

# RC 19 Presidential Letter and Newsletter

## December 2014

Dear RC19 Members,

The year 2014 was an exciting moment in the life of RC19. First, in July, RC19 held 18 sessions and four joint sessions as part of the XVIII ISA World Congress in Yokohama, Japan. Ranging from poverty and health inequalities to migration and social investment, the diverse topics covered by these sessions perfectly illustrate the diversity and vitality of RC19 as a social policy forum. Overall, the sessions proved intellectually stimulating and they attracted numerous participants from various national and disciplinary backgrounds. The feedback I have received from these participants is overwhelmingly positive and, once again, I thank Program Coordinator Ito Peng and all the session organizers and participants for their efforts.

Second, immediately after the end of the ISA World Congress, the new RC19 board elected in the spring began its work. These are the members of the new RC19 board:

### Board 2014-2018

*President:* Daniel BELAND, University of Saskatchewan, Canada,  
daniel.beland@usask.ca

*Vice-Presidents:* Huck-ju KWON, Seoul National University, South Korea  
Bjørn HVINDEN, NOVA, Norway

*Secretary:* Alexandra KAASCH, Bielefeld University, Germany,  
alexandra.kaasch@uni-bielefeld.de

*Treasurer:* Timo FLECKENSTEIN, London School of Economics, UK,  
t.fleckenstein@lse.ac.uk

*Board Members:* Evelyne HUBER, University of North Carolina, United States  
Nathalie MOREL, Sciences Po, France  
Juliana MARTINEZ FRANZONI, Universidad de Costa Rica  
Jolanta AIDUKAITE, Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania  
Lynn Prince COOKE, University of Bath, UK  
Jimi ADESINA, Rhodes University, South Africa

This RC19 board reflects the truly global nature of our research committee, as it gathers scholars from four different continents. Larger than ever before, it also features a better gender balance than the previous board, an issue that needed to be addressed; and includes

researchers at different stages of their academic careers. The new board is already at work and we have several outstanding priorities, from the organization of future RC19 meetings to the creation of a stand-alone website. As a board, we are here to serve all RC19 members and we welcome your suggestions about how to move forward as an open, diverse, and really global organization that welcomes people from all disciplinary backgrounds, despite its clear and undeniable sociological roots.

As for the future, Lynn Prince Cooke and her team are already at work to put together what we think will be a successful annual RC19 meeting in Bath, from August 26-28, 2015. The deadline for submitting your abstract to the program committee is February 15 and the call for papers for our annual meeting is featured elsewhere in the present newsletter.

For 2016, RC19 scholars will gather twice. First, from March 17-19, 2016, RC19 will hold its annual meeting at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. Eveline Huber and John Stephens from UNC have kindly agreed to organize this annual meeting and the board enthusiastically approved their proposal in September. Second, RC19 will organize sessions for the Third ISA Forum of Sociology, which will take place in Vienna from July 10-14, 2016. Board member Bjørn Hvinden (NOVA, Oslo) and RC19 member Hildegard Theobald (Universität Vechta) have generously volunteered to act as Program Coordinators of the RC19 sessions at the 2016 ISA Forum.

Regarding the 2017 annual meeting, we have already received several proposals but feel free to contact me or another member of our board if you have an idea in mind about where and how to organize our future meetings and events. As an organization, we thrive only when members provide feedback about how to improve our activities and our work as an organization. I am proud to be the new president of RC19 and I will always welcome your advice and feedback about how to make our organization better and more successful, in the years to come. The same remark applies to our committed board members, who I thank warmly for their outstanding and continuous service. No organization can survive and thrive without committed board members and members at large, and RC19 have plenty of them, which is why I believe in it more than ever. Thank you again for supporting RC19. I hope to see many of you again in Bath in late August 2015.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Béland

President of RC19  
Canada Research Chair in Public Policy (Tier 1) and Professor  
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy  
<http://www.danielbeland.org/>  
[daniel.beland@usask.ca](mailto:daniel.beland@usask.ca)

## **Call for Contributions**

Let RC19 members know about forthcoming conferences, recent publications, and employment opportunities! Send your submissions to [Alexandra.kaasch@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:Alexandra.kaasch@uni-bielefeld.de) and they will be included in the next RC19 Digest.

