

RC 19 Newsletter – Digest December 2023**Presidential Letter 2023**

I am honored to be a part of the board that will lead RC19 from 2023 to 2027. I want to express my gratitude to Daniel Béland and the rest of the board, who were at the helm of our research committee from 2018 to 2023. They coordinated our research group during the pandemic and its aftermath, dealing with the new challenges it brought to sustain and build our community.

As students of social policy, we had the unique opportunity to observe and compare changes and continuities in social policy during the COVID-19 pandemic, from established cash transfers to emerging care policy and the massive deployment of vaccination. Overall, our theories for explaining and understanding social policy were up to the task and proved useful.

The aftermath of this crisis finds many nations and communities vulnerable to various shocks, including zoonotic diseases, climatic migration, and wars like those in Ukraine and Gaza – all of them consequential for social policy and its political economy. The rise of new forms of authoritarianism and the electoral prominence of the far-right are changing the role and character of welfare policies. Indeed, the rise of this extreme nationalist response to the failure of nation-states to address pressing social problems that have overloaded domestic capacities for effective problem-solving.

Much as the then-emerging nation-states once disputed the operation and legitimacy of local territorial powers, global mechanisms are needed to address global social issues. Sociologist Fernando Filgueira believes that a reconfiguration of the relative weight of the different scales, namely local, national, and global, in managing welfare regimes might be underway and promise to be complicated and fraught with tensions.

There is thus ample reason to look comparatively at the nature and source of social problems and the social policies to address them, as our statutes call for. There is a great need to come together, interact face-to-face, share perspectives, learn from evidence, and disagree constructively. We will do so at our next conference (see Call for Papers below). Around “Sustainable welfare in a global context”, Oslo awaits us and other spaces, possibly virtual, to meet. I want to thank Rune Halvorsen and his team at Oslo Metropolitan University for organizing this meeting.

During the next four years, our board is determined to strengthen the collective leadership of RC19. We aim to foster a dynamic intellectual community with multiple communication channels and decentralized initiatives (please answer the survey below!). These efforts will enable us to pursue the exchange of ideas necessary to excel in our scientific and intellectual pursuits.

We are counting on you!

Juliana Martínez Franzoni, University of Costa Rica

Strengthening the RC19 Community – Quick survey!

We have a few questions to learn more about your views regarding RC19.

Please go [here](#). It will only take a minute and your opinions will help us build a vibrant intellectual community!

Our call for papers is out!

Don't miss it! The 2024 RC19 Annual Conference will be held in Oslo, Norway, 4th-6th September 2024.

Theme: Sustainable welfare in global context: responding to societal and environmental transformations

*Deadline submission of abstracts: **29 February 2024***

For more information, click [here](#).

Welfare systems are experiencing structural transformations that require new and critical examination of the traditionally shaped social policy paradigms. The economic and social values that have shaped past policies in mature welfare systems are being questioned while developing welfare systems face mounting challenges. Rethinking sustainable welfare or sustainable welfare models is compelled by a series of interrelated societal changes that have become pressing globally: demographic and family changes, new migration patterns, the digitalisation of labour and public services, and the green transition.

There is a need to better understand how historical power relations have shaped social inequalities and injustices we see reflected in society today. The societal and environmental transformations pose significant questions about the future organisation of welfare systems. Sustainable welfare is a contested concept that still needs to be theorized. It is unclear what sustainable welfare means in practice and how it can be achieved. Some scholars first and foremost focus on the need for green transition, whether from a growth or post-growth perspective. Other scholars argue for a broader conceptualisation and the inclusion of a focus on other structural transformations such as demographic and family change to critically assess the sustainability of existing welfare systems.

Other calls for papers

ESPAnet Annual Conference in Tampere, Finland, 28th – 30th August, 2024.

Theme: Public values of the welfare state to manage sustainable welfare and wellbeing

Welfare states have already weathered many storms, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. At the same time, welfare states have for decades adjusted to more gradual changes such as globalization, population aging, rising inequality, changing labor markets and family roles. This conference will discuss the transformation of the public values of welfare states by bringing together the community of social policy and welfare state researchers in Europe and beyond.

For the deadline and more information, click [here](#)

ISQOLS - International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Annual Conference, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 24-28 June 2024. Deadline for submitting abstracts is December 22, 2023.

Theme: Human Happiness and Wellbeing in an Uncertain World

We welcome multidisciplinary approaches that explore these solutions using multiple lenses and multinational and intercontinental approaches that seek to bind together the unique experiences of disparate nations and cultures to strengthen the research evidence for quality-of-life studies. We hence are issuing a clarion call for workshops, symposia, and free papers that reflect these values.

