

Absolute Poverty in Europe

Salzburg, August 27 & 28, 2015

Keynote Speakers:

David Hulme (Manchester)

Robert Walker (Oxford)

Welcome to the University of Salzburg!

The Paris Lodron University of Salzburg is the largest educational institution in the Salzburg region. Presently, over 18,000 students are enrolled and it employs approximately 2,700 staff members in research, teaching and administration. As an integral part of both cultural and educational life, the University serves as a meeting place for teaching staff, students and academics, as well as the general public. Since our re-establishment in 1962, the University has developed into a modern, vibrant institution whose four Faculties (Theology, Law, Cultural and Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences) meet the highest standards of teaching and research.

The conference will take place at the Centre for Ethics and Poverty Research, which is located upon the Moenchsberg, a small mountain, directly in the city center of Salzburg. Address: Moenchsberg 2a, 5020 Salzburg

The conference dinner will take place in the Restaurant Stieglkeller, just beneath the Festung Hohensalzburg. Address: Festungsgasse 10, 5020 Salzburg

Salzburg

Salzburg is the fourth-largest city in Austria with about 150.000 inhabitants and the capital city of the federal state of Salzburg. Its „Old Town“ (Altstadt) (listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997) has internationally renowned baroque architecture and a beautiful alpine setting. The most famous son of Salzburg is the 18th-century composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and many have seen and heard the musical and film The Sound of Music. You can visit many different museums, churches or the fortress Hohensalzburg, one of the largest medieval castles in Europe. But Salzburg is not only about culture and music, it also has three universities and a large population of students.

Centre for Ethics and Poverty Research

The Centre for Ethics and Poverty Research (ZEA) at the University of Salzburg is an interdisciplinary research organization with multiple integrations in national and international institutions and networks. It is dedicated to the scientific treatment of social-ethical issues with particular reference to the phenomena of poverty and social exclusion. The aim of the ZEA is the promotion, recognition and establishment of poverty research as a separate scientific discipline.

The ZEA assumes social responsibility. It holds that the university as well as scientific research and intellectual work have a social responsibility. This can be justified with reference to the university's own history as well as the self-understandings of intellectuals. This social responsibility comes to effect in collaborations with organisations and people outside the university. Having the privilege to work in science implies that we carry a responsibility. Universities and scientific research have to contribute importantly to the urgent social problems by the tools of analysis and by the quest for helpful solutions.

In its self-understanding the ZEA is a coordination point of work in the areas of poverty research and applied ethics. Through events, workshops, conferences, projects, publications, consulting and networking, the Centre for Ethics and Poverty Research tries to transfer scientific knowledge to the public, business and political discussions.

Research focus: Culture and Poverty Alleviation

The issue of poverty includes not only financial resource allocation issues, but also covers social issues. As part of the research for culture and poverty reduction, the relationship between culture and poverty is systematically reflected. Culture, we understand both in a narrow sense of creative artistic expression (and its reception) and in a broader sense, thus as the cultural practices of social life and their effects on individuals. In the context of poverty and poverty alleviation, we ask for meaning, function and effect of culture in terms of cultural (and therefore social) inclusion and exclusion.

- What knowledge about poverty is present in local cultures? How can local knowledge inform poverty research and stimulate poverty alleviation?
- What micro theories can we derive good practices for the further development of poverty research and the alleviation of poverty?
- What is the relationship between cultural participation, cultural capital and poverty?
- What cultural activities can contribute to poverty reduction?

Research focus: Theory of Poverty and Normative Ethics

Issues of poverty are traditionally located at empirically-working social and economic sciences rather than at philosophy and normative ethics. Nevertheless, a theory of poverty as well as the basics of poverty research and alleviation must be rooted in normative and evaluative concepts and assumptions. Decisions about the concept of poverty and the "correct" operationalisation are often not sufficiently reflected in a relationship with normative theoretical assumptions. The same holds true for the normative question, why we should alleviate poverty at all. Such assumptions concern understandings of justice, the good life or the common good.

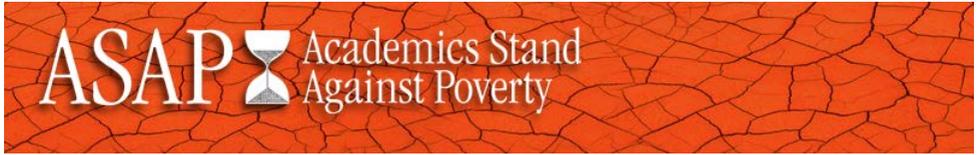
A philosophical theorizing and reflection can help clarify key terms and concepts of poverty and to establish a better understanding of the goals and methods of poverty alleviation. The normative and evaluative research on such issues as a core task of philosophy is therefore also granted wide space at the ZEA. It is an essential part of self-understanding and the work of the ZEA, that poverty is not a solitary agenda of philosophy, but can only be tackled usefully if it is treated in the inter and intra disciplinary conversation.

Research focus: Poverty Reduction and Tax Ethics

In the research area „Poverty Reduction and Tax Ethics“ the ZEA studies the systematic relationship between the tax system, tax reform and poverty. The key questions asked are: How do tax reforms affect the lives of the poor? What relationship between tax policy and poverty alleviation programs can be observed in selected European countries? What recommendations can be given for tax measures in the context of a clear social ethical position, and on the basis of data?

Between taxes on the one hand and welfare benefits on the other hand, there is the entire welfare state structure. All the key issues raised are therefore necessary embedded in the context of the welfare state and must be analyzed and evaluated within this reference system. The ZEA does so by applying methods of empirical social research and within the discourse of normative ethics. As a first step, we follow the ethical justification of welfare taxation in the context of social justice and the alleviation of poverty by welfare programs. In the course of this research, we identify problem areas of ethical evaluation of principals of taxation, as they are provided in the tax studies, and thus prepare the field for further in-depth research questions and ideas.

We cooperate with the Universities' focal area „Law, Economics and Labour“, the Department of Economics at the University, Law Faculty and numerous other researchers from the University of Salzburg in the context of book projects and expert discussions.



Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP) is an international association focused on helping researchers and teachers enhance their impact on poverty. It does so by

- a) advancing collaboration among poverty-focused academics, with an emphasis on South-North connections;
- b) promoting effective outreach to policy makers and broader public audiences, and
- c) helping academics pursue applied research and intervention projects as well as campaigns on specific issues.

ASAP's overarching aims are to contribute to the eradication of severe poverty worldwide and to help ensure that poverty policy and development efforts are guided by rigorous empirical and normative scholarship. ASAP's principal focus is on poor people in less-affluent countries, because that is where poverty tends to be most concentrated and severe, and where resources for tackling poverty tend to be scarcer. However, ASAP's ultimate concern is for people, not for countries, and so it includes within its sphere of activity poor people in affluent countries as well.

