

Day 1

SESSION 1 – Challenges for social security & work (A) – Chair: Roy Sainsbury

13:20h - Shin Yamada – Fair Globalization; The (im)possible dream for social security?

Abstract

Today, the globalization which conduces our world flexibility and informalization in work and life is not "just and fair" for giving all people privileges from new changes. It damages the existing social security system, mainly basing on the social insurance schemes which premise stable and fixed society, and social and informal supports for the people, both and increases the necessity of the social protection.

The people who have been deported from and drove into the marginal area of the society never have the opportunity to derive the benefits from the globalization. Some people have been forced to become "vulnerable".

There needs the special consideration to such people, the victims of the globalization when the social policies are discussed.

The first group of the victims of the globalization is the increasing workers in informal sector and atypical employment. For addressing the difficulties of the group, the non-contributory social security schemes that have been always slighted shall be reevaluated such as Indonesia and Ecuador.

The second group is marginal and descending persons who live just above the poverty line and at an aperture between social insurance sachers and public assistance.

The indigenous people who are exploited unilaterally and extensively in the point of their resource, knowledge and way of living, under "unfair" globalization also are the victim. They are "left behind".

It is important to eschew the falling of these people into the public assistance scheme. There needs the holistic social security with social rehabilitation and vocational training, for the function as a "spring board", as Japanese case.

The Conditional Cash Transfer programs developing largely in Latin America shall be effective and useful for the industrialized countries as well, with the reformed proxy means test.

13:45h - Doga Basar Sariipek & Arzu Ozsoy Ozmen – A traditional response for today’s challenge: A silent and “informal” reform in social security in Turkey

Abstract

Social security systems face numerous challenges threatening their sustainability both financially and socially. Governments in different countries are responding these challenges in various ways, but all in conformity with their distinctive social, cultural, political and economic conditions.

The primal response of conservative-liberal government of Turkey, in this sense, is *re-empowerment of non-state actors* (private sector, voluntary agencies, community based organizations etc.) and encouraging the attempts of turning back to the traditional informal social protection mechanisms as much as possible. The distinctive side of the government is using a very strong *religious rhetoric* and applying a *populist/collectivist* policy in order to reach a *liberal* cost-lowering target. To this end, re-familization of care issues of children, the elderly and the disabled as well as encouraging the family and kinship solidarity and interpersonal relationships in society in general are the most outstanding measures taken among all. Most recently, for instance, the government introduced a new programme which is based on paying a regular wage to grandmothers in return for caring their grandchildren while the working-mother keeps her regular working routine. While it is normal and necessary to take cost-effective measures in social security systems, it also an obligation to not to violate the universal human rights of enjoying a decent life and guaranteeing a certain degree of social protection. In short, it is the state's duty in the first place to not to leave its citizens to the mercy of others even if they are from the family. Furthermore, rights-based social security scheme is not possible to be replaced fully by any of other protection mechanisms, such as charity-based provisions or interpersonal solidarity nets. Therefore, the cost-decreasing responses in social security systems must be given institutionally and the social security sphere shouldn't be left to the interpersonal relationships or charities as the leading agencies, but they should complement the state in a good balance.

14:10h - Arzu Ozsoy Ozmen & Doga Basar Sariipek - Changing Nature of Work as a Response to the Challenges Social Security Systems Face; Expansion of Precarity in Public Services in Turkey

Abstract

Starting from the last quarter of the 20th century, many developed and developing countries have introduced liberal reforms in their social security systems. Attempts for enabling the economic sustainability of social security systems in the future appear as the central concern of almost all these reforms. As a result of these attempts, however, individuals may suffer from a decline in the level of social security rights and it may become even more difficult than ever to be a right holder. Turkey, in this sense, has been conducting similar responses to the external and internal challenges by encouraging the unsecured, flexible and atypical jobs even in the public sector. Since public services have basic responsibilities towards the entire society unlike the private sector businesses which are responsible towards the individual consumer only, it is an obligation to secure public services through employment security regulations. As the existence of state in the field of social security has been left to the market and private sector businesses recently, public employees increasingly turn into "private sector workers". In other words, removing the employment security of public servants is the main response that the government takes against the social security challenges in Turkey. Therefore, differences between employment conditions of public and private sector jobs are increasingly getting blurry due to the expansion of flexible and atypical working types in public sector, too. In short, working conditions of private sector are transferred into the public sector whereas just the opposite is suggested to be done.

The deterioration in the employment conditions of the public sector is the result of the logic that does not consider social security a universal human right, but a cost or a burden. This study suggests that social security systems will be redesigned all over in the near future according to the principles of economic sustainability only and, therefore, there will be a decline to some extent in the function of security provision. This suggestion will be discussed by the help of Turkish case where there is a clear decline in socioeconomic rights attached to the public services recently.

SESSION 2 – Basic Income (A) - Chair: Philippe Van Parijs

13:20h – Wim Van Lancker – The basic income trillema: simplicity, affordability, and poverty reduction in modern welfare states

Abstract

The idea of a basic income is gaining traction in the public debate (again). While experiments with some form of basic income took place in a number of developing countries in the past decades, experiments are now underway in developed welfare states like Finland and the Netherlands as well. Although basic income comes in many flavours, the following features are widely shared amongst its supporters: it is a universal, unconditional cash benefit for all (citizens). Similarly, there is general agreement that a basic income is a “simple and powerful idea” that is much easier to administer than traditional welfare programs. To the political right, it is a means to get rid of the welfare state altogether while to the political left it is a means to get rid of poverty and, ultimately, to achieve a more just society. In this essay I argue that, in developed welfare states, a basic income *stricto sensu* faces the following trilemma: it is not possible to implement a basic income that 1) reduces poverty; 2) is simple to administer; and 3) is affordable. It is possible to achieve two out of three of these objectives, but not all three simultaneously. This in turn means that a basic income is not superior to the welfare state as we know it; or that only the political right variety of a basic income is achievable. Yet, that doesn’t mean that a basic income shouldn’t inspire future welfare state reforms.

13:45h – Simon Birnbaum & Jurgen De Wispelaere - The Exit Trap: Is Basic Income an Acceptable Way Out for Republicans?

Abstract

An increasingly influential claim in neo-republican thought is that exit-based empowerment through unconditional basic income offers the cornerstone of an effective general strategy for minimizing domination in contemporary labor markets. However, it is plausible to assume that a realistic opportunity to say no – to avoid or leave poor jobs – will empower precarious workers to resist domination only to the extent that it offers the basis of a credible threat to leave. In this article, we develop the “hollow threat objection” to the idea of a basic income-induced exit. In light of a realistic understanding of how labor markets operate and how the opportunities of disadvantaged workers are presently structured, we show that the basic income-centered exit option can easily become an exit trap rather than an empowered fallback position. On its own, the basic income offers no guaranteed access to affiliation, social inclusion, or collective voice to back one’s fundamental interests.

Having what we need for food and shelter but remaining in isolation without sufficient means to interact fully and meaningfully in our communities fails the conditions for securing (republican) freedom. A potential escape route from the hollow threat objection is to redefine the exit option by developing a more diversified interpretation of exit-based empowerment. According to this "diversification reply", it is crucial to combine basic income with other support structures to effectively ensure access to meaningful participation and vital power resources over time. Considering two ways of formulating such a reply, we argue that the most plausible version of this response offers valuable resources for developing long-term strategies for social empowerment. However, it fails to support the stronger republican claim that we address in this article, i.e. advancing basic income as the key tool for countering domination under present circumstances.

14:10h – Malcolm Torry - 'Unconditional' and 'universal': definitions and applications

Abstract

The paper will explore a variety of different ways in which words are defined: according to current usage; by a legitimate authority on the basis of normative considerations; by a legitimate authority on the basis of current usage; or via a prototype. These methods will then be employed in order to define the terms 'unconditional' and 'universal', and, on the basis of the definitions constructed, relationships between the two terms will be discussed. How the terms are used in current social policy debate will be explored via case studies.

Whereas it might be difficult to envisage a variety of kinds of universality, it is possible to categorise different kinds of conditionality: those that we cannot affect; those that we have affected and that relate to events in the past (such as the payment of social insurance contributions); and those that we can affect and that relate to future or current events (such as paid employment). The different behavioural effects of the different kinds of conditionality will be discussed.

'Unconditional' and 'universal' will then be treated as ideal positions, and the question will be asked as to whether we might legitimately speak of degrees of unconditionality and degrees of universality: and, if so, whether levels of unconditionality and universality can be quantified. If so, levels of conditionality will need to be measured separately for each kind of conditionality.

Finally, policy implications will be discussed.

SESSION 3 – Old age pensions (A) – Chair: Elsa Fornero

13:20h – Andres Võrk, Magnus Piirits & Evelin Jõgi – The impact of introduction of funded pension schemes on intragenerational inequality in Estonia: a cohort microsimulation analysis

Abstract

This paper uses a cohort microsimulation model to analyse intragenerational distributional effects of a shift from a defined benefit pay-as-you-go pension system to contribution based PAYG scheme and funded pension scheme. We contribute to the literature on microsimulation by showing how introduction of contribution based insurance components and compulsory DC schemes increase pension inequality. Our results show that in case of large inequality of labour earnings and high long-term unemployment rates, such as in Estonia, introduction of very strong link between contributions and future pensions leads to considerably higher inequality of pensions. Simulation results suggest that the inequality of old-age pensions more than doubles when the reforms mature. The inequality in replacement rates on the other hand decreases.

13:45h – Flor Esther Salazar & Rodrigo Alberto Castillo - A review of the parallel pension system in Colombia: towards a new necessary reform

Abstract

In the structural pension reforms implemented in most of Latin American countries in the 1990s, with greater or lesser emphasis, the individual capitalization system was introduced. In some countries the privatization of the pension system prevailed, in others a mixed system was structured by distributing contributions in social insurance and private savings, and in cases such as Colombia with the 1993 reform, a parallel model was adopted, composed of two distinct regimes that compete with each other: average premium (with defined benefit) and individual savings (defined contributions), it means that members can choose to be in social insurance or private funds.

Despite the reforms carried out, there are still great difficulties and challenges to be achieved. Their high level of disarticulation sketches many doubts about their operability as a pension system, only 22% of the population of retirement age has a pension and is estimated that it can be worse because only about 10% of current contributors will be able to reach an a pension. The situation of the system coupled with the interest of the private sector to concentrate the administration of the Colombian pension system has motivated in several sectors to pronounce on the necessity of a reform of the system. The question that arises then is, ¿what kind of reform does the country need?, parametric reforms such as the increase in retirement ages, changes in membership conditions, reduction of benefits granted (pension amount), among others, would they really solve the problems that afflict the system?

In accordance with the above, the work that is presented makes an analytical review of the current situation of the pension system in order to better understand the conditions of the same and provides elements of judgment and suggestions for a real reform.

