

Call for Papers: ECSR 2014 Conference *Social Inequalities in Europe – On the Rise Again?*

ECSR invites researchers to submit abstracts related to issues of social inequality in Europe for the 2014 ECSR conference. The conference will be held in Berlin (Germany) from September 23–25, 2014 and is jointly organized by the Berlin Social Science Research Center (WZB) and Humboldt-University Berlin (HU). The conference will start on September 23, 2014 at 3pm with two keynote lectures preceding the conference party in the evening. The official program will end on September 25, 2014 at 5pm.

The conference seeks to assemble research on the impact of the recent financial crisis on social inequalities and social cohesion. Until recently, social inequalities had been declining continuously. However, the current economic climate and major demographic changes in Europe threaten to trigger an increase in existing social inequalities and prompt the emergence of new forms of social inequality. What kinds of welfare states and social policies will still be able to effectively keep inequalities low or at least prevent a resurgence of social inequality? Presentations closely linked to the conference theme are most welcome, but we also encourage submission of abstracts that address social inequality more generally.

More information on the conference – including the application details for up to 30 travel grants of up to EUR 500 for PhD students – will be available on the conference website at <http://ecsr2014.wzb.eu/> in mid-January 2014.

Please send abstracts of 300 words maximum and three keywords to

ECSR2014abstracts@wzb.eu.

Submission deadline: March 31, 2014

Decisions will be made before May 20, 2014.

Call for the ECSR 2014 Pre-Conference Graduate Student Methods Workshop

ECSR invites applications for a graduate methods workshop preceding the 2014 ECSR conference in Berlin. The workshop will take place at Humboldt-University Berlin (September 22, 2014, 1pm to September 23, 2014, 3pm). The methods workshop will provide PhD students with a choice of two parallel workshops on advanced statistical methods (Workshop 1a and 1b, Monday, September 22, 2014) and an introduction to the German National Education Panel Study (NEPS) (Workshop 2, Tuesday, September 23, 2014). Workshop participants will be exempt from the ECSR conference fee.

Workshop 1a (Monday, September 22): Visualization of Statistical Data

Ulrich Kohler, University of Potsdam

Graphics are a visual medium for communication. The visualization of statistical data has therefore become an increasingly important tool for researchers to analyze their data and present their findings. This workshop aims at providing participants with the basics of graphical perception

theories and familiarizing them with the manifold options to create graphs and plots for regression analyses using the statistical package STATA. A central module of the course is therefore reserved for Stata-based hands-on work. These practical exercises and demonstrations require a basic understanding of quantitative data analysis and require previous experiences in using Stata software.

Workshop 1b (Monday, September 22): Basics of Graphical Causal Models

Felix Elwert, University of Wisconsin

This workshop offers a succinct introduction to Judea Pearl's directed acyclic graphs (DAGs). DAGs are an increasingly popular framework for causal inference (equivalent to the potential outcomes framework). We will learn how to use DAGs to derive causal identification results, build intuition for the difference between confounding and selection, and learn what variables must be, or must not be, controlled for in a regression model. This workshop requires a working knowledge of regression analysis and basic knowledge of the counterfactual approach to causal inference (which will be briefly reviewed).

Workshop 2 (Tuesday, September 23): Introduction to the German National Education Panel Study (NEPS)

Markus Zielonka & Lydia Kleine, University of Bamberg

The National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) is a longitudinal project on the development of competencies, educational decisions, learning environments, and returns to education in formal, non-formal, and informal contexts in Germany. It supervises six panel studies which start at different stages of life, i.e. in early childhood, at kindergarten age, in grade 5, in grade 9, in first-year study, and in adulthood. The studies consist of annually conducted interviews with the target persons and/or relevant others such as parents, teachers and headmasters. The survey program also includes a broad range of competence test measures. All NEPS data are made available to the national and international scientific community providing a rich source of analyses for the various disciplines concerned with educational processes and trajectories across the life span. The workshop introduces the complex research design of the NEPS, the structure of available data sets, ways of accessing these data, useful tools of data handling, and terms and conditions of data usage. A central module of the course is reserved for Stata-based hands-on work with the NEPS data. These practical exercises and demonstrations require a basic understanding of quantitative data analysis, but do not depend on certain skills or experiences in using Stata software.

To apply to the pre-conference graduate student methods workshop, please submit a short letter of motivation, a summary of your doctoral research, and a CV indicating the current stage of your PhD to

ECSR2014methods@wzb.eu.

Workshop participation on Monday and Tuesday is obligatory. Please indicate your preference for one of the parallel workshops taking place on Monday, September 22, 2014 (although we cannot guarantee a slot in your preferred workshop).

Application deadline: March 31, 2014

Decisions will be made before May 20, 2014.