ASAP recognizes that poverty is a process, not a static given. It seeks to address the root drivers of impoverishment in both the global and domestic spheres and to highlight how some of the same factors can worsen poverty in both affluent and less-affluent countries. Further, ASAP members explore a wide range of factors in their analyses of poverty and promote a variety of solutions. With such diversity in mind, ASAP does not offer a narrow poverty analysis but seeks to promote robust dialogue informed by new research from all regions of the world.

Finally, ASAP's theory of social change focuses on both institutions and norms. Thus, ASAP seeks to promote sound and progressive poverty policy at the domestic and global levels and also to help change norms around the acceptability of severe poverty. Inspired by how engaged academics helped transform views on civil rights, the US war in Vietnam, apartheid and lately gender inequality and violence, ASAP holds that we can help achieve a decisive shift of views on poverty and poor people worldwide.

Child Poverty in Times of Crisis

Salzburg, August 25 & 26, 2016

Keynote Speakers

Mario Biggeri (Florence)

Tess Ridge (Bath)

Call for Papers

The aim of this conference is threefold: (1) to discuss how different crises (like the recent economic downturn, political instability, natural disasters or (civil) war) affect child poverty; (2) to reveal the consequences such crises have on children living in poverty and their families as well as to show how they respond; and, finally, (3) to provide suggestions for international, national and local policy designs for the reaction to such crises. We are interested in bringing together empirical and theoretical papers and in discussing the normative and ethical issues attached to child poverty and related policy making.

The conference fee is 150 Euros (75 Euros for students) and covers the conference folder, coffee breaks, two lunches, the reception, the conference dinner and a guided city tour. Please send your proposal (250 words) to cepr@sbg.ac.at until January 31, 2016.

This conference is an activity of the Austrian chapter of
Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP).

www.uni-salzburg.at/childpoverty2016

Absolute Poverty in Europe

Europe is often portrayed as a continent of relative poverty and social exclusion while extreme poverty is understood as a measure and reality of poor (“developing”) countries only. Our conference aims to question this problematic dichotomy and to assemble papers that contribute to an elaborated understanding of severe, extreme or absolute poverty in Europe. We want to address the specific situations and challenges of groups in danger of absolute poverty such as undocumented refugees, migrant beggars, homeless people, street children, and to discuss evils related to severe poverty (malnutrition, ill health, mental health issues, isolation...). Papers are presented from scholars with diverse backgrounds in the humanities and the social sciences, and also from practitioners.

Key Themes and Questions

- Concepts and dimensions of absolute poverty in Europe
- Measurement of absolute poverty in Europe
- Absolute poverty, sufficiency and basic needs
- Responsibilities towards the absolute poor
- Absolute poverty, health and well-being
- Absolute poverty, the welfare state and policy reform
- Migration and absolute poverty
- Begging, homelessness and street children

Organising Committee

Helmut P. Gaisbauer – Elisabeth Kapferer – Andreas Koch – Otto Neumaier
Gottfried Schweiger – Clemens Sedmak

Absolute Poverty in Europe

Salzburg, August 27 & 28, 2015

Thursday, August 27				
Time		Room		Room
09.00 – 10.00	Registration			
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome	Kant		
10.15 – 11.30	Opening Keynote: David Hulme	Kant		
11.30 – 12.00	Break			
12.00 – 13.30	Session 1a	Kant	Session 1b	Leibniz
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch			
14.30 – 16.00	Session 2a	Kant	Session 2b	Leibniz
16.00 – 16.30	Break			
16.30 – 18.00	Session 3a		Session 3b	
18.00	Reception			
Friday, August 28				
09.00 – 10.30	City Tour			
10.30 – 11.00	Break			
11.00 – 12.30	Session 4a	Kant	Session 4b	Leibniz
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch			
13.30 – 15.00	Session 5a	Kant	Session 5b	Leibniz
15.00 – 15.30	Break			
15.30 – 17.00	Closing Keynote: Robert Walker	Kant		
20.00	Conference Dinner			

Schedule

Room „Kant“: Session 1a (Chair: Ruta Braziene)	
Thomas Steinforth (Caritas Munich and Freising)	Loneliness and poverty
Veronica Polin (University of Verona)	Identity and recognition: A possible key to understanding the phenomenon of homelessness?
Sakari Kainulainen & Juho Saari (University of Eastern Finland)	Does getting a home make the homeless happy? – Effects to life satisfaction
Room „Leibniz“: Session 1b (Chair: Tess Penne)	
Barbara Tiefenbacher (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bratislava)	“I really didn’t know what a beggar is”. Bussing and mendicancy in Austria as an exit strategy of impoverished communities in present Slovakia
Dragos Ciulinaru (University of Bucharest)	The Universal Rights of Europe’s Roma Child Beggars
Andreea Movila	Architecture and The ‘Self-Esteem’
Room „Kant“: Session 2a: Thematic panel: Absolute Poverty in NowHereland - Social, Humanitarian and Economic Perspectives on Irregular Migration in Europe (Chair: Mar Cabezas)	
Ursula Trummer & Sonja Novak-Zezula (Center for Health and Migration, Vienna)	Absolute Poverty in NowHereland
Roumyana Petrova-Benedict & Marina Rota (International Organization for Migration, RO Brussels)	Absolute Poverty in NowHereland
David Ingleby (University of Amsterdam)	Absolute Poverty in NowHereland

Schedule

Room „Leibniz“: Session 2b (Chair: Emese Bruder)	
Alexios-Fotios A. Mentis (Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Athens) & Athanasia A. Kleanthous-Kapakidou (University of Cyprus)	Is there a social risk that the current poverty prevailing in Greece will be transmitted to future generations, evolving to „inter-generational poverty“?
Dubravka Petrović Štefanac (Centre for the Promotion of social Teaching of Church)	Being poor: a Croatian example
Elena Pribytkova (University of Basel)	Protection From Extreme Poverty in the European Court of Human Rights
Room „Kant“: Session 3a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)	
Tess Penne, Tim Goedemé, Bérénice Storms & Karel Van den Bosch (University of Antwerp)	The cost of healthy food. Reference food baskets and the profile of those unable to afford them
Denis Bouget (Observatoire social européen (OSE), Brussels)	Needs and the Concept of Absolute Poverty: Incompleteness and Relativism
Idesbald Nicaise (HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society, K.U. Leuven)	Making the invisible poor visible in the EU-SILC surveys
Room „Leibniz“: Session 3b (Chair: Elena Pribytkova)	
Bülent Dogru, H.Gülçin Beken & Özlem Sekmen (Gumushane University)	The determinants of poverty in Turkey: a study clustering and mapping by region
Maria Spasova & Krasimira Krivorova (Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“)	Gender dimensions of the pension system in Bulgaria after socialism - Poverty among retired women
Ilaria Madama & Daniele Cavalli (University of Milan)	Contested and contentious? The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived and the fight against poverty in the EU, coping with horizontal and vertical clashes