14:10h – Alejandra Macías – Challenges of the Mexican pension system

Abstract

Our research institution, named, in Spanish, Centro de Investigación Económica y Presupuestaria (CIEP), proposes an in-depth analysis of the Mexican pension system that is composed, on the one hand, by multiple federal and state systems and, on the other, by public universities. There exist four core institutions at the federal level. One is intended for the private workers, named Instituto Mexicanos del Seguro Social (IMSS). The three remaining are directed to the public workforce, called Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado (ISSSTE), Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX), and Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE). The Mexican pension system captures 14% of the federal budget and 3.5% of GDP in 2017. Additionally, the study will include the 32 Mexican state pension spending analyses and will take a sample of the 32 public universities (one for each state). Also a multi-country perspective is included.

This paper will cover three major pension schemes that are currently working in the country:

- a) Pay-as-you-go: for the transition generation;
- b) Self-invested pension: for the new working generations that started after 1997 (after IMSS reform), 2007 (after ISSSTE reform), 2008 (after CFE reform), and 2015 (after PEMEX reform).
- c) Non-contributive pensions: for the rest of the population with no protection of a contribute pension.

The analysis by institutions and pension schemes will provide us with sufficient and necessary information that, along with the use of household and social security surveys, will be possible to build a microsimulation model. The aim of a Mexican pension microsimulation model is to allow different hypothetical scenarios, according to several kinds of pension reforms. For example, it would be possible to observe what would happen to the public revenues if social security contributions were the same for all formal employees or if the government chooses to increase non-contributive pensions for every elderly over 70 years old.

Public expenditure may grow due to the different reforms implemented, the population aging, and to a longer life expectancy. Assessing various reform scenarios is important to propose solutions.

SESSION 4 – Challenges for social security & work (B) – Chair: Roy Sainsbury

14:55h – Oguz Karadeniz – The effects of the social reforms on reducing undeclared work in Turkey

Abstract

The undeclared work is the one of the most important problem for social security systems. On the one hand it can causes social exclusion for workers and other hand tax and social security revenues losses for public budget. The undeclared work ratio decreased from 52 per cent in 2000 to 33,4 percent in 2016 in Turkey. For regularly employees it decreased from 29 per cent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2016 (TURKSTAT, 2000, 2016). The average declared day per month for one person to Social Security Institution increased from 24 days in 2001 to 27 days in 2016 (SGK, 2001, 2016). The Turkish economy has risen since 2002 regularly and it created nearly 9,000,000 new registered regularly job (TURKSTAT, 2000, 2016). On the other hand Turkish Government launched social security reform for coping with undeclared work in 2006.

The new programme has been included both incentives and enforcement implementations since 2008. The incentive programmes have involved social security contribution and tax reductions and simplifying bureaucratic formalities for employers. The enforcement and inspections programmes have covered increasing labour inspections and fines and strengthening coordination among the public authorities via matching information. Moreover, the social security coverage was extended for disadvantaged groups such as home based workers, domestic services workers, casual agricultural workers.

This paper analyses the impacts of the social security reform on decreasing undeclared work ratio. I use the Turkish Statistics Institution Household Labour Survey micro data sets and Turkish Social Security Institution reports to analyse the social security reform's effects on undeclared work.

15:20h – Sebastian Sirén – Politics and social spending in the wake of the third wave of democratization

Abstract

Whether and how politics matters for the development of welfare states in OECD countries has been a prominent research topic in comparative political economy. Much less attention has been devoted to the analyses of the role of partisan politics in other geographical contexts. This might arguable have been understandable when a significant share of the world's population was subject to non-democratic regimes. However, the "third wave of democratisation" brought multiparty competition to a great number of countries during the last decades of the 20th century. Meanwhile, developments of novel social policy instruments in the global south, particularly social assistance schemes and social pensions, has spurred both scholarly and political interest. Still, the driving forces behind social policy changes in non-OECD countries remain largely unexplored, and the role of distributive conflict and partisan politics in this context remains unexplored. Notably, there is no agreement as to whether ideological cleavages along a left-right dimension are salient in party systems outside of the industrialised welfare states, or to what extent parties are programmatic in their orientation. This paper addresses this gap by analysing the impact of political, structural and institutional factors on social expenditure across a global sample of countries using statistical cross-sectional time-series analysis. Partisan differences along a left-right continuum are indeed found to matter for social spending, alongside the effects of democratisation, demographic change, trade dependency and economic growth.

15:45h - Sezgi AKBAŞ – Impact evaluation of active labour market policies: The case of Denizli (Turkey)

Abstract

Active labour market policies, which have gained importance after 2000's and are particularly designed for women, unemployed youth and other disadvantaged groups in Turkey, are implemented by Turkish Labour Institution.

Primary objective of this institution, which offers public employment services, is to increase employment opportunities for individuals by means of in-class and on-the-job trainings. The study focuses on vocational training courses with 'guaranteed' employment, the specialized skill acquisition center project, vocational training courses without guaranteed employment and on—the-job training programs, which are four of the courses initiated under these policies in order to assess the impact of such programs in Denizli as a pilot area. For that reason a quasi-experimental methodology has been used. For the determination of the experiment and control groups their observable features have taken into consideration.

According to the basic findings of the telephone survey that involved 536 unemployed individuals who registered to public employment service in between 2012 and 2013, such programs may be decisive in increasing the employment opportunities for women in particular especially after two or more years. However, institutionalizing child care services as a public service may improve effectiveness in this respect. Educational status and age do not have a direct effect on the employment rate of the participants of these courses. Defining themselves as a housewife has been seen as the primary reason for the non-contribution to workforce. It is also found that there is no necessary correlation between joining to the work force and graduation from the programme for youth. On-the-job training programs are more effective than in-class training programs. There are positive opinions towards the programme among the graduates. However, there is a weak relation between the graduated programme and their existing job. The prevalent outcome of all programs in general is the inability of the individual to convey his vocational skills to appropriate fields of employment.

SESSION 5 – Basic Income (B) – Chair: Philippe Van Parijs

14:55h – Yves Stevens & Jakob Werbrouck – In search of security: Can the concept of social risks still provide real social protection?

Abstract

The social security systems of European states are traditionally organized in a social risk-based structure. The social protection they have developed is directed towards guarding against specific social risks, such as unemployment, sickness or old age.

This social risk-based structure is however increasingly coming under pressure. Two main causes can be discerned. The first is a progressive blurring of the boundaries that separate social risks. For example, persons receiving social assistance often suffer from a cluster of related and self-reinforcing problems that transcend mere financial need, such as mental issues, lack of employable skills and physical incapacity. These people can easily fall under multiple social risks, yet their reality is often reduced to one single risk. The second cause is the rise of a radically new way to organize labor. Existing social security systems are built upon the framework of the traditional divide between employees and self-employed. However, the rise of phenomena such as the digital platform economy has led to an ever growing amount of persons that are both employee and self-employed, or neither, at the same time. These people navigate between the lines set out by the social risk structure, as they can e.g. suffer from the same financial uncertainty as unemployed people, all the while being loosely professionally involved. Both these causes inherently limit what social protection can achieve.

As a result, the current social risk structure is more often seen as inadequate in meeting the needs of an ever diverse and complex set of social problems the general population is faced with. Calls for alternative solutions that supersede this structure are becoming ever larger. We will zoom in on one of these solutions, the provision of a basic income. There are numerous socio-economic works on basic income. However the legal science supporting basic incomes is lagging behind. We will look at basic income from a legal perspective whereby we will accentuate two issues: (1) the accumulation rules within social security law from a comparative law perspective and (2) the so-called equivalent basic income structures in social security whereby some existing structures are legally analyzed for a possible transition towards a basic income.

15:20h – Bea Cantillon – Decent incomes for the poor: Which role for work, the living wage and social protection?

Abstract

SESSION 6 – Old age pensions (B) – Chair: Elsa Fornero

14:55h - Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak, Paweł Strzelecki, Wojciech Łątkowski - Labour Market and Retirement: Measuring the Effects on Pension Incomes in Selected EU Countries Using APC Approach

Abstract

The pension incomes at different ages are changing in many developed countries. This reflects pension reforms that lead to changing pension levels, but also changes in the working lives leading to postponement of the retirement resulted from these reforms. The pension incomes were also affected by the adjustments after financial and economic crisis in 2008. In the paper, we use age-period-cohort (APC) decomposition to measure the cohort effects of the age profiles of pension income changes of people born between 1927 and 1962 in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Sweden. We estimate the per-capita age profiles of pension income at different age levels, following the National Transfer Accounts approach. The selected countries represent different labour market and pension systems characteristics. Our analysis shows that, regardless the type of pension system, cohorts that reached retirement age recently have their overall pension income not higher than cohorts that reached retirement age before the economic crisis. This is, among others, the result of increasing retirement age and prolonging working lives. The adjustment of the pension levels to actuarially fair values was more visible and observed even before the crisis in countries with defined contribution or point system. Countries which have not adjusted pension levels experienced also significant increase in the ratio of pension expenditure to GDP and increase of the public debt. The postponement of the introduction of the mechanism which lead to the adjustment of the total pension transfers to younger cohorts can create pressure for more rapid reforms and higher variability of pension incomes between cohorts in the future.

15:20h – Inhoe Ku & Chang-o Kim – Why has old-age poverty worsened so much? Decomposition analysis of the South Korean case

Abstract

One of the most conspicuous facts in long-run poverty trends among industrial countries was the dramatic decline in elderly poverty. Lately industrialized countries in East Asian region, unlike most western welfare states, have been suffering from rising elderly poverty. As a case study of South Korea, this study aims to examine which factors affect growing old-age poverty and assess their contributions quantitatively. Firstly, we assess the relative importance of three main factors; income decline, rising inequality and changes in living arrangement and demography. We apply the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition method to evaluate their contributions. Secondly, we further decompose the contributions of total income into those of income components such as earnings, private and public transfer incomes among elderly households. We apply a budget incidence simulation method to investigate which income source mainly contributes to the change in old-age poverty over time. The standard method assesses a poverty reduction effect of an income source at a point of time by comparing a distribution of total income and one of income with the income source of interest subtracted. We extend it to examine the effects of changes in income sources over time.

To control for the compositional change among the elderly population over time, we use counterfactual distribution obtained by reweighting the sample. We analyze cross-sectional data of nationally representative sample in 1996 and 2014.

Results show that the worsened elderly poverty since the mid-1990s is largely explained by two factors: the rapidly increasing number of elderly households living apart from their adult-child and the changing size of private and public transfer income.

15:45h – Hung Wong – Retirement protection in Hong Kong in the crossroad: Foregoing ahead or dead-end

Abstract

In achieving Chinese filial piety and universal human right value, civil society in Hong Kong advocate for a social insurance system to provide basic living protection of elderly in Hong Kong since the 1970s. Owing to the objection of the business sector, Government used to adopt a “delay” strategy towards the old age pension. In the last 50 years, debates on what retirement or old age protection system should be set up in HK have never ended.

The recent debate is focus on whether the system should be a “universal” system that cover all elderly or it should be an “selective “ scheme to protect the elderly who in need. In 2012, the Hong Kong SAR Government set up the Commission on Poverty, which invited Prof. Nelson Chow to study the existing social security system and retirement protection measure. In his report, out of the expectation of Government, Prof. Chow supported to set up a universal demo-grant for all elderly aged 65 and above, which was similar with the suggested option proposed by the civil society with the support of some academics. However the Government did not accept the suggestion of Chow’s report and propose a new consultation paper “Retirement Protection Forging Ahead”, which proposed two simulated options “regardless of rich or poor” vs. “those with financial needs”. This consultation was boycotted by the NGOs and academics who advocate for the universal old age pension scheme. Finally, the Government turned down the proposal of universal scheme and only agree to set up a higher tier of Old Age Living Allowance.

