

## Call for Papers

RCI9 Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy <http://www.rc19.org/>

International Sociological Association

### **Expansion and Retrenchment in Social Policy: North-South Dialogues**

RCI9 Conference at the University of Costa Rica, August 25-27, 2016

**Abstracts due February 12 2016**

The RCI9 annual conference brings together international scholars in the fields of comparative welfare state and social policy studies, encompassing a range of disciplines such as sociology, social policy, political science, and economics. RCI9 conference sessions are organized to reflect the specific conference theme, as well as to discuss ongoing research projects of RCI9 members.

#### **Theme**

Across the globe, over the past 25 years, social policy has experienced deep transformations. Austerity, retrenchment and marketization have dominated the political debate in the North. In contrast, new policy experiments have multiplied in the South, and social spending has grown steadily in many countries. These trends make comparative studies on recent paths and drivers of social policy transformation all the more relevant. This conference encourages discussions on the extent to which recent changes have modified pre-existing social policy architectures by promoting a global dialogue concerning the drivers of social policy reform, from a comparative perspective. It also welcomes papers that address the role of economic cycles and deeper, structural transformations in productive regimes vis-à-vis political forces and collective action in explaining continuities and change in the social policy landscape. Studies looking at how global factors have shaped policy change, from the crisis to the Millennium Development Goals and other international efforts, are also encouraged. Have South-North dialogue and policy diffusion played any role in reshaping social assistance, contributory systems and universal transfers and services? Beyond this general theme, as in previous RCI9 annual conferences, members are also encouraged to submit paper proposals presenting their ongoing social policy research, reflecting the diversity of the scholarship undertaken by RCI9 members.

#### **Steps to join us in Costa Rica**

Please, submit a 500-word abstract that outlines the primary research question, theoretical approach, methods, data sources, and analytical significance by February 12, 2016 to [rc19costarica.ciep@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:rc19costarica.ciep@ucr.ac.cr)

The Program Committee will evaluate abstracts and notify the acceptance or rejection of papers to the submitting author no later than March 20 2016. Preference will be given to papers that make a strong contribution to comparative, theoretical and/or global/transnational

social policy, as judged by the Program Committee. Submissions from advanced doctoral students and junior researchers are particularly encouraged.

To be included in the final conference program, completed papers must be emailed to [rc19costarica.ciep@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:rc19costarica.ciep@ucr.ac.cr) no later than July 15, 2016.

A small number of travel grants are available to postgraduate students and scholars residing in developing countries, who have a paper accepted for presentation and would not be able to attend the conference without financial support. To apply for a grant, please make your request in a short paragraph indicating your financial situation, and submit this document at the same time as your abstract to [rc19costarica.ciep@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:rc19costarica.ciep@ucr.ac.cr).

### **Membership**

Authors of accepted papers must be members of RC19, which is open to social scientists from all disciplines upon payment of a four-year membership fee (regular fee is US\$80; fee is US\$35 for students and scholars from the global South). To join, please contact RC19 Treasurer, Timo Fleckenstein ([t.fleckenstein@lse.ac.uk](mailto:t.fleckenstein@lse.ac.uk)).

### **Conference Format**

The conference will be organized according to Korpi's Rules to foster lively discussion and scholarly exchange. The rules are named for Walter Korpi, past president of RC19, who instituted a workshop- style meeting format that the membership continues to find congenial:

- ✓ papers are circulated (and read) in advance;
- ✓ at the conference the papers are introduced by a discussant (rather than the author);
- ✓ the author is given only a limited time to react to the discussant's presentation so as to leave more room for general discussion.

Thus, accepting a place on the program entails a commitment to complete the paper in time for others to read it and to come prepared to discuss other authors' papers. Equally, participants may expect to serve as discussant for another paper, and to open the floor with an incisive and fair assessment of its strengths and weaknesses. Completed papers are therefore circulated to conference participants via the conference website.

### **Key dates**

- ✓ Submission of abstracts: February 12 2016
- ✓ Acceptance of abstracts: March 15 2016
- ✓ Registration opens: April 6 2016
- ✓ Regular registration deadline: May 31 2016
- ✓ Full paper submission deadline: July 15 2016
- ✓ Late registration deadline: July 31 2016

Visit the RC19 website at <http://www.rc19.org/>