## **RC19 Announcements**

### **Next RC19 Meeting in Bath, UK**

Annual RC 19 Conference at the University of Bath (UK)  
August 26-28, 2015

Frontiers of Inequality, Social Policy, and Welfare

The International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy (RC19) will hold its annual academic conference at the University of Bath, hosted by the Department of Social and Policy Sciences (SPS) and the Institute for Policy Research (IPR). The purpose of the 2015 theme, Frontiers of Inequality, Social Policy, and Welfare is to expand the traditional remit of RC19 to include the inequality, social policy and welfare issues in growing areas such as sustainable cities, climate change, and developing countries. It is also a call for fresh ideas on welfare, such as that being rolled out in newer industrial economies to contrast with neo-liberalizing Western welfare states. The goal of the 2015 meeting will be to highlight these new exciting areas also under the remit of RC19, as well as discuss the ongoing research projects of RC 19 members.

We invite submission of abstracts of no more than 500 words that outline the primary research question, theoretical approach, methods, data sources, and analytical significance, to be submitted no later than 15 February 2015. Preference will be given to papers that make a strong comparative and/or theoretical contribution to the field, as judged by the Program Committee. Submissions from advanced doctoral students and junior researchers are particularly encouraged, which may be submitted to either regular sessions or special mentoring sessions. Mentoring sessions take advantage of the expertise available at the conference, with the papers discussed by advanced scholars in the field. There is a place on the submission website for you to indicate whether you would like the submission to be considered for a regular or mentoring session.

The submission website can be found at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/rc19-conference/programme/abstract-submission>; please enter the requested information. You will automatically receive confirmation of receipt of your submission. The Program Committee will evaluate abstracts and notify submitting authors of acceptance or rejection no later than 20 March 2015. Completed papers must be uploaded no later than 15 July 2015 to be included in the final conference program.

## **Calls for Applications**

### **ESPAnet doctoral workshop on 'Health Impacts of Social Policy'**

Stockholm 25-26 September 2015

Social policies affect living conditions in different ways. Whereas effects of social policy are typically assessed in terms of income and work status of individuals, welfare states also have important consequences for health, both at individual and population levels. Not only health care is of relevance, but also the ways in which countries have organized their cash benefit programs, such as social insurance, social assistance and family benefits.

The purpose of this workshop is to address health impacts of social policy by discussing the role of both cash and care. The target group is PhD students from various disciplines and at different stages in their education. We will allow for a maximum of 20 participants.

The workshop provides possibilities for PhD students to present their work and to discuss their research with colleagues and experienced researchers. Papers should address the main theme of the doctoral workshop. Although comparative and cross-national studies are particularly welcome, single country analyses may also be presented. In particular, we encourage studies that investigate the nexus of cash and care, either qualitatively or quantitatively.

**Format:** There are short plenary lectures/presentations by senior scholars and parallel paper sessions by PhD students. Plenary lectures are held by Professor Jason Beckfield (Harvard University), Professor Johan Fritzell (Karolinska Institutet/Stockholm University), Professor Olle Lundberg (Karolinska Institutet/Stockholm University), Professor Kenneth Nelson (Stockholm University), Professor Joakim Palme (Uppsala University) and Professor Claus Wendt (University of Siegen).

**Finance:** Students are expected to cover travel and accommodation costs. Lunches and one workshop dinner are kindly offered to all participants. Certificate of acceptance is provided upon request.

**Application:** Participants are selected based on relevance, originality and quality of their research. Applications should include a title and an abstract (up to 600 words), and a short CV (maximum two pages). Applications are sent to [Sverker.Sjostrand@sofi.su.se](mailto:Sverker.Sjostrand@sofi.su.se). Deadline for applications are 15 March 2015. Successful applicants will be notified by 15 April 2015. Final papers should be submitted by 30 August 2015.

The Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford is offering graduate scholarships for students wishing to pursue doctoral – DPhil – studies in an international and interdisciplinary centre of excellence in (comparative) social policy as well as social intervention and evaluation research.

They are conducting cutting-edge research in a wide range of areas. Their research portfolio is organised in three clusters: Oxford Institute of Social Policy (OISP), Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention (CEBI) and Oxford Centre for Population Research (OXPOP) (see <http://www.spi.ox.ac.uk/research.html>)

The following scholarships are available for entry in October 2015: the Barnett Scholarship, the Centenary Scholarship, two ESRC scholarships.

All applicants that apply by 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015 will also be considered for the University's flagship Clarendon Scholarship Fund. The department also has access to additional pooled ESRC scholarships.

For information about the various scholarships and details of how to apply, visit our website: <http://www.spi.ox.ac.uk/study-with-us/funding.html>

The deadline for scholarship applications is 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015 (12 noon UK time). For enquiries, please contact [scholarships@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:scholarships@spi.ox.ac.uk).

### **EDAC-ESPANET Summer School on Social Policies and Social Outcomes**

Leuven / Belgium, 14-18 September 2015

Through their welfare arrangements societies to improve living standards of broad categories of their citizens, either directly by e.g. the provision of health care, education and income benefits, or indirectly by e.g. decreasing inequalities of various kinds, extending employment opportunities and stimulating general prosperity. Notwithstanding the good intention that underlie the design and implementation of social policies, their intended social outcomes are rarely achieved to full effect. They may also result in unintended outcomes that might be unwanted. Therefore, one of the leading questions in comparative social policy analysis, with strong relevance for policy making, regards the issue whether the welfare efforts invested in society achieve their intended objectives, and if not, whether alternative designs would work out better or minimise unintended effects. Moreover, policy outcomes may be different for different groups in society. Quite often this is intended, where policies are expressly targeted at specific categories of citizens only. However, there may be unintended differences in the degree to which social categories are benefiting from social arrangements. Thus, the question arises what effect do social policies have on levels of outcomes, and what is their effect on distributions of (inequalities in) outcomes?

This summer school invites PhD students, Post-Docs and early career researchers to present and discuss their work on the analysis of social policy outcomes with a group of international scholars and experts. The deadline for application is 1 March 2015. For more information see: <http://soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/files/edac-espanet-summer-school-2015-call-for-participation>

## **Calls for Papers**

The annual FISS conference 2015 under the direction of Bea Cantillon and Peter Saunders is on the topic of 'Social Security East and West: Common Challenges, Distinctive Solutions?'. It will take place in Hong Kong from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. More information is available at <http://fiss-socialsecurity.org>.

The Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (FISS) is pleased to invite paper proposals for the conference. As it will be the first time that the FISS conference has been held outside of Europe, papers from Asian experts or on aspects of social security in Asia (including comparative papers) are particularly welcome (the extended deadline is December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014).

The International Conference on Public Policy 2015 (Chair: Philipp Trein and Tanja Klerk; Discussant: Stéphane Nahrath) is on the topic of 'T02P07 – Comparing Horizontal Coordination of Policy Sectors'. It will take place in Milan from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

The deadline for paper proposals is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Proposals should be submitted via the ICPP homepage. More information can be found [here](#).

The International Conference on Public 2015 (Chair: Mi Ah Schoyen and Max Koch; Discussant (to be confirmed): Milena Büchs) also is on the topic of 'T03P09 – Connecting the dots between climate policy and social policy: Normative and empirical conditions for environmental welfare states'. As mentioned above it will take place in Milan from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

The Call for Papers can be found [here](#).