Schedule

Room „Kant“: Session 4a (Chair: Denis Bouget)	
Maria Ohisalo, Tuomo Laihiala, Sakari Kainulainen & Juho Saari (University of Eastern Finland)	Subjective well-being at the Finnish, Greek and Lithuanian capitals' breadlines - comparing the European welfare regimes
Francesco Burchi (German Development Institute); Pasquale De Muro (Roma Tre University) & Eszter Kollar (Goethe University Frankfurt)	Constructing Well-being and Poverty Dimensions on Political Grounds
Juho Saari & Olli-Pekka Rynnänen, (University of Eastern Finland)	Always look on the dark side of the life – The worst off in the best country in the world
Room „Leibniz“: Session 4b (Chair: Barbara Tiefenbacher)	
Nicole Rippin (German Development Institute)	Absolute Poverty in Germany
Jelena Vidojević & Natalija Perišić (University of Belgrade)	The political construction of absolute poverty in Serbia: A historical perspective
Deniz Sevinc (University of Leicester)	Multidimensional Inequality in the United Kingdom: Just how unequal we are?
Room „Kant“: Session 5a (Chair: Gunter Graf)	
Emese Bruder (Szent István University)	Absolute poverty measures in analysing the working poor population
Doga Basar Sariipek & Arzu Ozsoy Ozmen (Kocaeli University)	„Hidden“ social policy reform in post-crisis Turkey: from formal to informal social protection?
Ruta Braziene (Kaunas University of Technology (KTU))	How Participation in the Labour Market Affects Youth Poverty and Social Exclusion? A Comparison of EU Countries
Room „Leibniz“: Session 5b: Roundtable Discussion: Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP) and Absolute Poverty in Europe with DAVID ALVAREZ (ASAP SPAIN), GABRIEL AMITSIS (ASAP GREECE) & IASON GABRIEL (ASAP UK)	

Important Information

Conference Venue:

Centre for Ethics and
Poverty Research
Edith-Stein-Haus
Mönchsberg 2a
A-5020 Salzburg



How to get there:

The Centre is located directly in the center of Salzburg. You can either walk up the stairs from the Toscaninihof on the Mönchsberg or use the elevator located 50 meters inside the mountain on the way from the Toscaninihof to the garage. You can access the elevator using the door code: 1756#. The Centre is in the Edith-Stein-Haus, the smaller building opposite of the Edmundsburg.

Conference Dinner:

Die Stadtalm
Mönchsberg 19c
A-5020 Salzburg



How to get there:

The Stadtalm is also located on the Mönchsberg and just a 15 minutes walk from the conference venue.

Important Information

Meeting Point for the City Tour:

Toscaninihof

09.00 am on Friday

Emergency Numbers:

Fire Department: 122

Police: 133

Ambulance: 144

Organizing Committee

cepr@sbg.ac.at

+43 (0) 662 8044 2570

Opening Keynote

DAVID HULME (UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER)

Will the Sustainable Development Goals benefit the absolute poor in Europe?

September 2015 will see the UN General Assembly agree a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In contrast to the MDGs the new SDGs will be universal – they will not just apply to poor countries but to all countries. Central to the SDGs is the principle of ‘leave no-one behind’ and the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. This paper examines whether the SDGs could benefit the absolute poor in Europe and, more broadly, whether the SDGs could re-energise anti-poverty public action across Europe.

Closing Keynote

ROBERT WALKER (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD)

‘Shame lies at the absolutist core of poverty’: An important insight or a distraction?

Absolute or relative, poverty is now generally accepted to be multi-dimensional. If this is so, and poverty is taken to be differentiated from low well-being or high ill-being, then poverty needs to be defined along the following lines:

„Poverty is the lack of income, money and/or money-like resources required to meet needs and the multiple consequences of this lack that are simultaneously experienced by people in poverty.“

Amartya Sen has argued that shame is one dimension that lies at the absolutist core of the concept of poverty. Adding dimensions to the conceptualisation of poverty increases the challenges for measurement and cross-national comparison. Not only does it pose questions about the need for multiple thresholds (potentially one for every dimension) and for trade-offs between dimensions, the implications of context and culture loom increasingly large as one begins to embrace the psychosocial consequences of poverty that people with direct experience of poverty tend to prioritise.

Global evidence suggests that what counts as poverty, in terms of dimension and level, is shaped by stage of national economic development and by social expectations, political ideology and power structures; hence it is inherently relative and often defies international comparison. Equally, new evidence suggests that the shame that is felt and imposed as a consequence of poverty is surprisingly comparable internationally and may provide a means of comparing absolute poverty across Europe and, indeed, globally.

Abstracts

Session Ia (Chair: Ruta Braziene)

THOMAS STEINFORTH

Loneliness and poverty

In today's European societies poverty and material deprivation often are combined with loneliness. Poor social networks, social isolation and loneliness should be included as an important contributor to and signal of poverty:

- On the one side poor social bonds, missing recognition and minimal support from family and friends can cause or tighten severe poverty and can damage people's employment prospects, their living standards and their wellbeing.
- On the other side poverty can cause social isolation and can damage people's social networks and private relationships.

This vicious cycle of poverty and loneliness can be very painful for the people involved and seems to be characteristic for poverty in wealthy societies and is hard to escape.

Starting from experiences with working in a telephonic emergency service ("Telefonseelsorge") and with providing (emotional) support to people living in extreme loneliness I would like to clarify the concept and the impact of "loneliness" in the context of poverty and the called vicious circle.

Furthermore I ask how policy and social work can help people to escape the circle and can enable them to foster strong and diverse social networks.

VERONICA POLIN

Identity and recognition: A possible key to understanding the phenomenon of homelessness?

The homelessness is one of the most extreme forms of poverty in Western societies: the fall in the state of homelessness seems to be less tied to a choice and inner motivation and increasingly associated with job insecurity and family and social ties and, more recently, with the severe economic and financial crisis (Augé 2011).

The most studies that analyze the causes of this phenomenon find a constellation of unsettling events that cumulate and a set of facts that reinforce each others forming paths of impoverishment which worsens over time. In reading the

most recent studies on this theme, however we note a lack of attention given by researchers to the role that crisis of identity and recognition problems may have in the emergence of this trend. The need to be recognized is not simply a need among many others, to which we can possibly give up: it is a basic condition of our being persons.