For more information, click [here](#)

2024 Social Policy in Africa Conference - University of South Africa, CODESRIA and UNRISD, Pretoria, South Africa, 15-17 April 2024. Deadline for Abstracts/Panel Proposals: Friday, 29 December 2023.

Theme: Social Policy in Post-Covid-19 Africa: In Search of an Inclusive and Equitable Architecture

The limitations of stratified, segmented, and segregated social policy pre-COVID; the post-pandemic options for social policy reforms under consideration in the different African countries; and the extent are these post-pandemic conditions adversely affecting the feasibility of a more inclusive and equitable social policy architecture are some of the questions to be tackled at the conference.

For more information, click [here](#)

Children's Lives: International Conference on Children and their Families using the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys - Bristol University, Equity for Children, and UNICEF, Bristol, UK, 11- 12 April 2024. Deadline to proposed papers January 10, 2024.

Theme: Understanding the situation of children and their families

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) were started in the 1990s. Since then, 120 countries have conducted over 350 surveys in seven rounds. [Microdata is available](#) from almost all these surveys. Articles dealing with children, their families and households, and their situation will be considered if they utilize MICS microdata. Proposed papers can be focused on one country or a comparison across two or more countries or regions. The papers can use data from one (or more) round(s) of MICS.

The conference webpage will be available soon.

Job announcements

Social Policy Officer (Decent Rural Employment), FAO, Rome, Italy: information can be found [here](#)

Regional Social Policy Consultant, UNICEF, Panama City: information can be found [here](#)

Other news

One of our members was honored!

The 2023 Peter Townsend Prize is jointly awarded to Professor Fiona Williams and Professor Lydia Morris.

Professor Fiona Williams FBA is awarded the 2023 Peter Townsend Prize for her book *Social Policy: A Critical and Intersectional Analysis* (Polity Press, 2021).

The judging panel remarked, "Social Policy successfully marries critical and intersectional approaches to reveal the multiplicity of socio-economic inequalities and the ways in which they interlock... The book is strongly committed to humanity, social justice, and welfare. It is driven by a call for a radical paradigm change in welfare principles, praxis, and governance, leading to transformational improvements in people's lives."

Fiona Williams is a Fellow of the British Academy and Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of Leeds.



News from ISA – Draft Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Charter of ISA

A Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) has been working to develop a Charter to guide the ISA's pursuit of EDI in the Association. This draft has gone through several reviews within our task force and advisory committee. The following steps will be to vote to approve this document within the Research Council and then seek approval from the Executive.

Before that happens, the chair of the Task Force, Dr Debra Davidson, wants to hear from as many members as possible. Please feel free to write directly to her (debra.davidson@ualberta.ca) before the end of the year. The draft is included in the e-mail distributing this Newsletter.

Recent publications

Arza, C., R. Castiglioni, J. Martinez Franzoni, S. Niedzwiecki, J. Pribble and D. Sánchez-Ancochea. (2022) [The Political Economy of Segmented Expansion](#). Elements Series on Latin America Politics and Society. Cambridge University Press.

Blofield, M, J. Pribble and C. Giambruno (2023) "[The Politics of Social Protection During Times of Crisis](#)". Elements Series on Latin America Politics and Society. Cambridge University Press.

Borges, F. (2022) [Human Capital vs. Basic Income: Ideology and Models of Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America](#). Michigan: University of Michigan Press.

Brennan, M. A., Phillips, R., Walzer, N., & Hales, B. D. (Eds.). (2022). [Community Development for Times of Crisis: Creating Caring Communities](#). Taylor & Francis.

Coe, C. (2022) [Changes in Care: aging, migration and social class in West Africa](#) Rutgers University Press.

Maestripieri, L. (2023). [Women's Involuntary Part-Time Employment and Household Economic Security in Europe. *Feminist Economics*](#), 1-29.

Touchon, M., F. M. Knaul, H. Arreola et al. (2023) "[Lessons from Latin America: Coordinating Policy Response Across National and Sub-national levels to Combat COVID-19](#)". *COVID* 2023, 3(9).

Tungohan, E. (2023) [Care Activism: Migrant Domestic Workers, Movement Building and Communities of Care](#). University of Illinois

Turquet, L., C. Tabbush, S. Staab, L. Williams, and B. Howell (2023) "Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action". Conceptual framework prepared for Progress of the World's Women series. New York: UN-Women

Vandemoortele, J., and Delamonica, E. (2023). "Growth is good for the poor? Not necessarily". *Review of Political Economy*, 35(4), 1157-1161.