This paper will review dynamics and arguments between Government, academics and the Civil Society in the recent debate to assess the future of retirement protection in Hong Kong.

SESSION 7 – Attitudes & support towards social security – Chair: Simon Brimblecombe

16:30h – Kate Summers - Making a claim: conceptions of ownership and entitlement to working age social security money from the perspective of recipients.

Abstract

This paper contributes to our understanding of how working age social security recipients in the UK conceive of their entitlement to the money they receive. Entitlement to working age social security is increasingly based upon the fulfilment of various conditional criteria. However, it is found that recipients' own understandings of entitlement often challenge or reinterpret administrative definitions.

The paper draws on in-depth interviews with 45 working-age social security recipients living in East London, which are analysed thematically. Insights from new economic sociology are employed to make the case that money should be analysed as a social medium: people are engaged in the creation and expression of social meaning when they make sense of their entitlement to the money they are receiving.

It is shown that understandings of entitlement are closely linked to understandings of ownership. Recipients most often think of their social security money as belonging either to themselves, or to wider society (and often specifically 'taxpayers'); whereby contributory, communitarian and rights based discourses are drawn on to establish entitlement. It was a minority conception that the money belonged to the government, which most clearly aligned with entitlement on the basis of conditionality. The paper outlines the bases for these different accounts according to recipients, as well as how they interact and overlap.

The paper ends by considering the implications of these differing perceptions of entitlement. In particular, it is suggested that the ways in which recipients challenge or reinterpret the prescriptions of social security policy deserves greater focus.

16:55h – Alex He Jingwei – Public attitudes towards social security and welfare: What do the Chinese think?

Abstract

Public support is an essential component in the legitimacy of welfare policies. Because the financing and provision of welfare ultimately depends on citizens' willingness to pay taxes and insurance contributions, it is vital to understand public attitudes towards the social policy system and individual sectoral policies. This is even more critical for less developed countries which are undergoing major social policy expansion, such as China. While the structure of the Chinese social policy system is largely in place, low benefits, heavy contribution burden and unequal entitlements have been a major source of public discontent. Compounding these problems is the fragmentation of system. As the country's decentralized approach to social policy has resulted in different "worlds of welfare", this remarkable sub-national variation may have shaped public attitudes, which in turn determines popular support for social policy reforms in the future.

This study is based on a household survey in Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province. Conducted in April and May 2016, the survey sampled 1,075 residents of Zhuhai. The study seeks to understand the patterns of public attitudes towards social security and analyze the factors associated with their opinions.

Several theoretical hypotheses drawn from the literature of social policy are tested and policy implications are discussed against the backdrop of ongoing social security reforms in China.

17:20h – Young-Hwan Byun - How Does the Tax and Benefit Structure of the Welfare State Shape Popular Support for Redistribution?

Abstract

Why do people support redistribution more in some countries than in others? Two main institutional accounts can be said to compete: Is it universal *benefits* to all that makes people support redistribution (Korpi & Palme, 1998)? Or is it universal *tax contributions* by all (Rothstein, 1998)? Empirical support is not established for either account, particularly when they are tested against individual-level data. The lack of empirical support can be attributed to two reasons. First, previous research has focused on only one side of the coin – either taxes or benefits, although taxes and benefits comprise two aspects of the welfare state, conditioning each other's effects. Second, previous measures of universalism (the overall dispersion of benefits or taxes) neither take the levels of benefits/taxes (whether they are 10 or 30 percent of income) nor how the levels vary across income groups (low, middle, and high income) into account. In a critical synthesis of two main institutional theories with a further specified causal mechanism and improved measures, I test to what extent the tax and benefit structure of the welfare state shapes individuals' preference for redistribution differently across countries. I argue that higher benefits to the middle class and higher taxes on low incomes are conducive to a broad popular support for redistribution. For 16 industrialized democracies, I use multi-level models for statistical estimation, drawing on data from Luxembourg Income Study and International Social Survey Programme.

17:45h - Çağaçan Değer - Financing Social Security: A CGE Comparison of Contributions vs Tax Base

Abstract

The reforms in response to the financial sustainability problems of PAYG (pay-as-you-go) systems have emphasised a shift to creating funded pillars, generally in the form of private retirement accounts. However, the poverty alleviation function of public social security systems are still maintained. There are two basic options to finance this function: through contributions paid by active workers in a Bismarckian spirit or through the tax base in a Beveridgian spirit. Aside from the redistributive dimension, these options also have different implications regarding macroeconomic aggregates. An impartial method able to measure and compare the monetary implications of these alternatives would be beneficial to policy makers.

This paper presents a CGE (Computable General Equilibrium) model that accounts for contributions, in the form of labor tax, and the overall tax base. By changing the contribution rate and the tax rate,

the model is able to simulate the impact of different financing methods on the economy. Macroeconomic impact is summarised through the changes in national income, and the least costly option can be identified through numerical simulations. Through impact on consumption, changes in the well-being of consumers can also be identified. Given the it's mathematical structure, the model can be calibrated to different economies to investigate options for a group of countries in an internationally comparable manner and thus contribute to international policy debates as well.

SESSION 8 – Social security & Human rights – Chair: John Hudson

16:30h - Doğa Başar Sariipek, Nejat İra & Yeşim Atilla Kurocak - Social Security; a Social Burden or a Universal Human Right? Case of Turkish Education Sector

Abstract

There are many cost-increasing factors that challenge Turkish social security system as in the case of many countries. While the private sector, unsurprisingly, responds these challenges through the expansion of flexible and atypical working types, public sector also applies similar solutions increasingly. Education sector, in this sense, is exposed to many employment reforms and regulations. The most typical examples both in private and public education sectors are either working as a paid-teacher or working under a contract for a specified duration instead of a permanent employment contract. Paid teachers are included in social security coverage only during their service, on contrary to the regular teachers who have a full-time security. Contract-teachers, on the other hand, are employed with significant declines in their employee personal rights even in public schools in accordance with the logic of private sector.

Besides, these teachers resemble the prevailing strategy of the government in responding the challenges social security system face. These unsecured group of teachers, who work for less than even minimum wage and whose numbers are expanding rapidly, feel the lack of social security and protection most severely. Once these teachers are excluded from the formal rights-based social security system, they apply for the traditional and informal protection nets, such as family and kinship solidarity, charities and other types of society oriented protection. This study relies on the claim that the cost pressures and challenges that Turkish social security system face today is attempted to cope with by the expansion of unsecured types of employment instead of the secured ones, the encouragement of more flexible and atypical jobs.

Furthermore, these responses are expanding not only in private sector, but also in public sector as in the cases of paid- and contract-teachers. The leading reason behind this is the consideration of social security just from the point of decreasing the *overall costs* instead of the point of *universal human rights*. This study, which investigates the leading *coping with strategies* in education sector against cost pressures in social security system and which also aims to reveal the *general perception of teachers* on this matter, relies on *qualitative research technique* through *semi-structured interview method*. Seven paid-teachers and eight contract-teachers from both private and public sectors are interviewed during the empirical research. As a result of this qualitative research, it is revealed that paid- and contract-teachers have a *higher perception of social insecurity* and they had to turn back their own informal protection nets, such as family and kinship solidarity, charities and other types of interpersonal protection nets.

These results confirm the claim that governments in Turkey move away from the *rights-based social protection* policies in social security and encourage *informal and society oriented protection* mechanisms as primal responses for the cost pressures in social security system.

16:55h – Leen Sebrechts - Educational inclusion of children with special needs in the Flemish community of Belgium, an example of structural social exclusion?

Abstract

In Flanders, and internationally, policy developments in several fields (such as healthcare, the labour market and education) are moving towards greater inclusion of people with disabilities. These changes occur within the framework of the citizenship model which reflects the new importance of empowerment and individual choice. However, many existing studies prove that social determinants impact the use of and access to care services and benefit. Knowing this, a possible downside of the developments within this framework are the strengthening of Matthew effects.

Using mixed method research, we explored if the parents' social position is related to the use of integrated or segregated educational settings for children with special educational needs in Flanders. To this end, we conducted descriptive and regression analyses using two databases (survey data and population data), as well as 44 semi-structured interviews with families who had children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The quantitative results indicated that the use of an education setting for children with special needs was determined by the social position of the family. Families in stronger socioeconomic and sociocultural positions are best able to cope with integrated education. The qualitative findings helped to clarify these relationships by unravelling the underlying dynamics of the choice of an educational setting. The analysis revealed the pathways that families with a child with ASD follow and the influence of social interaction in this process. The findings supported that, among others, the cultural and social resources possessed by parents enables them to engage with greater awareness and understanding with the professionals in the network.

The use of educational settings by children with special needs is an interesting case which reflects wider social processes. The results reveal that structures aimed at increasing equality may actually exacerbate embedded structural social inequalities and provide insight into the underlying processes of this paradox.

17:20h – Xianda Gao - Struggle for Rights: Based on Analysis of Peasant Workers' Actions in China

Abstract

In addition to top-down approaches like great men, political parties, and welfare regime, class struggle is also a potential factor reorganizing social policy and welfare system. In China, the state-driven globalization, urban-rural segmentation, and stratified social security system have been evoking tension on Chinese new working class, the so-called peasant workers.

This paper compares two social actions requesting initiated by workers and social workers in intentions, organizing, setbacks, and results.

For one thing, workers ask for the first-class medical insurance to replace their third-class one, which compensate much less in health care; for another, workers, especially female workers, ask for menstrual leave and menstrual care in addition to the provisions for women worker in the law. Most workers in the former action are driven by injustice and struggling for equal treatment as citizens, while female workers are driven by need in the latter one and struggling for special benefits, in a way. Although the bureaucratic factory and trade union obstruct in every possible way and both the actions do not achieve their purpose, they do have implications for the following struggles and projects of workers. The most important thing is, when the individual belief and value of 'struggle for rights' become public and social, workers' actions also may be the transformative power in the reconstruction of the welfare system.

17:45h - Emile Cammeraat - The Effects of Social Expenditure Schemes on Growth, Inequality, Poverty and Life-Expectancy.

Abstract

In this paper, we study the effects of different social expenditure types on several dimensions of social and economic development. We start with an elaborate literature review in which we provide a rather complete overview of the rationales for social security and the different mechanisms by which social expenditure has an effect on welfare. We continue with an empirical analysis in which we study the effect of social expenditure schemes (old age, survivor, incapacity, unemployment, Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs), health, family, housing and others) on GDP growth, inequality, poverty and life-expectancy. For this purpose, we use a panel data set for 35 OECD countries from 1990 till 2012. We run OLS and 2SLS regression models in which we correct for possible endogeneity by using the lagged values of the social expenditure schemes as explanatory variables and the second lags as instruments. For total social expenditure, we find no effect on GDP growth, a negative effect on poverty and inequality and a positive effect on life expectancy. These results differ for the different kinds of social expenditure, making it possible to target more accurately on specific kinds of social expenditure for several development goals.

