planning Bureau of Belgium and University of Antwerp, eds.

Note: This volume was previously reviewed by the board and we

requested changes (which have been made) plus a reviewer qualified to judge the proposed modeling.

Additional reviewer: Martin Spielauer, Austrian Institute for Economic Studies.

12:15–14:00 **Lunch**

14:00–15:00 **EU Proposal to be a Jean Monnet Network: Overarching/Organizational issues**

(Marit Skivenes, Sagrario Segado Sanchez, and Neil Gilbert)

Identity of formal institutional participants

Identity of a primary applicant organization that submits the application on behalf of the Network

Dissemination and exploitation strategy

Membership roles

15:00–15:15 **Coffee Break**

15:15–16:00 **Examples of past activities**

European Center for Research, Policies, and Action for Minors and Migration and the International Journal of Child Welfare Policy (Melilla, April 2019)

(Sagrario Segado Sánchez-Cabezudo and Marit Skivenes)

Network members Sagrario Segado Sánchez-Cabezudo and Marit Skivenes established the European Center for Research, Policies, and Action for Minors and Migration in December 2017. In April 2019, they held the fourth annual seminar on frontiers, research, policy, and actions for minors in Melilla, Europe, and Spain, with plans to publish papers from the conference either as a monograph or as a special volume of a journal.

Evaluation of the Efficiency and Effectiveness of PES Training Measures

(Helmut Mahringer)

In Austria, WIFO (Austrian Institute of Economic Research) is engaged in a project to improve impact measurement of active labour market programmes and evaluate the regional performance of a national training-effectiveness strategy. WIFO applies econometric methods to compare programme performance between regions, taking into account differences in regional economic and institutional contexts and the composition of the target groups of active labour market policies. Methodologically, counterfactual impact evaluation (statistical matching, panel regression or instrumental variable approaches) is combined with

regression-based regional performance measurement. Main objectives of the project are (1) to overcome the lack of comparability between impact estimates across different regional contexts and (2) to develop monitoring strategies that allow for a fair comparison and are sufficiently easy and timely applicable to be useful for programme-management.

Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe (Torino, May 20-22)
(Doug Besharov)

This conference honored Alberto Martini and was cosponsored by *Evaluation Review*, the Collegio Carlo Alberto, the University of Maryland, and the Network. The conference included keynote talks by prominent researchers and policy-makers, including Daniele Bondonio, Università del Piemonte Orientale; Senator Laura Bottici, Italian Senate; Eric Hanushek, Stanford University; Alberto Martini, Università del Piemonte Orientale; Rebecca Maynard, University of Pennsylvania; Stefano Scarpetta, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development; and Jeffrey Smith, University of Wisconsin.

In addition, twenty-six papers were presented in ten panels on the following topics: cross-national generalizability in impact evaluation, economic growth/development, employment protection and contracts, elementary/primary education, issues and approaches to conducting rigorous impact evaluation, refugee and migrant policies, secondary and post-secondary education, systematic reviews, welfare policies and employment, and workforce development. In total, about fifty people attended the conference.

Faculty/Student Exchanges
(Neil Gilbert)

Exchanges have been or will be held between *Charles University/University of California, Berkeley*; *Hebrew University/University of California, Berkeley*; *Center for International Social Security Studies (China)/University of California, Berkeley*; *Chinese Academy of Social Sciences/University of Maryland*; and the *University of Tübingen/University of California, Berkeley and University of Maryland*.

16:00–17:30 **Types and design of “activities” by “substantive topic”**

Child welfare (Marit Skivenes/Neil)
Family policy (Birgit Pfau-Effinger/Neil)
Demographics and fertility (Lynn Videka)
Workforce development (Helmut Mahringer)
Immigration and refugees (Sagrario Segado Sanchez)
Migration within the EU (Martin Seeleib-Kaiser)

Pensions and retirement (Martin Potucek)
Infrastructure planning, financing, and procurement (Doug)

Course on Policy Analysis and Evaluation (Doug)

19:30

Dinner (optional)

Restaurant Kopun
Poljana R. Boskovicica 7

Note: This dinner will be an optional and informal get-together. Please note that attendees are responsible for paying for their own meals and drinks.

Appendix A

Oxford International Policy Exchange Series: Published or Approved Volumes

Policy Exchanges: Published

(in chronological order)

United in Diversity? Comparing Social Models in Europe and America

Jens Alber and Neil Gilbert, eds. (2010)

Child Protection Services: International Trends and Orientations

Neil Gilbert, Nigel Parton, and Marit Skivenes, eds. (2011)

The Korean State and Social Policy: How South Korea Lifted Itself from Poverty and Dictatorship to Affluence and Democracy

Stein Ringen, Huck-je Kwon, Ilcheong Yi, Taekyoon Kim, and Jooha Lee, eds. (2011)

Counting the Poor: New Thinking About European Poverty Measures and Lessons for the United States

Douglas J. Besharov and Kenneth A. Couch, eds., (2012)

The Age of Dualization: The Changing Face of Inequality in Deindustrializing Societies

Patrick Emmenegger, Silja Hausermann, Bruno Palier, and Martin Seelib-Kaiser, eds. (2012)

Chinese Social Policy in a Time of Transition

Douglas J. Besharov and Karen Baehler, eds. (2013)

Social Policy and Citizenship: The Changing Landscape

Adalbert Evers and Anne-Marie Guillemard, eds. (2013)

Reconciling Work and Poverty Reduction: How Successful are European Welfare States?

Bea Cantillon and Frank Vandebroucke, eds. (2014)

Activation or Workfare? Governance and the Neo-Liberal Convergence

Ivar Lodemel and Amilcar Moreira, eds. (2014)

University Adaptation in Difficult Economic Times

Paola Mattei, ed. (2014)

Child Welfare Systems and Migrant Children

Marit Skivenes, Ravinder Barn, Katrin Kriz, and Tarja Poso, eds. (2014)

A World in Motion: Trends in Migration and Migration Policy

Douglas J. Besharov and Mark H. Lopez, eds. (2015)

Child Welfare Removals by the State: A Cross-Country Analysis of Decision-Making Systems

Kenneth Burns, Tarja Pvsy, and Marit Skivenes, eds. (2016)

Caring for a Living: Migrant Women, Aging Citizens, and Italian Families

Francesca Degiuli, ed. (2016)

Improving Public Services: International Experiences in Using Evaluation Tools to Measure Program Performance

Douglas J. Besharov, Karen Baehler, and Jacob A. Klerman, eds. (2017)

Welfare, Work, and Poverty: Social Assistance in China

Qin Gao, ed. (2017)

Decent Incomes for All: Improving Policies in Europe

Bea Cantillon, Tim Goedemé, and John Hills, eds. (2018)

Youth Labor in Transition: Inequalities, Mobility, and Policies in Europe

Jacqueline O'Reilly, Janine Leschke, Renate Ortlieb, Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, and Paola Villa, eds. (2018)

Policy Exchanges: Approved

Social Exclusion in Cross-National Perspective: Actors, Actions, and Impacts from Above and Below

Robert J. Chaskin, Bong Joo Lee, and Surinder Jaswal, eds. (to be published in July 2019)

The "Population Problem" in Pacific Asia

Stuart Gietel-Basten, ed. (to be published in July 2019)

Labor Activation in Times of High (and Low) Unemployment: Encouraging Work While Preserving the Social Safety-Net

Douglas Besharov and Douglas Call, University of Maryland, eds. (approved in 2014)

US Income Trends

Diana Furchtgott-Roth and Daniel DiMartino, eds. (approved in 2019)