The landing on the street is definitely a very traumatic event for the homeless. But these persons suffer before they begin this transition and continue even after that. In both phases, ie before and after arrival in the street, it is plausible to think that the homelesses are victims of various forms of misrecognition identified by Honneth (2002): physical and psychological maltreatment, deprivation of rights and social exclusion that affect the formation and validation of their identity.

In our paper we analyse the available empirical evidence for Italian homelesses using identity and recognition as a key interpretive concepts. We also analyse the social and urban policies in order to understand what is the social representation of homelessness.

In our opinion, homelessness is certainly an expression of material and economic poverty, but also reflects a crisis of identity and recognition problems. It is one of the cases in which social justice requires both redistribution and recognition.

In conclusion, this paper shows how identity and recognition concepts can be brought into homelessness' analysis, allowing a new view of this phenomenon and supporting the design of effective social policies.

SAKARI KAINULAINEN & JUHO SAARI

Does getting a home make the homeless happy? – Effects to life satisfaction

The aim of the article is to study the wellbeing of people living in various forms of supported housing and their outlook for their future. Changes in wellbeing are studied by analyzing them based on the form of housing at the time of response, entrance to the housing services, and time spent living in housing services. The material was collected during 2012–2013. The data consists of responses of 483 previously homeless persons in total. The analyses emphasized the great importance of housing for the wellbeing of people and their opportunities for planning the future. Among other things, this is shown in that positive changes in wellbeing related to housing were clearly the strongest for the respondents who had only been clients of the housing services for a brief period of time. Having a roof over one's head is a big change, and it shows most clearly at the early stages of having housing. Another observation concerns a change in satisfaction with life: it remains

at a relatively high level during housing, which shows the importance of housing for overall wellbeing. Findings support the view that you can build life management, as well as satisfaction with life in general, on housing.

Session 1b (Chair: Tess Penne)

BARBARA TIEFENBACHER

“I really didn’t know what a beggar is”. Busking and mendicancy in Austria as an exit strategy of impoverished communities in present Slovakia

In the aftermaths of the political and economic transformations in 1989 in Slovakia many state-run enterprises were closed down and people dismissed. In this tense economic situation the relevance of ethnically constructed differences increased and persons who are perceived as members of the Romani communities are curtailed in their possibilities and their access to the labour market. Subsequently, many became dependent on social benefits, which were shortened over the last years. These circumstances led to massive impoverishment of whole Romani families. In this hardship, migration to wealthier EU-countries is an applied “exit strategy” where mendicancy and busking are among the activities carried out (cf. Tabin 2014; Koller (ed). 2012; Adriaennsens / Hendrickx 2011). Centred upon a biographic-narrative interview research in Slovak with persons who migrate from South-Slovakia for mendicancy, busking or vending street papers to Austria’s 2nd largest city of Graz, the planned presentation will discuss firstly the impact of the “coming of democracy” (Ádám, Graz 2012) that the persons link with the end of their economically stable life and their previous inclusion into the labour market. Secondly, the focus will be put on competences, skills and as well on social capital that are required to realise a migration project and to cope with the challenges and obstacles that occur. Against the diverse life trajectories of the interviewees the planned contribution aims to put the differences and similarities at the centre of discussion and by doing so, to highlight the agency of poverty-stricken migrants.

DRAGOS CIULINARU

The Universal Rights of Europe's Roma Child Beggars

European countries make a good example of the fact that the existence of both legislation and enforcement policies does not entail the full enjoyment of human rights by categories most exposed to extreme poverty. This paper focuses on the case of Romanian Roma migrant child beggars, a population whose situation did not substantially improve despite Romania's democratization and despite receiving the status of European Union citizens.

In the study, the situation of migrant Roma child beggars is approached from a perspective of cultural relativity of universal human rights. In order to better clarify how fruition of human rights is relative to cultural practices, the study uses Shalom Schwartz's concept of inclusiveness of the moral universe. The concept helps answering the question who are those people worthy of justice, help, and forgiveness. This further facilitates a deeper understanding of culturally bound in group/out group relations.

My argument is that the human rights protection of categories at risk such as the Roma child beggars, is hindered by cultural traditions that place these categories outside the reach of the moral values the majority group applies to itself. As migrants, Roma, and beggars, for the general public is easier to accept these children's precarious condition, as well as their exception from the full enforcement of human rights legislation. This offers an additional explanation for the persistence of phenomena such as extreme poverty and child begging.

ANDREEA MOVILA

Architecture and The 'Self-Esteem'

My paper will focus on a specific branch of the general theme, namely the relationship between architecture and poverty. It will follow how architecture determines the feeling of shame or how the feeling of shame affects the built environment.

In my case study I will tell the story of a good practice in terms of integration of a poor and disadvantaged roma community from Boldesti-Scaeni, Romania. In a country with the highest rates of poverty and social exclusion in the European Union and where roma (gipsy) minority represents 3.3% of the total population a unique architectural project is now in progress addressed to this disadvantaged group.

The project will build a community centre in Boldesti-Scaeni to raise the Roma community's quality of life and educational level, by improving school per-

performances, reducing school abandonment and raising the level of parent's involvement. The building's construction that benefits from the involvement of young Romanian architects is exclusively built through volunteers' contribution, under the coordination of Habitat for Humanity Romania Association.

Locals were particularly involved in building activities. They come as volunteers on the building sites, put their trust into the project and, more important, develop the feeling of belonging. The project, that wants to achieve Passive House standards in order to reduce the maintaining costs afterwards, is a fine example of how a community can be recharged through architecture and rise its self-esteem, a concept which, in time, will lead to eliminating the poor living conditions.

Session 2a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)

URSULA TRUMMER, SONJA NOVAK-ZEZULA, ROUMYANA PETROVA-BENEDICT, MARINA ROTA & DAVID INGLEBY

Absolute Poverty in NowHereland - Social, Humanitarian and Economic Perspectives on Irregular Migration in Europe

Irregular Migration to (and within) Europe is a widely discussed topic in many aspects. Irregular migrants find themselves confined in a world that is characterized by insecurity, exploitation, and constant fear of being reported and arrested. A life in severe, extreme or absolute poverty is a daily reality, which poses a main threat to their health. Irregular migrants gained increasing attention in the EU as a vulnerable group exposed to high health risks with estimated numbers ranging from 1.9 to 3.8 million people residing in the EU in 2008 (representing 7-13 % of the foreign population). Public health policy debates point out that while all EU member states have ratified the human right to health care, heterogeneous national public health policies open up different frameworks for health care provision which in many cases severely restrict entitlements for irregular migrants to access health care.