Day 2

SESSION 9 – The measurement of poverty and well-being – Chair: Peter Saunders

10:00h – Jonathan Bradshaw & Oleksandr Movshuk – Measures of extreme poverty applied in the European Union

Abstract

The objective of this paper is to operationalise and test out a number of possible measures of extreme poverty applied to the European Union countries, using the analysis of household survey data from EU- Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC). It is a revision and updating of two similar analyses undertaken by Bradshaw (2000 and 2001) and Bradshaw and Mayhew (2011) both undertaken for the European Commission. That work had been undertaken because of a dissatisfaction felt by some elements in the Commission with the measures of poverty that were being conventionally used in the European Union. So we start by reviewing developments in the conventional measurement of poverty in the EU. Then the concepts of absolute and extreme poverty are discussed. The bulk of the paper presents the results of an analysis of the poverty rates, poverty gaps and poverty composition of five conceivable measures of extreme poverty. These are:

- The World Bank \$ per day concept.
- Poverty thresholds based on national minimum income schemes – social assistance.
- A threshold set on the basis of a minimal reference budget standard.
- A severe deprivation standard.
- An overlaps measure based on severe deprivation and low income.

The latter is the preferred option though because it produces very low poverty rates for the richer EU countries it is not likely to be adopted.

10:25h – Pierre Concialdi - What does it mean to be rich? Some conceptual and empirical issues

Abstract

Over the past decade, a growing literature has shed light on the rise of inequalities at the very top of the income distribution. There is no doubt that such extreme inequalities do threaten social cohesion and that some public policies are needed in order to tackle this issue. The design of these policies requires to set some benchmarks that could serve, at least, as a guideline to promote efforts towards the reduction of inequalities. In the same way that the fight against poverty can usefully benefit from researchers' efforts to define poverty, it is arguable to think that the fight against extreme inequalities should also greatly benefit of some definition of rich people. However, very little attention has been warranted up to now to the definition of the rich in the academic literature. The purpose of the paper is to try to fill this gap.

The first section of the paper briefly sets the scene and provides some historical perspective on inequalities. The second section reviews the few existing definitions of an “affluence line” and discusses their interest as well as their limitations.

It goes on proposing a definition of rich people that should gather, it will be argued, a large consensus among society. The last section discusses some policy issues and addresses the empirical problems associated, in each case, with the concrete measure of an affluence line.

10:50h – Jinxian Wang, Chen Wang, Koen Caminada & Kees Goudwaard – Update and extension of the Leiden LIS budget incidence fiscal redistribution dataset

Abstract

Disentanglement of income inequality and the redistributive effect of social transfers and taxes in 46 LIS countries for the period 1967-2013 (Waves I - Wave XII of LIS). This dataset allows researchers and public policy analysts to compare fiscal redistribution across developed countries over the last 50 years. Research may employ these data in addressing several important research issues. One of the most commonly addressed questions in the empirical literature on the welfare state concerns the sources of variance across countries and over time in the extent and nature of fiscal redistribution. Changes (in the generosity) of welfare states can be linked to changes in the fiscal redistribution. Best-practice among countries can be identified and analyzed in more detail.

Research could focus on households with very low income as well—those in poverty. The budget incidence approach based on LIS data allow researchers to employ all kind of cross-national analyses. How well is social expenditure targeted to the poor? Moreover, with LIS data on fiscal redistribution research is able to analyze differences in anti-poverty approaches of countries (Europe versus the United States) and/or to judge the effectiveness of poverty reduction by taxes and transfers across countries.

The assembled databank of fiscal redistribution can be used by scholars and policy analysts to study the effects of different kind of programs on poverty, income adequacy in retirement, and the distribution of economic well-being generally.

The aim is to provide an update of the Leiden LIS Budget Incidence Fiscal Redistribution Dataset in two ways. First, the updated dataset covers a larger number of countries (46 versus 36) and a longer period (1967-2013 versus 1967-2006) using the most recent LIS data available. Second, in addition to the Gini coefficient, the updated dataset computes the results of poverty, including poverty before and after social transfers and taxes, the overall poverty reduction effect and the partial effect of poverty reduction by social transfers and taxes. Based on the dataset, we explore how income inequality and poverty have evolved across countries and over time and what the effects of fiscal redistribution are.

Our data set offers a number of measures of fiscal redistribution in the developed countries, drawing upon data from 299 (was: 177) Luxembourg Income Study surveys, namely:

- Income inequality before social transfers and taxes, income inequality after social transfers and taxes, the overall redistributive effect, the partial effect of redistribution by several social transfers and the partial effect of redistribution by several income taxes.
- Poverty before social transfers and taxes, poverty after social transfers and taxes, the overall poverty reduction effect, the partial effect of poverty reduction by several social transfers and the partial effect of poverty reduction by several income taxes.

SESSION 10 – Non-take-up of social rights – Chair: Rense Nieuwenhuis

10:00h – Raf Van Gestel, Julie Janssens, Rik Lemkens & Tim Goedemé - A Reminder to Pay Less for Healthcare: take-up of Increased Reimbursement in a large-scale randomized field experiment

Abstract

Financial hurdles frequently make people forego or postpone necessary care. Therefore, targeted reductions in healthcare prices may help to improve access to essential healthcare for the poor. This paper evaluates to what extent simple behavioural incentives like letters and flyers sent to a low-income group stimulate the participation in a beneficial health insurance plan. Using a large-scale randomized field experiment we study the effect of contacting potential beneficiaries on the take-up of the Increased Reimbursement (IR) for healthcare in Belgium. We find a substantial effect of around 15 percentage points on the take-up of IR, equalling a fourfold increase. Remarkably, this effect differs strongly across regions. Moreover, we find that those who take up IR as a response to the letter are on average older, have lower historic healthcare expenditures and are less absent from work compared with those who take up IR without the intervention. The group that remains without IR can be considered, on average, as less vulnerable. As such, the mailing arguably succeeds in reaching out to the target population. The presentation concludes with a discussion of on-going follow-up research which aims to disentangle the causal mechanism as well as the benefit of different types of non-intrusive incentives to increase the take-up of IR in Belgium.

10:25h – Sarah Derdelinckx & Wim Van Lancker - An experimental approach towards testing labour market interventions: set-up, complexities and lessons learned

Abstract

Governments are often confronted with the complexities of evaluating their own interventions. Properly evaluating social policy and labour market interventions is hard to do, certainly so at the local level. Local practices in Belgium, but elsewhere as well, show that evaluation proper seldom happens, and when it happens it is often based on subjective assessments.

In this paper, we present the outline, methodology and framework of a pilot programme that will be implemented in the Belgian city of Kortrijk to properly test an innovative outreach approach for the integrated delivery of local services, aimed at the integration of disadvantaged families in the labour market.

Multi-disciplinary case handlers will 1) visit a well-defined target group of disadvantaged families that are usually not in reach of the local welfare agency; 2) make an assessment of the specific problems and needs of these families, making use of a newly developed smartphone application; and 3) guide these families in finding the right kind of support for a period of 6 months, instead of expecting these families to muddle through the multitude of local services on their own. In short, the case handler will be the single point of contact for disadvantaged families, bringing a one stop shop in social welfare delivery on their doorstep.

To identify disadvantaged families, we exploit a unique feature of the Flemish institutional set-up in which home visits by district nurses will serve as our entry into these families' homes. The effectiveness of the pilot programme will be tested by means of a randomized controlled trial. This will enable us to test whether close counselling by case handlers helps in improving take up of local employment services, and how it impacts on the well-being of the families in the treatment group. Moreover, it will be examined whether and how the programme is scalable and can be transferred to local contexts with similar problems. The complexities of setting up an experiment in a real-life social work setting and the lessons learned for local practices and for labour market interventions will be discussed.

10:50h – Julie Vinck & Wim Van Lancker – Who is disabled? The overlap and mismatch of children recognized with a disability at different administrative levels in Belgium

Abstract

Non-take-up of social benefits and services is commonly viewed as a failure of social policies. Research agrees that the causes are generally located at the level of the client (e.g. lack of information), administration (e.g. complex application forms) and/or benefit scheme (e.g. poor criteria applied for eligibility). This paper focuses on the uptake and potential barriers at the different levels of the existing set of cash benefits and care services for (families with) disabled children in Flanders, Belgium. We combine quantitative analyses on a large-scale and hitherto unexplored administrative dataset on childhood disabilities in Belgium with semi-structured interviews to assess which children are recognised by the federal and regional administration as being eligible. The dataset includes a 36-points scale that is being used at the federal level in Belgium to recognise entitlement to additional child benefits. The more points a child achieves on this scale, the higher the care burden and the higher the additional child benefit received. However, if a child wants to make use of public services, a recognition at the regional level is needed. To acquire this recognition, a multidisciplinary team assesses the disability of the child. According to the child's needs and the availability of places, the child can make use of different types of care services once the recognition at the regional level is obtained. We discuss the research results in which an overlap and mismatch between children recognised at the federal and the regional level in Flanders is identified by using a mixed method analysis. First, we present a profile of the children recognised at either one or both levels by descriptive analysis building on our unique administrative dataset.

Second, we conduct semi-structured interviews with key players, both at the federal and regional level. Our analysis shows that 42% of disabled children are recognised only at the federal level, 21% only at the Flemish level and 37% at both. The mismatch mainly considers specific groups of children: less severe and mentally disabled children. The consequences of this mismatch for the provision of public and social resources will be discussed.

SESSION 11 – Work conditionality (A) – Chair: Jonathan Bradshaw

10:00h – Peter Dwyer - Sanctions support and behaviour change? Welfare services users' experiences of welfare conditionality

Abstract

A principle of conditionality, which holds that access to basic, publicly provided, welfare benefits and services should be contingent on individual recipients first agreeing to meet particular compulsory duties or patterns of responsible behaviour is now an embedded feature of the contemporary UK welfare state. In the last decade welfare conditionality has been *intensified*, - 2012 saw the introduction of a new enhanced sanctions regime -, *extended* (i.e. applied to previously exempt groups such as disabled people, lone parents and under Universal Credit, low paid workers whose wages fall below the conditionality threshold) and *personalised*.

Job coaches and Work Programme staff are able to set out variable requirements for individuals to search for work for up to 35 hours per week or attend specific work preparation/training activities. Advocates of welfare conditionality assert that combinations of sanction and support can be used instrumentally to both counter 'welfare dependency' and engender behaviour change such as engagement with the paid labour market or the cessation of problematic behaviour.

Against the backdrop of the UK's 'work first', conditional welfare state this paper explores the impacts of welfare conditionality and its effectiveness in bringing about and sustaining such behaviour change. In doing so it presents ongoing analysis of data generated in a large (481 respondents at wave 'a' interview) repeat, qualitative longitudinal panel study conducted with diverse groups of welfare service users subject to conditionality (see www.welfareconditionality.ac.uk). Prioritising the voices and experiences of welfare service users, discussions will particularly consider the role of discretion and the use of available easements in mitigating the negative impacts of welfare conditionality and improving welfare service users' lives.