The World Social Science Forum 2015 will be held 13-16 September 2015 in Durban. It is convened under the theme of 'Transforming Global Relations for a Just World'. The deadline for abstract submission is 1 March 2015

More information at <http://www.wssf2015.org/call-for-abstracts.html>

## **Recent Publications by RC19 Members**

Aretxabala, Esther/ Setién, Maria Luisa (2014): *El reto de la diversidad para las Empresas de Inserción vascas. El empleo de inmigrantes y de mujeres*. Bilbao: Publicaciones UD.

Béland, Daniel/ Blomqvist, Paula/ Goul Andersen, Jørgen/ Palme, Joakim/ Waddan, Alex (2014): The Universal Decline of Universality? Social Policy Change in Canada, Denmark, Sweden, and the UK. *Social Policy & Administration*, 48(7), pp. 739-756. Link: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/spol.12064/full>.

Béland, Daniel/ Howard, Christopher/ Morgan, Kimberley J. (Eds.) (2014): *Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

*Description:* The American welfare state has long been a source of political contention and his Oxford Handbook pulls together much of our current knowledge about the origins, development, functions, and challenges of American social policy. After the Introduction, the first substantive part of the handbook offers an historical overview of U.S. social policy from the colonial era to the present. This is followed by a set of chapters on different theoretical perspectives available for understanding and explaining the development of U.S. social policy. The three following parts of the volume focus on concrete social programs for the elderly, the poor and near-poor, the disabled, and workers and families. Policy areas covered include health care, pensions, food assistance, housing, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, workers' compensation, family support, and programs for soldiers and veterans. The final part of the book focuses on some of the consequences of the U.S. welfare state for poverty, inequality, and citizenship. Many of the chapters comprising this handbook emphasize the disjointed patterns of policy making inherent to U.S. policymaking and the public-private mix of social provision in which the government helps certain groups of citizens directly (e.g., social insurance) or indirectly (e.g., tax expenditures, regulations). The contributing authors are experts from political science, sociology, history, economics, and other social sciences.

Table of contents and list of contributors available online:

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199838509.do>

Fritz, M./ Koch, M. (2014): Potentials for Prosperity without Growth: Ecological Sustainability, Social Inclusion and the Quality of Life in 38 Countries. In: *Ecological Economics*, No. 108, pp. 191-199.

Lobao, Linda/ Adua, Lazarus/ Hooks, Gregory (2014): Privatization, Business Attraction, and Social Services across the United States: Local Governments' Use of Market-Oriented, Neoliberal Policies in the Post-2000 Period. In: *Social Problems*, Vol. 61, No. 4 (November), pp. 644-672.

*Abstract:* Privatization, business attraction incentives, and limited social service provision are market-oriented policies that broadly concern social scientists. These policies are conventionally assumed to be widely implemented across the United States, the nation a world-model of neoliberal development. This study takes a new look at these policies, providing a first view of how they unfold across the nation at a geographic scale that drills down to the local state. We document the extent to which localities privatized their public services, used business attraction, and limited social service delivery in the last decade. Extending national-level theories of the welfare state, we focus on two sets of factors to explain where these policies are most likely to be utilized. The first, derived from the class-politics approach emphasizes class-interests such as business and unions and political-ideological context, anticipating these policies are utilized most in Republican leaning, pro-business and distressed contexts. The second, derived from the political institutional approach emphasizes state-capacity and path dependency as determinants. The analyses are based on over 1,700 localities, the majority of county governments, using unique policy data. Class-politics variables have modest relationship to neoliberal policies and show that business sector influence and public-sector unions matter. The findings strongly support the importance of state-capacity and path dependency. Overall our study challenges assumptions that acquiescence to neoliberal policies is widespread. Rather we find evidence of resilience to these policies among communities across the United States.

---

*Compiled by:*

Alexandra Kaasch [alexandra.kaasch@uni-bielefeld.de]

Secretary, Research Committee 19 (ISA)

Junior Professor in Transnational Social Policy

Faculty of Sociology, University of Bielefeld, Germany