

## FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ON SOCIAL SECURITY (FISS)

### 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE – CALL FOR PAPERS

#### “SOCIAL SECURITY AT THE CROSSROADS? LEARNING FROM THE PAST, IMAGINING THE FUTURE”

4-6 June 2018 – Sigtuna, Sweden

Is the welfare state coming to an end? What can research tell us about the ongoing threats to social security in different parts of the world, and the ways forward? The Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (FISS) is pleased to invite paper proposals for its ***25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Conference to be held on 4-6 June 2018*** at the Sigtunahøjden conference centre in Sigtuna, Sweden (close to Stockholm’s Arlanda Airport). We are anticipating a bumper attendance this year, so please get your submissions in as early as possible.

Few international research-focused organisations that run on a voluntary basis can claim as long a pedigree as FISS. The 2018 anniversary conference celebrates this achievement by reflecting on what we have learnt from the past and what this implies for the future of social security. Financial austerity and recurring economic crises, demographic and climate change, armed conflict and new migration patterns, as well as political unrest and the rise of populist or extremist ideas in political discourse raise new challenges for social security. Is it now the time to introduce more radical approaches to policy?

The conference will provide a robust but relaxed forum for researchers and policy makers to come together and discuss issues related to the design, financing, delivery and impact of social security. For this anniversary event, we are pleased to announce an impressive array of Keynote speakers and topics:

- **Tim Smeeding** (University of Wisconsin) - Child Poverty and Public Policy in Anglo-Saxon Countries
- **Tania Burchardt** (London School of Economics) - Intra-Household Allocation of Resources: Implications for Deprivation and Poverty Across Europe
- **Olli Kangas** (Director of Government and Community Relations, Kela, The Finnish Social Insurance Institution) - What Can We Learn from Large-scale Experiments: Experimenting with Basic income in Finland?
- **Qin Gao** (Columbia University) - China’s War on Poverty: Will It Succeed?

We also offer a special forum session on the research experiences and insights of leading scholars in the field. The theme of this special forum session is “My Brilliant Career: Achievements, Regrets and Mistakes”. As always, there is a FISS best Paper Prize, awarded in collaboration with the Journal of Policy and Social Justice (Policy Press).

The main program includes submitted papers on social security (defined broadly). FISS welcomes submissions containing the title of the paper, the author name(s), affiliation(s) and an abstract of no more than 300 words by **30 March 2018**.

Submissions should be sent as an email attachment to the FISS Conference organisers at the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy (University of Antwerp) at the following address: [Vicky.meys@uantwerpen.be](mailto:Vicky.meys@uantwerpen.be).

Authors will be informed of whether or not their paper has been accepted no later than **20 April 2018**.

More information about the conference and conference venue is available at the FISS website: <http://fiss-socialsecurity.org/>

**Peter Saunders & Bea Cantillon**  
*FISS President & Secretary General*

**Keynote speakers:**



**Tim Smeeding** – Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics  
*University of Wisconsin*

Dr. Timothy M. (Tim) Smeeding is the Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics. He was director of the Institute for Research on Poverty from 2008–2014. He was named the John Kenneth Galbraith Fellow, American Academy of Political and Social Science, in 2017, and was the founding director of the Luxembourg Income Study from 1983-2006. Professor Smeeding's recent work has been on social and economic mobility across generations, inequality of income, consumption and wealth, and poverty in national and cross-national contexts.



**Tania Burchardt** – Associate Professor of Social Policy  
*London School of Economics*

Dr. Tania Burchardt is Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. Tania is director of MSc Social Policy (Research) and teaches SA451 Social Policy Research. She also lectures on various undergraduate and postgraduate courses and supervises PhD students within the Social Policy department. Professor Burchardt's research interests lie in theories of justice, including the capability approach, measurement of inequality and applied welfare policy analysis.



**Olli Kangas** – Director of Government and Community Relations  
*The Finnish Social Insurance Institution*

Dr. Olli Kangas is Research Director and Professor at the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela). He was, among others, granted the Kone Foundation's Award of the best article published in Finnish social sciences 2010-2012 and the Award of the Central Organization of Social Security (2011). His areas of specialization are comparative welfare studies, institutional set-ups of welfare programs and political and structural factors behind the development of welfare states. He is involved in research projects regarding labour markets, social security and income distribution, GINI - growing inequalities impacts and is one of the designers of the basic income trial administered by the Social Insurance Institution of Finland.



**Qin Gao** - Associate Professor of Social Policy and Social Work  
*Columbia University*

Qin Gao is Professor of Social Policy and Social Work and Founding Director of the China Center for Social Policy at Columbia University School of Social Work. She is a faculty affiliate of the Columbia Population Research Center and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. She is also an Academic Board Member of the China Institute for Income Distribution at Beijing Normal University and a Public Intellectual Fellow of the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

Dr. Gao's current research examines the following topics: 1) the Chinese welfare state in transition: size, structure, and redistributive effects; 2) effectiveness and impacts of *Dibao*, China's primary social assistance program, and the targeted anti-poverty initiative; 3) social protection for rural-to-urban migrants in China and Asian American immigrants; and 4) cross-national comparative social policies and programs. Dr. Gao's work has been supported by multiple national and international funding sources such as the National Social Science Fund of China, UNICEF, and the World Bank.