10:25h – Anne Perriard & Jean-Pierre Tabin - The implementation of work conditionality : a Swiss case study

Abstract

Since the early 2000', active social policies based on the normative model of social investment have been developed in Europe (Morel, Palier, & Palme, 2012) and in Switzerland (Bonvin & Dahmen, 2017). Their aim is to « prepare to have less to repair » and « to invest early in education and health » (Palier, 2014, p. 19), which means that they rely more upon prevention than reparation (Lima & Moulin, 2006), postulating that the sooner the intervention starts, the greatest the return on

investment will be (Heckman, 2005). Their normative background is that employment is better than state dependency.

Drawing from researches on street-level bureaucracy (Lipsky, 1980; Tabin & Perriard, 2016), this communication is based on 77 semi-directive interviews conducted with 74 social workers between 2011 and 2014. Our analysis of the social workers' discourse shows that the institutionalized model (Fraser, 2005) underlying social investment policies clashes with other normative models linked for instance with age, race or gender relations. The implementation of work conditionality is thus not always the case, or can belong to a more or less distant future. And activation takes on different meanings when professionals are dealing with young people or with mothers. In some cases, the implementation of social investment policies challenges even the idea that employment is better than state dependency. Finally, the results of our study demonstrate that social work research is crucial for a better understanding of issues of implementation in the field of social policies.

10:50h – Luis Sanzo - The approach to work and conditionality in the Basque Minimum Income system

Abstract

The Minimum Income scheme of the Basque Country, one of the regional entities of Spain, has historically had relevance in the countries and regions of southern Europe. In addition to its impact on the initiatives of other Spanish regions, it has quickly become one of the most protective programs in this part of Europe.

One of the characteristic of the Basque scheme is the attempt to combine two lines of action: on the one hand, the will to protect the population in economic terms, effectively applying a right to a guaranteed minimum income and, on the other, to seek modalities of support to the social and labor insertion, a process also conceived as a social right. In that sense, the Basque Country has been characterized by the conception and theoretical and legal development of the so-called *double right* (minimum income and insertion/inclusion).

Although this conception is not completely alien to the application of obligations as part of the model of access to economic benefits, it has tried to go beyond the idea of strict conditionality. In fact, the favorable view of the beneficiaries of minimum income programs has been completed with an approach to employment access conceived in terms of (positive) incentives. The introduction of a system of employment bonus, announced in 2001, guarantees indeed a higher level of protection to the population with work revenues, has been. The increasing diffusion and insistence on the activation principle has modified but not completely transformed this approach.

In the context of study of the aspects associated with benefits conditionality and its relation to work, the case of the Basque Country is useful as a particular approach in the context of the European minimum income programs.

SESSION 12 – Health and the welfare state – Chair: Bea Cantillon

11:35h – Rense Nieuwenhuis, Anne-Grete Tøge & Joakim Palme - The health penalty of single-parent families in institutional context

Abstract

This paper will address the health penalty of single-parent families, and examines how their self-reported health is related to their employment and to policies affecting their work-family balance and financial situation.

Single parents' health penalty is associated with, and caused by, a variety of determinants that link back to single parents' socioeconomic resources and, as mounting evidence begins to suggest, social policies. Indeed, various aspects of socioeconomic disadvantage that are argued to be overrepresented among single parents (McLanahan, 2004), including a lower level of education, poverty, and unemployment, have long been associated with poorer health outcomes (Mirowsky & Ross, 2003). Evidence is mounting that policy regimes protecting against (the consequences of) unemployment and economic poverty are found associated with comparatively better health among single parents (Burström et al., 2010; Marmot & Wilkinson, 2005; Whitehead, Burström & Diderichsen, 2000; Wilkinson & Marmot, 2003).

Yet, welfare states are constantly evolving. Increasingly, European welfare states put an increased emphasis on employment as a means to secure well-being. This is represented by an increased emphasis on welfare states providing services to stimulate and facilitate this employment (Vandenbroucke & Vleminckx, 2011), possibly at the expense of policies that redistribute income by transfers. To what extent this changing emphasis in welfare provision succeeds in facilitating employment sufficiently to secure and improve well-being is still up for debate, and challenged with regards to reducing economic poverty (Cantillon, 2011; Cantillon & Vandenbroucke, 2014; Nieuwenhuis, Van Lancker, Collado & Cantillon, 2016).

We test hypotheses regarding various types of social policies, differentiating between policies that facilitate employment, and policies that provide financial support. A second distinction is made between policies that are focused specifically on families with children (childcare and financial support to families with children), and general labour market policies (active labour market policies, and social assistance generosity). The paper analyses EU-SILC data for 20 European countries covering the period from 2004 to 2015. These data are combined with policy indicators from various databases.

The paper finds that single parents are in better health when they are employed, and when their level of education is higher. Active labour market policies and public childcare benefit the health of single parents in two ways: by increasing their likelihood of being employed, and by benefitting the health of those who are employed by reducing their work-family imbalance. Yet, childcare was also found to be associated with worse health among those who are not employed, suggesting selection effects. Financial transfer policies, measured as social assistance and financial supplements to families with children, were found to benefit the health of the non-employed.

12:00h – Maria Forslund - Subjective health and the welfare state – potential effects from the interplay between cash and care

Abstract

Although there is a vast body of research regarding the development of welfare states, the health-related consequences of social policies is a less explored field. This concerns in particular the relationship between cash and care in the welfare state and how this interplay is related to health outcomes. This paper aims to contribute to this field of welfare state research by investigate if subjective health is affected by countries' way of organizing health care services and sickness cash benefits. The paper further aims to examine if there are interaction effects between cash and care that affects subjective health. In a previous study, where fourteen countries were analyzed for the time period 1980-2011, the results indicated that health care and sickness benefits have a combined effect on reducing mortality. A possible interpretation of the study could be that the level of sickness benefits to some extent modifies the mortality at macro level. When health-care provision was held at a fixed level, measured as medication and technology, mortality was reduced as the level of sickness benefits increased (Forslund 2017). In this study I will further explore the relationship between cash and care by analyzing subjective health at micro level using a hierarchical mixed model in which both micro and macro data are used for a total of 24 countries. The European Social Survey (ESS) wave 1-5 (2002-2010) was here applied to measure subjective health at the individual level. Macro level data for sickness benefits and health care services were collected from the Comparative Welfare Entitlement Dataset 2 (CWED2) and the Organization for Economic Co-Operation (OECD Health Statistics 2016). The preliminary results show that both sickness benefits and health care have significant effects on subjective health. Moreover, higher levels of coverage and replacement rate were positively associated with health, and the same relationship was found between health care measurements and subjective health.

12:25h - Laura Järvi - Institutional linkage between public and collectively negotiated occupational sickness benefits in Finland, 1944-2016: case of metal industry

Abstract

In the previous welfare state research, occupational welfare has gained relatively little attention. Especially little is known about the institutional change and interrelationship between the public and occupational social provision. This historical case study focuses on Finland. By examining collectively negotiated sickness benefits, the study evaluates the role of occupational welfare in the Finnish welfare state. The main interest is to analyze the relationship between public and occupational welfare dynamically across time and especially, the role of occupational welfare in the public provision: has it always been purely supplementary or also substitutive in its nature. Previous research has noted that in some countries, collective agreements compensate the much debated declining welfare state, and it has even been argued that the social policy that is based on collective agreements can influence and support the welfare state retrenchment policies. The study is carried out by analyzing the changes in benefit period, compensation rate and waiting period of collectively negotiated benefits and evaluating these against the most relevant reforms in the public sickness allowance system. The examination starts from the year 1944 and goes on until the present day. Metal industry, a trade which has long traditions in collective negotiations and one of the first nation-wide collective agreements in Finland, is used as an example to illustrate the role of collectively negotiated sickness benefits. The study utilizes the approaches of historical institutionalism and path dependency. It is known that pre-existing arrangements, whether public, private or occupational, often influence and make paths for the future developments. The results provide valuable knowledge on the changing relations between statutory and occupational welfare.

SESSION 13 – Family policies & gender – Chair: Simon Brimblecombe

11:35h – Katharina Wesolowski - Do family policies and individuals' gender role attitudes influence individuals' fertility intentions?

Abstract

The aim of this study is to analyse how the family policies and individuals' gender role attitudes are connected to individuals' fertility intentions by combining macro- and microlevel data for 23 countries and by employing measures of family policy that differentiate between family policies supporting the combination of work and childbearing and family policies supporting full-time motherhood.

The research question is, thus:

- How are family policies and individuals' gender role attitudes connected to individuals' fertility intentions?

My theoretical approach is inspired by the argument that macro-level analyses alone cannot help us to understand how different groups of individuals might be affected by family policies.

Starting from that the plan is to further explore and refine the analysis of the connection of family policies, on the one hand, and individuals' perceptions and behaviour, on the other.

This study will use the continuous family policy indicators from the Social Policy Indicators database (SPIN) developed by researchers at the Swedish Institute for Social Research at Stockholm University and combine them with micro-level data employing multilevel analysis using data from the European Social Survey (ESS). These family policy indicators capture the degree to which countries support full-time motherhood and/or the combination of work and childbearing. This approach gives countries the possibility to vary in their score on both family policy dimensions and has the advantage that it makes possible to take into account that these types of family policy might affect individual's decisions about childbearing in different ways.

This study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the effect of varying family policy orientations on individuals as regards perceptions of gender roles and fertility behaviour, also broadening the analysis to include Eastern European countries.

12:00h – Ben Phillips, Matthew Gray, David Stanton & Cukkoo Joseph - Policy versus economic impacts: The economic position of Australian single parents post the GFC

Abstract

There have been significant changes to the Australian social security system during the 2000s, particularly for single parents. These have included restricting eligibility to the more generous Parenting Payment Single to those children aged under 8 years of age, shifting others onto the significantly less generous unemployment benefit (Newstart) and the introduction and enforcement of stricter activity testing. The evidence is that the numbers of Parenting Payment Single recipients have reduced dramatically (although, there have been some recent increases) and employment rates of single parents after initially increasing have fallen post the 2008 financial crisis.

There is an ongoing debate in Australia and other countries about the effectiveness of changes to the social security system designed to increase incentives for paid employment amongst population subgroups that have had relatively low rates of employment and long durations on government benefits.

This paper uses PolicyMod, a new Australian tax-transfer microsimulation model to provide insights into the relative impacts of social security policy changes and changes in the macro-economy and labour market in explaining changes in single parents' patterns of benefit receipt, employment rates, hours of work and income. The approach used is to conduct a series of simulations which hold constant labour market participation and earnings of single parents (using observed outcomes at the individual level from the 2004 Survey of Income and Housing and the 2014 Survey of Income and Housing) and vary social security policy settings between the pre 2006 policy changes and the 2014

policy settings. This allows us to decompose the impacts of social security and broader economic and social changes.

The results of the microsimulation modelling will be compared to analysis of actual outcomes for single parent families modelling using longitudinal survey data (the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey).

