



On Justice in Social Policy

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

Date: 5 – 6 September 2019

Abstract/Description:

Trudie Knijn and Dorota Lepianka have organised a stream *On Justice and Social Policy* at the 17th ESPAnet Conference on 'Social Citizenship, Migration and Conflict - Equality and opportunity in European welfare states.'

Abstract of the Stream: While social policy is a highly normative field, social policy studies – in their attempt to stay scientifically objective – tend to avoid taking a normative stance. In consequence, ethical, moral and normative questions regarding, for example, 'justice' are only implicitly addressed. As social policy scholars we analyze differences in group access to public goods, public attitudes towards inequality, the extent to which needs of vulnerable groups are met and/or whether or not the perspective of vulnerable citizens is represented, but we avoid reflecting on those issues in terms of (in)justice done and/or experienced. In the era of increasing inequality and a growing sense of insecurity the question of what is (in)just and to whom has grown in relevance. A series of crises in Europe (financial, social, refugee) and political shifts in several European states have given new impetus to exclusionary practices and the re-drawing of boundaries of belonging and deservingness. It has also resulted in growing social polarization and radicalization, often reinforced by a deep-seated sense of injustice. Tensions between various justice claims and between justice claims of various social groups have heightened the urgency to take a new look at justice conceptions that underpin social policy and drive a variety of institutionalized and non-institutionalized struggles for justice. In this stream we will explore how social policy, especially in the area of labour market, housing, disability, care and education, addresses the diverse justice claims of various social groups in Europe, and especially how it manages to wed the 'majoritarian' claims to justice with the justice claims of racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

In the stream the following papers have been presented:

- Sam Desiere, Ludo Struyven (HIVA KU Leuven, Belgium): 'Using artificial intelligence to classify jobseekers: the equity-efficiency trade-off'
- Frank Nullmeier, Tanja Pritzlaff-Scheele, Patricia Zauchner (University of Bremen, Germany): 'Needs-based Justice and Immigration.'
- Cristina Raț (Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca): '"Justitia caecus est"--Historical disadvantage and welfare in the case of Romanian Roma.'
- Nora Ratzmann (London School of Economics, UK): 'Are EU citizens deserving of social citizenship rights in Germany?'
- Paula Saikkonen (National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and Minna Ylikännö (Social Insurance Institution of Finland(Kela): 'Social citizenship and targeting benefits: Finnish social assistance reform.'
- Arno Van Hootegem, Federica Rossetti, Koen Abts and Bart Meuleman (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Tilburg University, The Netherlands): 'Distributing the rights and obligations of benefit claimants.'

Audience: 25 participants, academic social policy scholars.