THE THEMATIC PANEL WILL BRING TOGETHER RESULTS AND EXPERIENCES FROM RECENT PROJECTS FOCUSING ON HEALTH CARE FOR IRREGULAR MIGRANTS AND INTEGRATING SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES.

The European project entitled "Health Care in NowHereland" (2008-2010), co-funded by EU DG Sanco, has produced the first ever compilation of the policies and regulations in force in the EU 27, Norway and Switzerland, a database which provides examples of related practices, and provides insights into the 'daily lives' of irregular migrants and their struggle to access healthcare services. Research shows that many EU countries continue to remain in a state of "functional ignorance" ignoring the fact that irregular migrants are being denied a fundamental

human right. Non-governmental organizations play a significant role in providing services for irregular migrants and assisting them to obtain access to health care. In this, they are supported by the solidarity of health care professionals and auxiliary staff, most of whom provide their services on a volunteer basis. From the evidence gained in this project, the comparative study “The Costs of Exclusion of (Un)documented Migrants from Health Care” (2012-2014), commissioned by the Asia-Europe Foundation, created a preliminary knowledge base to analyse the costs of exclusion in a multidimensional approach, taking into account not only economic costs of treatment or exclusion from treatment, but also humanitarian and societal aspects. Countries included are Singapore and Hong Kong for Asia as being concerned with rapid rural-urban migration, and Austria and Italy for Europe as two countries representing two different policy approaches towards exclusion/inclusion of undocumented migrants.

The “Thematic Study on cost-analysis of health care provisions to migrants and ethnic minorities” (2014-2015), commissioned by the International Organization for Migration, Brussels as part of the EQUI-Health study (co-funded by DG Sanco), addresses economic and social costs of excluding vulnerable migrant groups from regular health care, with a focus on irregular migrants and Roma with irregular status. Objectives are to evaluate costs of provision versus costs of neglecting health care provision for migrants in an irregular situation. The project implements an empirical analysis using a mixed methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods. For this, it uses available evidence (real life cases) on health care provision for irregular migrants as starting point to develop vignettes (model cases) of health care of health care in different settings and related costs. These vignettes then serve to make a cost analysis including direct and indirect costs and allow evidence based recommendations on guidelines on access to healthcare services. Countries included are Austria, Belgium, Italy and Spain.

The new strand on health within the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) (2014-2015), developed in cooperation of the International Organization for Migration, the Migration Policy Group and the research network ADAPT („Adapting European health systems to diversity“) aims to improve access and appropriateness of health care services, health promotion and prevention for migrants, by systematizing the available information on national legal and policy frameworks. A specific focus is on irregular migrants. The research covers all EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland as well as OECD members such as Canada, the United States, Australia, Japan and Korea.

Session 2b (Chair: Emese Bruder)

ALEXIOS-FOTIOS A. MENTIS & ATHANASIA A. KLEANTHOUS-KAPAKIDOU

Is there a social risk that the current poverty prevailing in Greece will be transmitted to future generations, evolving to „inter-generational poverty“?

The current crisis in Greece is world-wide known commented on by international media. Figures are still inauspicious and a hot debate rages in the Greek society about the appropriate growth model and policies, allegedly leading economy and society to stabilization and hopefully to recovery. Unemployment alarming rate has generated a new class of “newly impoverished” (“nouveau pauvre”) ranking about 650.000 people. Even before the turn up of the crisis, 20.2% citizens lived under the poverty line. International financial architecture is also under crisis, exacerbating gloomy predictions about Greece’s future perspectives. Amid these discussions we have yet to come across a serious debate on the risk of poverty intergenerational transmission to oncoming generations. Previous studies have elaborated on the influence, family transmissions exert on a life-time poverty risk. Significant as the latter may be for shaping individual characteristics, they are only part of the problem. Institutional regulations and public services’ provisions are also key determinants of children future achievements. To date 28% of child population is in risk of poverty. Therefore, there is scope in investigating the causal courses of poverty transmission, focusing on family sphere and on public sphere outflows, both decisive for aggravating or mitigating poverty transmission risk.

DUBRAVKA PETROVIĆ ŠTEFANAC

Being poor: a Croatian example

Croatia is a country which has been for a long period of time going through an economic crises, and the consequences can be seen especially throughout high rate of unemployment and the emergence of the poor. Particular consequences are evident, inter alia, in distraints, evictions and increased number of hungry citizens. Due to an objective reason, mainly the loss of job of one or more members of the family, numerous Croatian families are no longer in position to settle their financial obligation, which leads to distraints and evictions. Because of such actions, housing properties are taken away from many families, although these properties are the only ones they own.

On the other hand, for the same reason, more and more citizens are asking social institutions for help in order to provide a warm meal for themselves or their children. These cases indicate that throughout iniquitous laws, one can easily end up in relative and further on, absolute poverty, which generates new types of the impoverished: unemployed young people, people with university qualifications, families with children. This paper will, in short terms, present the social processes mentioned above, together with their negative, but also positive results (the strengthening of the civic activism).

ELENA PRIBYTKOVA

Protection From Extreme Poverty in the European Court of Human Rights

In my paper, I intend to analyze the practice of the European Court of Human Rights, which gives judicial protection to some components of the right to freedom from poverty while addressing civil and political rights, such as the right to life, the right to a fair trial or the right to freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (for example, *M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece*, *Nencheva and Others v. Bulgaria*). The first part of the paper will examine the Court's approach to adjudicating basic socio-economic rights most relevant to fighting extreme poverty: the rights to adequate food, housing, health care and social security. The second part will deal with the Court's methods of interpreting and applying the European Convention on Human Rights, international and domestic law to determine the content and scope of guarantees indispensable for freedom from poverty and a secure access to a decent standard of living on national level as well as the states' responsibilities for their ensuring. The final part of the paper will explore virtues and shortcomings of the Court's approach to judicial protection of those living in extreme poverty. The paper will emphasize a practical significance of the judicialization of the right to freedom from poverty and at the same time will show a tragic insufficiency of the approach, according to which the failure of the state to secure this right is considered to be a human right violation only if it simultaneously constitutes a threat to any civil or political right.