12:25h – Hannah Zagel & Wim Van Lancker - Taking within-group variation seriously: An empirical assessment of the heterogeneous impact of family policies on single mothers’ poverty risk over the life course

Abstract

It is an old sociological adage that within-group variation is larger than between-group differences. Yet, this is often neglected in empirical research on the relationship between social policies and its outcomes. Single motherhood is a case in point. In this paper we argue that what can be learned from previous research is limited since it usually regards, and examines, single mothers as one, homogeneous group. An overwhelming share of research has examined country differences in the poverty risk associated with single motherhood compared to coupled mothers, for instance. Such approach neglects the heterogeneity inherent to single motherhood and the different risks associated with it. Single motherhood is a family status that is entered through distinct family transitions: the birth of child to a single woman, mothers’ separation from a cohabiting partner, mothers’ divorce from a spouse, or the death of a second parent. Except for the birth of a child to a single woman, all transitions to single motherhood may be experienced at any point in the family trajectory, either when the child is still in preschool age, when it is a schoolchild or even after it has left school. These different family contexts pose substantively different social risks to the mothers (and their children). Older children typically create fewer barriers for mothers’ family-employment reconciliation than young children. However, housewife mothers with older children who divorce their breadwinning partner will have greater difficulties to balance the income loss than younger working mothers.

By ignoring these different transitions and life stages, the current state of the art risks misinterpreting what is driving single mothers’ economic disadvantage as well as potential policy strategies to properly support single mothers. In recent years, policy makers have increasingly followed a social investment logic and targeted their investments towards securing risks at the beginning of peoples’ lives. Yet, this might be misguided in countries where many single mother face different risks in later stages of their life. In this paper we propose using a life course framework to examine and assess to what extent the family policy package designed to support single mothers is effective in catering for the diversity of risks across the life course across countries. Drawing on micro-data from EU-SILC and policy indicators from several, comparable sources, we map cross-country differences in the within-group diversity amongst single mothers, we show how single mothers benefit from family policies to different degrees, and we find that the poverty risk of single mothers varies depending on the share of single mothers who benefit in the respective countries.

SESSION 14 – Work conditionality (B) – Chair: Jonathan Bradshaw

11:35h – Menno Fenger, Thomas Kruf & Dee Dee Smeets - Conditionality in action: Experiences with obligatory civic contribution in Rotterdam

Abstract

In the Netherlands, social assistance benefits are a last resort for people who have no other means of income. In theory, these benefits are assumed to be temporarily until the recipient has found a job, but in practice it serves as the final destination for many people. For instance, it is estimated that about 50% of the 39.000 recipients of social assistance in the Dutch city of Rotterdam have chances to return to the labour market, whereas for the other 50% chances are very low. On average people in this latter category have been on welfare support for over 11 years, have a mean age of 51 years, have limited or no training or work experience, often have limited command of the Dutch language, and typically face other disadvantages.

Rotterdam was the first city in the Netherlands that has introduced a ‘full engagement’ approach for this group. Rather than ‘just’ receiving the benefit, social assistance is no longer considered as an unconditional right: recipients of social assistance and services are expected to make a civil contribution. This can include volunteering, sheltered employment with training, undertaking caring responsibilities, language or physical training, or working on personal issues (which may be medical, mental, financial or social in nature). A Civil Contribution Taskforce was established which had the task of implementing this civil contribution. Early 2017, 10.000 benefit recipients have received the obligation to participate in civil contribution. The emphasis is on individual self-orientation (i.e. to look for a volunteering opportunity for themselves in the first instance in accordance with the principle that “you are the architect of your own contribution”. For those unable/ unwilling to find a volunteering opportunity for themselves placements have been found with organisations procured to deliver goods and services to the municipality and which have social clauses in their contracts, with welfare providers, neighbourhood networks and community initiatives and the education sector.

This papers aims to share the insights of 5 years of experiences with civil contributions. It critically assesses the intended outcomes and unintended consequences of the project. Specifically, it focuses on the contribution of the civil contributions to the employability of its participants.

12:00h – Marjolijn De Wilde - The design and implementation of work conditionality in Belgium

Abstract

In all European countries, social assistance laws incorporate a sense of work conditionality. The extent to which this work conditionality is detailed in legislation and the importance of several policy levels (national, regional, local, public or private) with regard to the implementation differs from country to country. Here, we take Belgium as an example of a decentralized country in which (1) work conditionality is a key factor in social assistance legislation, but (2) with rather vague descriptions in any policy documents (‘the requirement to be willing to work unless there are health or fairness reasons’), so that (3) its implementation is left to local social assistance organizations (one in each municipality) and to the professionals (social workers) handling client cases.

We used experimentally varied client cases (5000) assessed by 600 social assistance social workers in 90 Flemish municipalities, and analysed the results using multi-level techniques.

We find, first, that work willingness as measured by 'motivation to work' is not a determining factor in eligibility for social assistance. The lack of money and the impossibility to obtain benefits from other institutions seems to be deterrent. However, work willingness measured as 'accepting available job offers' was more significant. Clients had a 50% chance of losing social assistance if they refused a job offer. This likelihood increased to up to 80% if they refused several times.

Second, the assessment of not being motivated to work differs considerably from municipality to municipality and even more from social worker to social worker in the same municipality. The social worker a client is assigned to is as decisive as the characteristics of the client when it comes to sanctioning treatment.

Third, standardized regression parameters show that the welfare state attitudes of both individual social workers and all social workers in one organization are the most important determining factors with regard to sanctioning treatment. Organizational factors, such as the extent of task specialization and the decision-making process, do have an influence on treatment predictions, but the effect remains minor.

This paper empirically illustrates that the implementation of work conditionality is a multi-dimensional process.

SESSION 15 – Material deprivation & the necessities of life – Chair: John Hudson

14:00h – Aya Abe - Construction of Child Material Deprivation Index considering Adoptive Preferences: Empirical Analysis using Large-scale data on Japanese children

Abstract

This paper shows the attempt to construct material deprivation index for children in Japan. Such index is widely used in Europe and other countries, most famous of which is the deprivation index developed by EU. The paper follows the procedure developed by the EU using the data from the Perception of Necessity Survey in 2015 and a large scale survey data of children in Tokyo in 2016, both of which were carried out by the author.

While developing such index, the problem of adoptive preference arises. It has been pointed out in numerous literature that individuals, when certain goods and/or services are not available to them due to financial constraints, adopt their preferences so that they perceive the goods not as necessities, but something that they can do without. It is the paper's hypothesis that this tendency is strong among poor children. The paper looks into the adoptive preferences of children and develops the deprivation index taking into account of such tendency. The resulting index has more explanatory power than the traditional relative income poverty index and would be a good candidate for monitoring child poverty not only for Japan and also for other countries where income data is not readily available.

14:25h – Lauri Mäkinen - Is there a consensus on the necessities of life? Analyzing inter-personal agreement in Finland

Abstract

Material deprivation is a poverty indicator that refers to lack of material goods, financial difficulties and inability to live a decent life. The indicator is of consensual nature as the items on the deprivation index are selected by the people. People are assumed to live in poverty when the lack of socially perceived necessities is enforced. The validity of the indicator is based on the idea that no great variation exists in the views of the people on the necessities of life. Previous research in Britain has illustrated that there is a consensus on the necessities of life at the group-level, but not at the individual level. Adding to the previous research, this paper examines the agreement on the necessities of life at the individual level in three points of time (1995, 2005, 2015) using Finnish survey data. The study is also extended to different population sub groups. The analysis is carried out by using Fleiss' kappa. Kappa is a pair-wise test where the people are considered as raters and it analyzes the agreement between the two respondents. Kappa explores how many items the raters have defined the same way. If the kappa values are low, it would indicate that people are not in consensus of what the necessities are. The results of the paper offer valuable information about the use of material deprivation as a poverty indicator.

14:50h – Peter Saunders & Yuvisthi Naidoo - Poverty and Deprivation in Australia: Towards Better Measures and Improved Understanding

Abstract

Unlike many other countries, most Australian studies continue to rely solely on income to identify and measure poverty. These studies identify households that are at risk of poverty but fail to provide convincing evidence that poverty is actually experienced. They can also only identify individuals living in households that are poor but not individuals who are themselves poor. In contrast, the consensual approach to poverty measurement that builds on Townsend's conception of 'poverty as deprivation' adopts a living standards perspective that is able to reveal the lived experience of poverty by identifying households and individuals who cannot afford the basic necessities required to participate in customary ways in society. Although rather small in scale and subject to possible response bias, available studies of deprivation and exclusion in Australia indicate that the overlap between income poverty and these broader indicators of social disadvantage is rather low, which suggests that the choice of approaches matters. The empirical support for, and implications of, these findings can now be better examined using data generated by a suite of deprivation questions included for the first time in wave 14 (2014) of the *Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey*. This paper will present results from an initial analysis of the new HILDA deprivation data, focusing on what it reveals about the extent and nature of deprivation using a variety of indicators. It will also explore which forms of deprivation are most common and what this implies for the development of multi-dimensional indicators using the counting approach. The degree of overlap between deprivation and income poverty will be identified, as will the impact of both measures (in isolation and together) on different dimensions of subjective well-being.

SESSION 16 – Poverty & The adequacy of social security – Chair: Kenneth Nelson

14:00h – Karin Heitzmann & Sandra Matzinger - Means-tested benefits in Austria: Are these social policy instruments able to sustainably combat poverty and social exclusion?

Abstract

Breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty is one of the main goals of social investment strategies. Since the European Commission launched its Social Investment Package in 2013, social investment seems to be the sine qua-non for sustainable welfare state adjustment. Besides human capital investment, labour market inclusion plays the key role to reform old welfare state types (in terms of their sustainability) and to enable people to get out of the poverty trap.

In the proposed paper, we examine in how far means-tested benefits in a conservative welfare state help to combat poverty and unemployment sustainably. Therefore, we focus on three benefits targeted to the poor in Austria, namely "Bedarfsorientierte Mindestsicherung", i.e. minimum income benefit, which has been implemented in the Austrian provinces from 2010 onwards and replaces a large part of traditional social assistance benefits, "Notstandshilfe" (unemployment assistance for the jobless) and "Ausgleichszulage" (compensation allowance for pensioners). The two latter benefits are both means-tested benefits within the Austrian insurance scheme and all three instruments incorporate several aspects that justify identifying reforms within the last 20 years as moves towards more activation.

We examine the policy shifts of these means-tested benefits. The changes affected both the benefit design and, in part, their institutional embeddedness. We also discuss the potential of the revised instruments in dealing with old and new risks prevalent throughout the life-course of the recipients. Are the revised means-tested benefits in Austria now more appropriate to sustainably combat poverty and social exclusion than compared to the benefits prior to the reforms?

14:25h – Tess Penne, Tine Hufkens & Tim Goedemé - What do children need at the minimum? The adequacy of child centred policies in six different welfare states.

