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News

When politics meet economics: WZB-Mitteilungen analyzes the crisis

Regulation is the linchpin of discussion about ways out of the current financial, European, and climate crises. Whether from economic, legal or sociological perspectives - contributions in the fall issue of the WZB Mitteilungen sound out the scope within which national and international institutions can maneuver.

[Further information](#)

Youth are more politically involved than originally thought

WZB researcher Céline Teney has discovered a new type of politically active youth: integrated in their religious community, usually socially disadvantaged, often coming from immigrant families. Teney and her colleague Laurie Hanquinet from the University of York thus challenge the popular image of active youth well educated from middle-class homes integrated in civic organizations. The researchers interviewed over 3,000 18-year olds at 70 schools in Brussels, a third of this age group, about their attitudes and opinions. The results are presented in the new WZBrief Zivilengagement.

[To the WZBrief Zivilengagement \(in German\)](#)

Secure jobs aren't around for everyone

Women, youths and unqualified workers in Europe are particularly often employed with limited contracts or in part-time jobs. People under 30 years of age and unqualified workers are even less likely today to be employed with an unlimited full-time contract than in the mid-1990s. At the same time, there is an increase of flexible forms of employment with growing numbers of women and older people (50 to 64 years of age) who are working. A study that documents the development of atypical employment from 1996 to 2009 in twenty European countries comes to this conclusion.

[To the press release \(in German\)](#)

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Study or work? Reasons for university enrollment

Students whose parents do not have an academic background are still underrepresented in German universities, although many achieve a higher education entrance qualification (“Abitur”). Which education policy measures might convince them to decide in favor of university enrollment? This question is now being explored by a joint research project of the DIW Berlin and the WZB, taking the example of Berlin.

[Further information](#)

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Events

October 26, 2012

Agenda-setting in inequality and social policy research

This conference features outstanding international scholars presenting the best of inequality and social policy research. The sessions will feature exemplary research at the frontiers of scholarship in this area, including research on the causes, consequences and interrelationships between both inequality and social policy.

[Further information](#)

October 29-30, 2012

The end of federalism?

The conference aims to bring together leading economists and political scientists in the field of fiscal federalism and intergovernmental relations for a two-day workshop.

[Further information](#)

November 15, 2012

Powers, regions, and civilisations

The roundtable with Peter Katzenstein (Cornell University) will discuss current trends in world politics.

[Further information](#)

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Publications

English should become the lingua franca in Europe

Whoever wants to be anyone in Europe, must be able to speak foreign languages. In his book “From Babel to Brussels. European Integration and the Importance of Transnational Linguistic Capital,” WZB fellow Jürgen Gerhards describes the basic framework within which multilingualism has become a central resource in Europe. He sees the ability to make oneself understood as a prerequisite for the success of European integration.

[Further information](#)

Inequality and democracy

How much inequality can a democracy take? Does heterogeneity hinder democratization? How does the unequal distribution of power resources and income effect the stability of a democracy? Previous research linking heterogeneity and democracy usually focuses on a single dimension of heterogeneity. Wolfgang Merkel (WZB) and Brigitte Weiffen (University of Konstanz) have now drawn an overall picture: Their empirical analysis gauges the effect of various dimensions of heterogeneity, especially in young democracies from the mid-1970s until 2007. They found that, while most facets of heterogeneity do not hinder democratic transition, most of them complicate democratic consolidation.

[Further information](#)

Overview of publications

Our [publication list \(PDF\)](#) includes the latest WZB publications.

New discussion papers

A current list of discussion papers can be found [here](#).

The WZB in the Media

Radio National, October 3, 2012

Crisis of democracy

Wolfgang Merkel about the crisis of democracy in Europe and what it means especially for people in the lower socio-economic strata

[To the interview](#)

The Spectator, October 13, 2012

Meltdown in Valhalla

Steffen Huck draws parallels between Wagner's Ring cycle and today's economic crisis

[To the article](#)

National Public Radio, October 18, 2012

E.U. summit to discuss currency commission

Pieter de Wilde

[To the article](#)

More articles: <http://www.wzb.eu/en/press/wzb-in-the-media>

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