Session 3a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)

TESS PENNE, TIM GOEDÉMÉ, BÉRÉNICE STORMS & KAREL VAN DEN BOSCH

The cost of healthy food. Reference food baskets and the profile of those unable to afford them

The European discourse on poverty emphasizes its relative aspect and defines poverty with respect to national standards of living. In practice, the poverty line is generally defined as a percentage of the national median income. Reference budgets offer a way to define more empirically what constitutes an adequate minimum in society. Reference budgets are priced baskets of goods and services that reflect what is a socially acceptable standard of living for specific household situations. Currently, the European Commission is supporting a pilot project for the construction of cross-country comparable reference budgets in Europe. This will result in an extended database (CSB EU-RBD) including full reference budgets for ten countries and giving information on the minimum needed for healthy food in all 28 EU member states. These food baskets are based on national and international healthy food guidelines, advice by nutritionists, survey data and focus group information. The proposed paper seeks to use this information to reveal patterns of the costs of and access to essential foods across Europe. Furthermore, the budgets will be compared with a representative income survey (EU-SILC) to give insight in the number and profile of people with insufficient resources to afford healthy food in Europe. In doing so, we aim to contribute to the knowledge of extreme poverty taking into account the essential expenses of families. It is expected that the cross-national pattern of those who cannot afford to eat a healthy diet differs strongly from patterns in relative income poverty.

DENIS BOUGET

Needs and the Concept of Absolute Poverty: Incompleteness and Relativism

Beggars in the street, homeless people, undernourished children and an increase in contagious diseases of a bygone era (tuberculosis, etc.) are some of the recent visible, growing faces of extreme poverty in European countries. It brings to mind the picture of poverty from previous centuries, before national economic development and the introduction of social welfare systems in Europe. Consequently, the collective hope of the disappearance of absolute poverty has gradually been vanishing. The recent return of absolute poverty leads us to re-examine a concept that

had already been severely criticised in the sixties and seventies. Today, we note that “fundamental needs” once again have become the foundation of the concept of poverty. This paper focuses on the strong relation between needs and poverty, the characteristics of needs as a foundation of absolute poverty and its measurement. A core argument is based on food (‘One must eat to live, not live to eat’, Molière, 1668), which sometimes justifies “vital” needs. However, irrespective of conceptual or empirical efforts to build the concept of absolute poverty on needs, even vital ones, we will see that the analysis is fundamentally incomplete, which leads us to recognise the paradox that absolute poverty is indeed relative. However, it is largely different from the foundation of relative income poverty (inequality). Might we reconcile both? Is it possible to aggregate the two types of foundations, needs and inequality in a concept of poverty? This is what this paper seeks to analyse.

IDESBALD NICAISE

Making the invisible poor visible in the EU-SILC surveys

European anti-poverty policies are monitored to a large extent by means of harmonized household panels in all member states. Whereas official poverty rates and related indicators are now widely used in national and EU-level policy documents, some of the most vulnerable groups (including homeless people and undocumented immigrants) are seriously underrepresented or excluded from such panels, or display disproportionate attrition rates.

In 2009, we carried out a pilot of a ‘satellite survey’ to EU-SILC among specific high-risk groups in Belgium among homeless people and undocumented immigrants. The main purpose was to compare the statistical profile and living conditions of these group with (a) other groups experiencing poverty and (b) the general population.

Such satellite surveys obviously involve a range of methodological challenges (contact procedures involving social services, adapted questionnaires, specific sampling procedures, re-interpretation of key concepts...). Our ambition was to test the feasibility of a periodic monitoring as well as EU-wide implementation of the method – not just for the groups mentioned above but also for other ‘hard-to-reach’ groups in poverty research. We have now reached the stage of dissemination of the method.

In addition, we were able to draw interesting lessons for policy and practice from the analysis of the Belgian pilot survey.

Session 3b (Chair: Elena Pribytkova)

BÜLENT DOGRU, H.GÜLÇİN BEKEN & ÖZLEM SEKMEN

The determinants of poverty in Turkey: a study clustering and mapping by region

In developing countries ensuring the economic development has great importance as much as the economic growth. In a realistic economic development, the achievement in social and cultural transformations should be approximately same with the real growth in Gross National Product (GNP), and as a result of this, society is provided to acquire better prosperity level. Therefore, poverty takes a part in the fundamental problems of the world economies to deal with. High crime rate is one of the indicators of the poverty that prevents the economic, social and cultural development of the region. In this context the first goal of this study is to obtain the regional poverty map of Turkey. Second aim of this work is to test the relations between crime, educational level and poverty to determine clustering features of these relations. It is a priori presumption that high crime rate and poverty of a region are highly correlated. In this study the cluster analyze will be applied with using panel data for 26 sub-regions at NUTS 2 level in Turkey period between 2000–2013, and then two stage least square (2SLS) model is applied to same year and regions. As the result of this work, typical poverty characteristic of the regions can determine and in some regions, a clustering relation is established between the educational level, crime rates and poverty. Also, it is expected that the crime has a negative effects on regional poverty.

MARIA SPASOVA

Gender dimensions of the pension system in Bulgaria after socialism

Poverty among pensioners and in particular among retired women is complicated phenomena with many manifestations. It affects not only a person's income and wealth, but also the opportunity for active participation in society. The aim of this study is to analyze and interpret changes in the pension reform in Bulgaria from a gender perspective. The research is based on quantitative data for the period from 1989 until now - Demographic and Social statistics; Households income and Expenditure; Social Inclusion and Living Conditions; Economic statistics. Analysis is made with the comparative method, showing steady trend of inequality of women compared to men due to various reasons. Women retire earlier, have a shorter

duration of insurance, receive lower salaries and this reflects to their pensions amount and benefits.

ILARIA MADAMA & DANIELE CAVALLI

Contested and contentious? The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived and the fight against poverty in the EU, coping with horizontal and vertical clashes

The EU2020 strategy has been welcomed by many as a possible far reaching step forward with regard to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Going beyond the generic approach that had characterized the Lisbon phase, for the first time a quantitative target was in fact foreseen - namely lifting 20 million people out of poverty or social exclusion by 2020. Midway EU2020, poverty is on the rise and the target seems even more far away than in 2010. In this scenario, the launch of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), totalling 3,8 billion euros for the 2014-2020 budget cycle, represents a concrete step to increase the visibility of EU action in this field, yet with a predominantly symbolic aim.

Situating within the broad strand of literature on the social dimension of the EU, the paper deals with the FEAD as a case study with a twofold aim. First, from a descriptive point of view, the paper overviews the main features of this new component of the European social dimension and its multi-level multi-stakeholder governance architecture. The fund is meant to support member states' actions against absolute poverty treasuring the partnership with civil society organizations. Second, the paper investigates the political implications of this program through an in depth review of the politico-institutional process through which it was approved. The latter results particularly intriguing because the clashes that emerged between and within EU institutions allow to shed light on - and empirically trace - two emerging and intertwined tensions characterizing EU politics, namely the horizontal distributive cleavage between richer and poorer Member States; and the vertical one between national social sovereignty vs European coordination / intrusion in the field of social and especially anti-poverty policies.