Abstract

In the battle against child poverty, contemporary European welfare states have been shifting their focus increasingly towards child-centred investment strategies. However, studies assessing the generosity of welfare states for families with children generally look only at the role of cash benefit packages while making very rough assumptions about the cost of children. If the benefits of child-centred services are included, their value is usually imputed based on government expenditure per head, rather than looking at the costs households face for accessing these services. In this paper, we offer an alternative approach: (1) We make use of the first attempt to construct cross-nationally comparable reference budgets in six different countries (Belgium, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Spain) to define empirically the needs and costs of children across welfare states, while taking into account the out-of-pocket costs of households to access publicly-provided or subsidised essential goods and services. (2)

We make use of a new Hypothetical Household Tool (HHoT), based on the European microsimulation model EUROMOD, to simulate tax-benefit policies for a wide range of hypothetical households.

This allows us to assess in a cross-country comparable way, how welfare states distribute resources among families with children. (3) Furthermore, by combining both types of information, we are able to shed new light on the generosity of welfare states for families with children, while recognizing the contribution of both cash and in-kind transfers. The results indicate that in current evaluations of welfare state generosity or child poverty, the costs of children seem to be rather underestimated. Furthermore, the paper shows that the costs of children vary across welfare states and are influenced by the extent to which in-kind services are publicly provided or subsidised. This has a significant impact on the generosity of child-benefit packages, which tends to vary strongly across countries.

14:50h - Simon Brimblecombe - Defining and measuring the adequacy of unemployment insurance systems using a multivariable model

Abstract

Given the increasing fragmentation of labour markets, the challenge of addressing long term and youth unemployment and the impact of digitalisation of the labour market on job security, it is increasingly important that a country's unemployment system responds to society's needs in an appropriate way.

An unemployment insurance system has two major objectives, namely to guarantee an income substitution for unemployed people and to stimulate their return to employment. Unemployment benefits should therefore guarantee an income to workers deprived of a job and an income allowing them to maintain a certain standard of living and to look for an appropriate job under good conditions. Both of these roles contribute significantly to reducing inequality and attenuating poverty risk, if benefits and services provided are adequate.

But what constitutes an adequate benefit or service? And against which benchmarks can adequate benefits and services be defined and eventually measured?

The ISSA Adequacy Project enables an assessment of the degree to which social security programmes are meeting their many objectives by defining, measuring and analysing a multi-variable definition of benefit adequacy. The model is composed of eight parameters or criteria with the purpose to evaluate and highlight the different dimensions of adequacy and the different objectives of an unemployment system.

The paper starts with the rationale behind the different parameters chosen, details the structure of the tool and covers the results of a pilot programme where five social security institutions tested the model. These results and the experience of the institutions provide additional input regarding the relevance of the model in assessing current systems, proposing reforms and contributing to the debate in countries initiating new programmes.

Day 3

SESSION 17 – Drivers of inequality – Chair: Kenneth Nelson

09:30h – Jonathan Bradshaw & Oleksandr Movshuk - Inequality trends in the EU since the crisis

Abstract

The secondary analysis of EU-SILC is used to compare inequality in EU countries and to analyse how inequality has changed over the period from the start of the great financial crisis in 2008 to 2014. The analysis compares inequality in market income, gross income and disposable incomes, and measures inequality using the Gini coefficient, 80/20, and 90/10 ratios. It includes an analysis of the impact of cash benefits and direct taxes on market income and how the composition of households in different parts of the income distribution has changed over time. In addition inequality within the EU is explored. Inequality in market income increased in all countries except Germany, Poland, Norway and Romania. Cash transfers and direct taxes became less redistributive in about half of the EU countries with the worst impacts in Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Spain and Denmark. There is evidence that households with children have moved down the distribution between 2008 and 2014 and aged households have moved up the distribution in most EU countries.

09:55h – Ive Marx & Lien Van Cant - BELGIUM, or robust social concertation providing a buffer against growing inequality?

Abstract

Belgium's social concertation model is an extraordinarily resilient one. Union membership and collective bargaining coverage remain among the highest in the industrialized world. This goes along with a deep-rooted tradition of multi-tiered bargaining and consultation on all aspects of working conditions. Social dialogue is firmly embedded in an extensive institutional framework and the social partners continue to wield significant influence in shaping social and economic policy through their institutionalized advisory and (co-)governance roles, notably in the sphere of social security.

Belgium is an international outlier in another respect. As the paper shows, households all across the income spectrum have seen steady increases in their living standards, including during the recent crisis episode. Belgium is among the few OECD countries not to have seen growing income inequalities. Belgium maintaining just about the most compressed wage distribution in the capitalist world, including one of the smallest gender pay gaps, will be highlighted. Moreover, there is little evidence of precarisation in the world of work.

This paper argues that these observations interrelate. The key argument is that extensive and robust social dialogue has helped to contain inequality. The Belgian experience provides a powerful antidote to views that growing inequalities are inevitable in advanced economies. However, while inequalities among workers are remarkably and sometimes exceptionally low by international standards, Belgium's labour market is not as inclusive as one would wish.

The paper stresses that this, too, has to be seen, at least in part, in the context of the institutional rigidities and insider biases inherent to an extensive social concertation model as Belgium's.

10:20h - Stefán Ólafsson, Kolbeinn Stefánsson & Anton Örn Karlsson - Coping with the crisis in different welfare clusters

Abstract

This is a part of an ongoing comparative project on “Welfare and Crisis Management Strategies”. The general aim is to provide a foundation for assessing the effects of policy reactions of governments on household welfare during the crisis. We ask to what extent policy measures have mitigated the crisis consequences for households and how the burdens of the crisis were shared.

In this paper we survey how the well-being of populations has been affected by the financial crisis in 20 European countries. We use a synthetic indicator of economic vulnerability with data from EU-SILC, based on a latent class analysis income distribution and relative poverty measures, material deprivation data and subjective indicators of difficulties in making ends meet, partly based on the methodology of Whelan and Nolan (2010).

We show how well-being of populations was affected through the crisis in individual countries of 5 clusters of nations (from 2008 to 2015): Nordics; Anglo-Saxons; Continentals – Northern; Continentals – Southern; Continentals - Eastern. We also look specifically at separate socio-economic groups, such as low income households, the unemployed, the young and the old and single parents.

Then we relate the well-being outcome patterns to initial positions of the respective countries (affluence; welfare resources; redistributive capacities etc.), depth of the crisis and their policy characteristics in dealing with the crisis (austerity versus stimulus; redistribution versus regressive measures; mixed approaches etc.). The findings indicate that depth of crisis, strength of welfare state, debt position of government and austerity politics are important explanations of well-being outcomes in the crisis.

10:45h – Sarah Kuypers - Financial inclusion for all? A distributional analysis of asset building policies in Europe

Abstract

Debates regarding wealth inequality largely focus on the excesses at the top, often in relation to taxation (e.g. Piketty, 2014; Piketty, Saez & Zucman, 2013). However, looking at how we can encourage wealth accumulation at the bottom of the distribution is just as important (Atkinson, 2015). Although the roles of assets in the definition of living standards and poverty are increasingly acknowledged (Kuypers & Marx, 2016; Brandolini et al., 2010), it is hardly translated into policy analysis. Many European countries have traditionally encouraged the ownership of real estate and financial assets, but these policies remain well out of reach of the poor and have not been used to its fullest potential to address social risks. The paper contributes to the literature in two ways. First, using data from the Eurosystem Household Finance and Consumption Survey and the micro-simulation tax-benefit model EUROMOD, it analyses the budgetary and distributive impact of tax reliefs granted for asset accumulation in six European countries.

Second, it is argued that the existing income perspective on social policy is by itself no longer sufficient to address social risks and that given the growing importance of capital over labour (Piketty, 2014) not being a capital owner is an additional social risk. Although existing tax reliefs played a key role in the emergence of a wealthy middle class (Piketty, 2014), to address social risks and ensure financial inclusion for all a reconceptualisation is necessary.

Inspired by the framework of Sherraden (1991), which argues that the poor can save when offered the appropriate institutional structures and policies, a hypothetical pro-poor asset building policy is simulated. It focusses on building up liquid assets among the most precarious households (i.e. those with low income and low wealth) and lower middle class households who do not own sufficient resources to face unexpected expenses.

SESSION 18 – Immigrants’ rights – Chair: Hung Wong

**09:30h – Björn Gustafsson, Vibeke Jakobsen, Hanna Mac Innes, Peder J Pedersen & Torun Österberg
- The poverty risk is substantial for many immigrants to Denmark and Sweden**

Abstract

This paper describes and analyses immigrant poverty at high age in Denmark and Sweden. These countries are similar in terms of labour market conditions and social insurance systems. Both countries have during later decades received many immigrants from low and middle income countries. However, far from all of those immigrants have been integrated into the labour market of the host country. As consequence they have not acquired substantial pension rights and their risk of being poor at high age is expected to be substantial.

While much of the pattern is expected to be the same in Denmark and Sweden, we also expect to find differences between the two countries. During the 80s was the unemployment rate in Denmark considerably higher than in Sweden. This can be hypothesised to lead to higher rates of poverty at high age among work immigrants who experienced this. On the other hand Denmark tightened it’s migration policy earlier than Sweden and did not to the same extent as Sweden allow family reunification of older persons with low probability to become self-sufficient.

In the paper we study poverty status in 2010 among native and foreign-born persons aged 65 +. Poverty status is based on the disposable income in which the person lived. We analyse register data on all persons, natives as well as foreign born and present descriptive results and estimate probit models. Preliminary results indicate that poverty rates among immigrants to both countries are higher than among natives. Poverty rates varies across countries of birth similarly at both destinations. However, poverty rates among immigrants from some countries sending labour migrants are higher in Denmark. In both countries are immigrant poverty rates higher for those who had arrived after 55 years of age, as well as among those who were not working at the destination when aged 55.

09:55h – Dries Lens, Ive Marx & Sunčica Vujić - Integrating (former) asylum seekers into the Belgian labour market. What can we learn from the recent past?

Abstract

This paper looks at how immigrants who arrived between 1997 and 2010 have fared in the Belgian labour market, differentiating by category of entry. We use longitudinal data on immigrants' employment trajectories, considering also their potential reliance on social assistance and unemployment benefits. The analysis shows that it takes asylum seekers significantly longer to find work as compared to other immigrant categories. After a transition phase of low labour market participation and relatively high social assistance dependence, asylum seekers catch up to some extent, reaching levels of employment of about 50 per cent after ten years of residence.

However, asylum seekers still show higher rates of unemployment insurance and social assistance dependence as compared to other non-EU immigrants and natives. These findings indicate the importance of heightened efforts to ensure the socioeconomic integration of asylum seekers.

10:20h - Shenghua Xie & Veli-Matti Ritakallio - Labor contract status, social insurance participation, and intention of permanent urban settlement of rural-urban migrants in China

Abstract

Recent studies have indicated that China's urbanization strategy should go beyond *hukou*-centred approach and focus on rural-urban migrants' livelihood and well-being in cities. Accordingly, social protection which aims to improve their living condition in cities should be helpful for them to permanently settle down in cities. Using Rural-Urban Migration in China (RUMiC) 2008-2009 data, this study examines how labor contract and social insurance, which are two very important policy instruments to protect rural-urban migrants in cities, affect their intentions of permanent urban settlement. The results show that although the *hukou* system still matters, labor contract status and social insurance participation are very important factors influencing urban settlement intention of rural-urban migrants. Furthermore, the influence of labor contract status and social insurance participation on urban settlement intention is significant among both first-generation and new-generation migrants. Therefore, this study underscores the importance of intensifying the implementation of Labor Contract Law and promoting social insurance participation among rural-urban migrants for the sustainable urbanization in China.

