

Aktuelles am Lehrstuhl

Cfp: Practices of solidarity during COVID-19

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Cfp Special Issue - European Integration in COVID-19 - Challenges to Social Policy-Making

- Dear colleagues,

The recent COVID-19 induced crisis raises question with respect to the future of European integration, the European Social Model, and EU social-policy making. The 'Corona crisis' exacerbates social inequalities along the prevailing conflict lines and deepens already existing labor market divisions. It hits the most vulnerable hardest and points to the fact that society does often disparage those who are suddenly considered important for the system. This poses major challenges to the EU's member states since they are the main social-policy providers. Yet, since the causes as well as the effects of the crisis have a considerable transnational dimension, this is not only the hour of nation states and national welfare states. On the contrary, the recent crisis (just like the crises before) also prompts supranational solutions and a European struggle for solidarity. After the EU woke up from its initial paralysis, it started to discuss and introduce responses to the crisis, thus revealing existing conflict lines again (e.g., between member states in favor of so-called Corona bonds and those strictly against it). This affects compensation and crisis mechanisms on the one hand and EU social-policy making on the other hand. Existing instruments emphasize fiscal stability, austerity, and market conformity; priorities that have been supported by an institutional framework based on strict supranational surveillance, budgetary discipline, and the threat of financial sanctions. At the same time, these measures are counterbalanced by supranational social-policy innovations that try to promote mutual responsibility and a more Social Europe such as the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Youth Guarantee. Without a doubt, the current crisis will affect these measures and instruments. Will the new conflicts cause another legitimacy crisis in the EU as was the case after the financial crisis? Will it push EU social-policy making into a new era? What role could the European Pillar of Social Rights and the instruments initiated by the new Commission play? Will it even shift the EU's *modus vivendi* from a market into a social citizenship regime?

From former crises, we know that such a crisis might provide windows of opportunity and integrative leaps which nevertheless creates new problems and conflicts, i.e., regarding the EU's democratic legitimacy, public support, and political contestation. In order to find out whether the economic and social crisis following the pandemic provides a major threat or a chance for European integration, this Special Issue aims to shed light on the tensions, responses to the crisis, and opportunities that define European social-policy making in light of COVID-19. It will focus on supranational social-policy making and instruments (implying both transnational and supranational actors), but will also consider the perspectives of different welfare regimes in Europe.

Social scientists are invited to submit paper proposals on the following topics and questions:

How is the European Union tackling the pending challenges and what are the implications of the existing and debated instruments for European integration?

How do different welfare state regimes in Europe react to the crisis? What are their major challenges?

What is the role of trade unions and supranational regulations in combating the labor market divisions such as the difference between standard and atypical employment, the low-wage sector, etc.?

Analyses of single fields of EU social-policy, such as public health, unemployment policies, or minimum income;

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Research Section "Sociology of European Integration" of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie

- **Call for Papers: European Di-Visions. Political, normative and social tensions within the EU for the 2020 Congress of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie (DGS) to be held at TU Berlin, September 14 – 18, 2020**

Stefanie Börner, Monika Eigmüller, Christian Schmidt-Wellenburg. During the last decade, several transnational crises – such as “financial cum economic crisis” or “migration crisis” – have called the processes of European political and social integration into question. The panel wants to trace the EU-wide tensions accruing from these challenges, investigate how they alter existing conflict lines and discuss solutions advocated by different proponents as well as possible effects. Recent developments touch differently upon the various dimensions of the European integration. At the political level, existing supra- and international cooperation (e.g. in migration or economic policies) has not only been ripe with conflict in itself but has stood in constant competition with more national forms of cooperation. This politicization seriously challenges the permissive consensus that European elites used to rely on. Solutions emphasising national sovereignty – such as “Brexit” – seem in the end to deepen crises and feelings of political powerlessness on a national as well as on a European level. Likewise, visions of (re-)nationalisation can be observed in many member states with possibly similar contradictory effects. In normative terms, these populist politics of fear discredit the idea of a liberal Europe with transnational rights. As a social consequence, economic and political divisions within the EU may again increase. Arising conflicts do not only affect the process of European integration in general and its normative orientations, but also the activities of civil society and social movements as well as citizens' wellbeing and attitudes at the micro level. In a situation, where supranational visions and divisions are challenged on basic terms, the panel invites to scrutinize the flaws and potentials in the EU's architecture, pending reforms and possible redirections. The panel aims at studying the dialectics of European dis*integration: the actors pushing these developments (e.g. supranational elites, transnational organisations and EU citizens) and the respective counter movements (ranging from national political actors to national and transnational civil society and social movements). In how far do EU-wide conflict lines differ from conflicts occurring at the national level? Are humanitarian and cosmopolitan values compatible? What is the role of social movements? How do conflict lines interact with each other and do they affect and challenge the professional work within the European Commission? How does the perception of European divides differ between member states and different social groups? We invite researchers from different sociological fields (e.g. migration, social movements, transnational rights, right-wing populism, social inequality and social policy, horizontal Europeanisation etc.) to shed light on these conflicts from a macro, meso, or micro sociological perspective, provide sociological interpretations and explanations of the various conflicts at hand and study their consequences empirically. We look forward to original empirical or conceptual contributions. Please submit abstracts of a maximum of 500 words to stefanie.boerner@ovgu.de by 15.05.2020.

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CFP für eine Sektionsveranstaltung auf dem DGS

- **Gesellschaft unter Spannungen. Aktuelle europasozilogische Forschung.**

Die Sektion Europasozilogie organisiert im Rahmen des DGS-Kongresses in Berlin eine Veranstaltung zur Vorstellung und Diskussion aktueller Forschungsprojekte aus dem Bereich der Europasozilogie. Damit möchte die Sektion Gelegenheit geben, laufende europasozilogische Forschungen und aktuelle Forschungsergebnisse zu präsentieren.

Wir laden Forscherinnen und Forscher jeder akademischen Stufe ein, ihre aktuelle Arbeit vorzustellen und zu diskutieren. Beitragsangebote können die gesamte Bandbreite der

europasozilogischen Forschung abdecken. Sowohl originelle konzeptionelle Beiträge als auch Vorstellungen von aktuellen empirischen Forschungsergebnissen sind willkommen. Vorgesehen sind maximal 20-minütige Vorträge.

Wir freuen uns über Abstracts (maximal 500 Wörtern), die neben den üblichen Angaben zudem Auskunft geben über den Forschungskontext beziehungsweise den Stand des zugrundeliegenden Projekts.

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Jun.-Prof. Dr. Stefanie Börner als visiting Professor an der HSE Moskau

30.11.-1 - Im September ist Jun.-Prof. Dr. Stefanie Börner Visiting Professor an der HSE Moskau, wo sie im Rahmen der International Sociology Seminar Series einen Vortrag zum Thema "Transnational social rights and social inequality in the EU" hält.

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