Session 4a (Chair: Denis Bouget)

MARIA OHISALO, TUOMO LAIHALA & JUHO SAARI

Subjective well-being at the Finnish, Greek and Lithuanian capitals' breadlines - comparing the European welfare regimes

Austerity has driven people to supplement their well-being on charity food aid in most MSs of the EU. The study examines subjective well-being of those individuals going to food aid in the capital's of Finland, Lithuania and Greece. The three countries represent different European welfare regimes; Finnish welfare state representing a Nordic model, Lithuania a post-communist transition country and Greece a Mediterranean model. The data analyzed is gathered with a survey from charity food aid distributions in Helsinki district (N=600), Vilnius (N=558) and Athens (N=500). Survey outlines the subjective well-being, use of services and social subsidies, trust, shame, coping and socio-economic status. Survey was originally used to conduct a Finnish breadline study: 3474 people were interviewed. The results show that the use of social and health services and benefits is highest at a Nordic model and lowest at the Mediterranean model. However people in Helsinki feel themselves more disadvantaged than the people in Vilnius and in Athens: it is a relative assessment made inside the countries. The Nordic model still seems to safeguard many aspects of subjective well-being: satisfaction of life is higher and there seems to be less loneliness. In Athens people are rarely satisfied with their lives and more depressed. People in Vilnius are rarely satisfied with their standard of living. The feeling of hunger exists in all the cities despite the very different welfare regimes. Comparison produces important information of the well-being of the least well-off people in different European capitals and welfare regimes in the times of austerity.

FRANCESCO BURCHI & ESZTER KOLLAR

Constructing Well-being and Poverty Dimensions on Political Grounds

The paper addresses the problem of justifying the derivation of ethically sound dimensions of poverty or well-being for use in a multidimensional framework. We combine Sen's capability approach and Rawls' method of political constructivism and argue that the constitution and its interpretative practice can serve as an ethically suitable informational basis for selecting dimensions, under certain conditions. We illustrate our Constitutional Approach by deriving a set of poverty dimensions from an analysis of the Italian Constitution. We argue that this method is both an

improvement on those used in the existing literature from the ethical point of view, and has a strong potential for providing the basis of societal agreement on how poverty should be conceived of for public affairs. Only having a shared idea of the meaning of poverty, which is rooted in the basic institutions people have been socialized in, measures of poverty can be conceived “legitimate” and anti-poverty policies can be effective. In the second part of the paper, we analyze the implications for measuring poverty and well-being based on our Constitutional approach, by ranking Italian regions in terms of well-being, and pointing out the differences in results produced by different methods to extrapolate the dimensions. Finally, the paper elaborates on two possible ways of extending this approach to the European Union: (1) using European treaties as reference; (2) identifying a minimum denominator across the Constitutions that, within the EU, satisfy the basic requirements to be considered a valuable source of ethically sound dimensions of poverty.

JUHO SAARI & OLLI-PEKKA RYYNÄNEN

Always look on the dark side of the life – The worst off in the best country in the world

The aim of the article is to analyze the well-being and health of the most vulnerable groups in Finland, which is often classified among the most advanced societies in the world. We start with theoretical and conceptual analysis of the vulnerability that makes it possible to locate the darkest alleys of the Finnish society. Then, we compare three fully comparable samples of Finns, representing an adult population (N = 1003), persons in breadlines (N = 3474) and needle-exchange points (N = 527). Descriptive analysis shows that, among others, the levels of well-being and health, the standards of living and economic and social coping, and social shame and spoiled identity (stigma) vary significantly between and within the groups. Drug addicts using intravenous addictive drugs - that we consider primarily as vulnerable persons and only secondarily as persons with addictions - have clearly the lowest level of the quality of life. Then we dig deeper into the life of drug-addicts. We used a Bayesian classifier (Bayesialab 5.3.3) to detect factors associated with drug-users self-perceived problematic and willingness to change. By using factor analysis, we constituted a sum variable (“self-perceived problematic”) of four questions. This variable was used as a target in augmented naïve Bayes analysis. 64% of answerers declared their situation as problematic. Factors associated with self-perceived problematic and willingness to change were as follows: able to take care of own debts (negative), obtaining services from the municipality (positive), age (negative), satisfaction to own life (negative), believing to be in work after one year (positive), believing to living in a drug-free accommodation after one year (negative). Model predicted correctly 70% of cases. Area under ROC curve was

74%. All in all, regardless of the heterogeneity of the group their vulnerabilities have some internal coherence, which makes systematic analysis possible.

Session 4b (Chair: Barbara Tiefenbacher)

NICOLE RIPPIN

Absolute Poverty in Germany

The German government decided to use Amartya Sen's capability approach as the conceptual framework for its national 'Poverty and Wealth Reports' but at the same time uses the purely income-based at-risk-of-poverty rate as the official German poverty measure. Thorough empirical analysis, however, has revealed considerable differences – especially with regard to poverty trends, identification of the poor and impact of location – between the at-risk-of-poverty rate and multidimensional poverty measures. Furthermore, the at-risk-of-poverty rate is defined as the percentage of the population with a net equivalence income below 60 percent of the median – and as such unable to capture the extent of absolute poverty in Germany.

Based on the capability approach and the rich data source of the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP), this paper develops a multidimensional poverty index that measures absolute poverty in Germany. Its new, innovative aggregation function allows the index to capture correlations between poverty dimensions as well as inequality among the poor, while at the same time being fully decomposable according to population sub-groups and the poverty contributions of the different poverty dimensions. This way, the index measures absolute poverty with a special emphasis on those suffering the most.

Utilizing GSOEP data from 2002 to 2010, a thorough analysis of absolute multidimensional poverty in Germany is conducted that reveals considerable differences between population sub-groups: females are worse off than males, people living in the Eastern parts of Germany are worse off than those living in the Western parts, but people with a migration background outside the European Union are by far the worst off of all population groups in Germany.

JELENA VIDOJEVIĆ & NATALIJA PERIŠIĆ

The political construction of absolute poverty in Serbia: A historical perspective

In Serbia, absolute poverty has been traditionally a predominantly political construct, involving different national and international actors and stakeholders whose influence has been changing over time.

During the communist period, poverty was exclusively politically constructed, in order to be compatible with the dominant Marxist ideology. In the ideological premises of the socialist rule, the very existence of absolute poverty could not be admitted, since officially full employment was accomplished. Even the words „poverty“ and „poor“ were excluded from the official discourse, and replaced with a set of euphemisms. There were no specific „anti poverty“ policies and material deprivation was perceived as a consequence of personal behavior, often depicted as violent, or, at least morally questionable.