10:45h - José Azoh Barry – Faithfully provided and persistently challenged? A focus on refugees' welfare

Abstract

The number of international migrants was recently estimated at 232 million, with among them many refugees and asylum seekers fleeing war, persecution, and poverty. Gigantic efforts, past and ongoing, have been made to provide timely and appropriate responses to assist the forcibly displaced. In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for example, these responses in form of humanitarian aid and poverty relief were quickly challenged by a ceaseless and massive influx of

Syrian refugees which caused a strain in host communities, and donor state fatigue. Their economic integration and self-reliance, though targeted, remains highly challenging. The fading warm welcome, a growing hostility, and hardening living conditions eroded their hope for a better future, and increased their attraction to other destination, mainly Europe with its better social security systems. If among them, many manage to travel long distances, pick and choose where to apply for asylum and settle as refugees --preferably in wealthiest countries --, emigrate is affordable to a tiny minority. Refugees' economic integration challenge coexists with another one, which makes it more complex and undermines social justice. It has to do with equal opportunity in humanitarian protection and welfare, a persistent deficiency this proposal aims to highlight. It will do so from a comparative perspective with a focus on refugees in MENA and Southeast Asia. The proposed paper, essentially based on secondary data, found that there is an inequitable treatment among refugees as vulnerable groups, namely among Syrians in MENA, and between the latter and the Rohingyas in Southeast Asia. It adds to knowledge on the adverse impacts of poverty, not limited to ill health, malnutrition and their disastrous consequences.

There surely is a need to explore more radical solutions to what appear to be a growing number of complex problems, and a challenging question is how?

SESSION 19 – Children and young adulthood (A) – Chair: Wim Van Lancker

09:30h - Kolbeinn Stefánsson, Anton Karlsson & Lovísa Arnardóttir - Children in Economically Vulnerable Households in Iceland, 2008-2015

Abstract

In this paper we consider how children fared in terms of economic vulnerability in Iceland in wake of the banking crisis in 2008. We assess this using an indicator of economic vulnerability derived from latent class analysis of incomes, material deprivation and subjective measures of economic hardship.

Throughout the recession the government emphasized sheltering designated vulnerable groups, i.e. people with disabilities, pensioners and the unemployed, from the effects of the recession.

While there were good reasons to focus on these groups other groups that were not deemed as vulnerable prior to it may have become so as the recession played out. This may have resulted in a blind spot among policy makers struggling to respond to an unfolding crisis, resulting in unanticipated hardship for the groups in question. There are some indications that in Iceland families with children were such a group.

Thus we attempt to answer the following questions using the Icelandic EU-SILC data for the years 2008-2015:

1. What drove changes in children's deprivation and economic vulnerability between 2009 and 2014?
2. Did children fare worse than designated vulnerable groups - i.e. disability pensioners, the elderly, and the unemployed?
3. Did children living in households with members belonging to any of the designated vulnerable groups fare worse than other children throughout the recession?

Our findings indicate that rising housing costs were a key determinant affecting economic vulnerability among children. They also suggest that children were sheltered less effectively than both pensioners and the unemployed and that children living in single parent households or living in households receiving disability benefits were hit harder by the recession than other children.

09:55h – Agnieszka Nelson & Kelly Hand – Worklessness dynamics and its impact on child outcomes – a comparative longitudinal analysis of Australian and UK children

Abstract

At the macro level, Australia's and UK's experiences of the Global Financial Crisis were quite different. Australia avoided a recession largely due to the strength of demand for its resources and timely government intervention., whilst UK went into a period of government austerity from which it is yet to fully emerge. Our research will look to determine whether these differences affected the trajectory of inequality in both countries. Specifically, using the latest data from Understanding Society and the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children we explore worklessness patterns of families and the impact on their child outcomes.

10:20h - Simon Brimblecombe - Defining and measuring the adequacy of unemployment insurance systems using a multivariable model

Abstract

Given the increasing fragmentation of labour markets, the challenge of addressing long term and youth unemployment and the impact of digitalisation of the labour market on job security, it is increasingly important that a country's unemployment system responds to society's needs in an appropriate way.

An unemployment insurance system has two major objectives, namely to guarantee an income substitution for unemployed people and to stimulate their return to employment. Unemployment benefits should therefore guarantee an income to workers deprived of a job and an income allowing them to maintain a certain standard of living and to look for an appropriate job under good conditions. Both of these roles contribute significantly to reducing inequality and attenuating poverty risk, if benefits and services provided are adequate.

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These results and the experience of the institutions provide additional input regarding the relevance of the model in assessing current systems, proposing reforms and contributing to the debate in countries initiating new programmes.

10:45h – Enna Toikka - Accumulation of welfare problems during young adulthood

Abstract

In general, there is a good understanding about the accumulation of welfare problems, for example it is known that the accumulation is associated with low socio-economic status. However, the main limitation of previous studies is the cross-sectional approach in measuring multiple disadvantages. Especially the impact of childhood adverse living conditions on the cumulative disadvantage in adulthood has been a focus of interest. Despite this, there is less knowledge about the accumulation of welfare problems during young adulthood and the role of specific problems in that process. Longitudinal perspective on the accumulation of welfare problems is vital in order to understand the dynamics behind the phenomenon.

The aim of this paper is to examine pathways to the accumulation of welfare problems of those not in education or employment during young adulthood. The primary focus is on the timing of other welfare problems such as low educational level, social assistance reciprocity, mental health problems, alcohol problems and crimes in different groups of inactive young people. Sequence analysis is used to identify different profiles of being outside of education and employment during young adulthood. Then accompanying risk factors and their timing are analysed with event history analysis. Analyses are based on a register data collected by National Institute for Health and Welfare for the 1987 Finnish Birth Cohort. Almost 60,000 cohort members are followed from the age of 18 to 25. The results provide in-depth knowledge on the underlying mechanisms of accumulation of welfare problems during young adulthood. The results provide information on how social security systems of young adults facing multiple disadvantages should be arranged.

SESSION 20 – Europe: Quo vadis? – Chair: Peter Saunders

11:25h – Bea Cantillon & Sarah Marchal – The social floor: Which role for Europe

Abstract

11:50h – Maximilian Sommer - Ensuring subsistence across Europe: A fiscal equalization mechanism based on poverty-gaps

Abstract

Poverty reduction is still a lasting challenge in Europe, especially with the recent EU expansion. One way to support low-income households would be to consider a fiscal equalization across European countries. Based on the general concept of pro-poor growth development strategies, such a mechanism would not only help to support poorer member states but also to harmonize countries within the EU by countering asymmetrical economic shocks.

This paper adds a contribution to the ongoing debate on both fiscal equalization and poverty reduction. We develop a transfer mechanism that is connected to the poverty-gaps of European countries. Via combining these with GDP-data, we can quantify the cash flows between countries using both a national and a European poverty line. Additionally, we investigate the sensitivity of the minimum subsistence level with regard to the available budget.

Our analysis is based on relative income poverty measures using the disposable household income as key variable. We rely on EU-SILC as a comprehensive household data base to calculate country-specific poverty-gaps with regard to different poverty thresholds. Using GDP as the main indicator of a country's wealth, we calculate the necessary budget as a fixed share of GDP. That way, we identify countries as net recipients or net payers. As, however, there is an ongoing debate in Europe about the "correct" poverty threshold, we also analyze the effects of a change in a unified subsistence level in Europe on the corresponding cash flows.

Given a certain budget, the applied distribution-mechanism follows the Rawlsian difference principle in which the fiscal situation of the least advantaged-member of society is improved first. The underlying variable in this case is the disposable household income of all European households. All values across Europe are calculated on a purchasing power standard. Finally, as this analysis relies on micro-data, we also study the effects of such a transfer scheme on the households themselves in terms of poverty and inequality measures.

First results show the expected direction of the cash flows towards the eastern European states (with some exceptions), but corresponding with rather manageable costs between 1-2% of the GDP. The results for the fiscal equalization mechanism are very heterogeneous. For large economies such as Italy and Spain their own payments almost equalize their poverty-gaps. This is, however, not the case for France and Germany that are the highest payers in absolute values in such a scheme.

SESSION 21 – Children and young adulthood (B) – Chair: Wim Van Lancker

11:15h – Natasha Codioli McMaster, Agnieszka Nelson & Paul March – Workless families in the UK: The role of multiple disadvantages

Abstract

The number of children growing up in families in which no adults are working has been a persistent concern of successive governments in the UK, due both to the costs incurred through welfare payments and effects in children's outcomes. There is a strong literature mapping out the intergenerational transmission of worklessness, and of the outcomes of children from workless families. There is, however, less understanding of the relationship between other family disadvantages and worklessness. Understanding how more complex characteristics interact and feed into worklessness may give policy makers a better understanding both of how to reduce worklessness, and how to identify 'at risk' families. Using 'Understanding Society', a nationally representative longitudinal dataset from the UK, we explore family characteristics associated with worklessness, and transitions associated with entry into, and exit from, worklessness. Using Factor Analysis, we then identify clusters of characteristics and disadvantages that are associated with worklessness in the UK.

Finally, we consider the effects of cumulative disadvantage on likelihood of being workless, finding that the number of disadvantages families face exponentially increases the likelihood of being workless. We discuss the policy implications of this research, which was conducted at the Department for Work and Pensions for a Strategy Paper aimed at informing policy to help children from disadvantaged families.

11:50h – Henna Isoniemi – Transition to adulthood – analysing late and incomplete transitions

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to perform a cross-country comparison of the transition-to-adulthood patterns, to gain new insight on late transitions and to clarify the concept of incomplete transitions affecting young Europeans' life courses. Transition to adulthood has been widely discussed as a general subject, but there is a lack of systematic and comparative empirical research covering the combination of events constituting the transition-to-adulthood process. This paper contributes to filling this gap. This is done by using the EU-SILC data set (2012) and by comparing 20 European countries.

In general, the transition-to-adulthood process involves leaving the parental home, entering the labour market, forming a partnership, and childbearing and childrearing. However, adult status can be achieved through a number of different routes and the duration of the voyage varies widely. Transition paths are increasingly being replaced by de-standardised and prolonged ones which not only take longer to walk through but are also diversified and individualised. In addition, late and incomplete transitions have come to stay.

The results of the paper show that there is variation between European countries in terms of young adults' transition processes. These differences between countries are not a surprise: despite the closeness and commonalities of the 20 European countries included in this paper, their institutional arrangements, economies and cultures are diverse.

Since the differences between countries are rather substantial, Europeans will almost certainly continue to follow divergent patterns in their transition-to-adulthood processes. Currently, young adults' transition processes are more challenging than before as they are being made in a social and economic context that is extremely insecure and unstable. The effects of the economic crisis, which began in 2008, have hit young Europeans particularly hard. This means that the management of transition-to-adulthood processes needs to be improved. At the European level, there are already many good practices to follow. European heterogeneity, however, makes it very challenging to propose common guidelines that could be applied in all countries.