After the fall of the Berlin wall, which symbolically represented the end of the Cold war, followed by the collapse of communist regimes all over Europe, the period of transition had started. It was followed by overall impoverishment, and in Serbia, the situation was extremely complex due to the fact that several former Yugoslav republics were caught in civil wars. Serbia, officially, did not take part in them, but it was severely affected by the wars, and situation was worsened by the international community sanctions which were imposed upon it. During the 1990s, the living standard of the whole population fell significantly. Roughly 1/3 of the population was poor, with additional 1/3 on the poverty gap.

From that period onward, absolute poverty became a social problem on the rise. Thousands of people lost their jobs and became thus materially deprived with extremely low benefits, if any, from the social welfare system. However, at first they still have had places for living (granted during the socialism) and relatively cheap (food) or free (health care, primary schooling for the children) commodities from the state, disabling them to fall into absolute poverty. With the deepening of the economic crisis, the situation has become progressively worse with subsequent creation of an “army” of transition losers. From this population, many became “recruited” for absolute poverty.

After the democratic changes in 2000, which triggered the so called “de-blocked” transition in Serbia, the conceptualization of poverty, its measurement, as well as the vulnerability of certain particular groups were under the strong influence of intensified cooperation with numerous international organizations, namely EU, International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Poverty has become an important topic both in policy papers and in public discourse, and it became finally visible, after the decades of state denial.

During the whole period observed, there were the so called vulnerable groups, exposed to absolute poverty to a variable level. These are to include the Roma and persons with disabilities. Along with them, during the transition of the 1990s, refugees and internally displaced persons accompanied absolutely poor, while in the period that followed the picture of absolute poverty has become more diversified.

DENIZ SEVINC

Multidimensional Inequality in the United Kingdom: Just how unequal we are?

In view of the multi-faceted nature of well-being, we lack the knowledge to credibly evaluate the actual level of inequality, by neglecting human life aspects other than income; the notion of inequality conjures up only stereotypical images of the poor, and is still solely concerned with cash income. Thus, in the light of current structural changes a new, multidimensional inequality index, which includes missing dimensions (i.e. living standards, housing, health and education) is proposed in this paper. This is the first time, to the best of our knowledge, that such an index, encompassing deprivations among multiple dimensions has been created. Using panel data drawn from the Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) covering the years 2008-2009, this paper analyses the dynamics of multidimensional inequality in the UK. The purpose of the study is twofold: the first is to gauge individual inequalities by introducing a novel, multidimensional inequality measure which includes missing factors, closely related to the well-being of individuals. The second is to investigate how this new measure differs from other existing deprivation measures (i.e. relative income poverty, and EU material deprivation). The results of our study show that the new method is highly consistent with the existing measures, and yet multidimensional inequality has been seen to increase during the period of examination. Results also suggest that further education, homeownership and individual-level social benefits, decreases the probability of being multidimensionally unequal, whilst larger households, and household-level social benefits, increases the probability of being multidimensionally unequal.

Session 5a (Chair: Gunter Graf)

EMESE BRUDER

Absolute poverty measures in analysing the working poor population

The main income poverty indicator used by Eurostat intends to measure the ratio of people, who are at risk of poverty (those, who are living in a household with low equalised income). This measurement is a relative measurement approach, which in case we would like to gather information about the extent of poverty – makes the European comparisons difficult. Eurostat calculates another kind of poverty indicator, the so-called material deprivation, which is made up of different factors of the household related to living conditions and livelihoods. This is an absolute poverty measure. There is little information available about to what extent these two categories overlap. The study focuses on a special group of socially excluded people, the working poor, and tries to investigate the symptom of working poverty in the European Union by using absolute poverty measures. The analysis bases on the 2011 wave of EU-SILC cross-sectional micro data provided by Eurostat.

DOGA BASAR SARIPEK & ARZU OZSOY OZMEN

„Hidden“ social policy reform in post-crisis Turkey: from formal to informal social protection?

In the wake of the recent global economic crisis and slow-down, social policy reforms are increasingly taking place in many countries with the purpose of establishing more sustainable social protection schemes. Turkey stands out in this process with its re-familization projects (Projects of Back to Home, Return to Family, Family First and To Be a Family) which are encouraged with a strong religious rhetoric by the government. Although familial solidarity has been a significant resource of welfare for ages, the recent re-emergence of family in social protection realm in Turkey may replace rights-based social policy practices. Put differently, neoliberal and Islamic “Justice and Development Party (AKP) government” has established a social assistance system which is based on Islamic moralities and launched various re-familization campaigns by stressing the importance of familial solidarity both in Islam and in Turkish social tradition with the main purpose of domestication of state’s care roles without considering the core problems within the family life. This strategy of the government puts a challenge to the rights-based social policy coverage, where social protection right is defined as a core citizenship right and

secured by laws. This study claims that informal protection nets are increasingly substituting for the formal mechanisms instead of complementing them and the temporary and unsecured relief among the poor hinder collective demands for a genuine, secured and rights-based social policy scheme, which is definitely crucial to break the vicious circle of absolute poverty.

RUTA BRAZIENE

How Participation in the Labour Market Affects Youth Poverty and Social Exclusion? A Comparison of EU Countries

Poverty and social exclusion affect population of all ages. However, younger and older members of the population are more vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. Poverty and social exclusion are closely related to the labour market participation rates. This paper is aimed at discussing how participation in the labour market affects youth poverty and social exclusion. It aims to compare and classify countries according to population at risk of poverty and social exclusion by the age indicator (between 18-24 and 24-49 years old). The research problem can be defined by the following questions: what are the types of countries according to the population at risk of poverty and social exclusion by age indicator? How the population at risk of poverty decreases between the age groups of 18-24 and 25-29 years, with transition to older age? What is the role of social inclusion and labour market policies? A hypothetical statement is made that transition to the labour market should decrease the youth at risk of poverty and social exclusion rate. The empirical analysis draws on the 2013 data of the European Union on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Cluster analysis using Ward method and Euclidean Distance Square was carried out. The analysis has indicated that according the further mentioned indicators very contrasting types of the countries exists. In a number of countries there are no significant changes with the transition from the younger (18-24) to the older age (25-49) concerning the poverty or social exclusion by the age indicator. The country hierarchy models according to the welfare state, effectiveness of social policy are clearly distinctive.

Session 5b (Chair: Helmut P. Gaisbauer)

DAVID ALVAREZ (ASAP SPAIN), GABRIEL AMITSIS (ASAP GREECE) & IASON GABRIEL (ASAP UK)

Roundtable Discussion: Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP) and Absolute Poverty in Europe

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