

# Child Poverty in Times of Crisis

Salzburg, August 25 & 26, 2016

Keynote Speakers:

Mario Biggeri (Florence)

Lucinda Platt (LSE)

# 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.

## Welcome to 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.

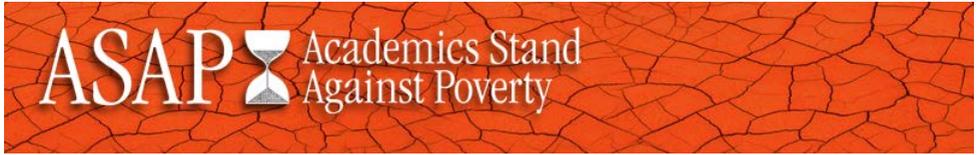
A philosophical theorizing and reflection can help clarify key terms and concepts of poverty and to establish a better understanding of the goals and methods of poverty alleviation. The normative and evaluative research on such issues as a core task of philosophy is therefore also granted wide space 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 necessarily 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

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.

## Key Themes and Questions

- Concepts and dimensions of child poverty
- Measurement of child poverty
- Child poverty in different contexts
- The financial crisis and child poverty
- The life worlds of children in poverty
- Responsibilities towards children in poverty
- The effects of child poverty on health and well-being
- Child poverty, the welfare state and policy reform
- Migration and child poverty
- Begging, homelessness and street children

## Organising Committee

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

# Child Poverty in Time of Crisis

## Salzburg, August 25 & 26, 2016

<b>Thursday, August 25</b>				
<b>Time</b>		<b>Room</b>		<b>Room</b>
09.00 – 10.00	Registration			
10.00 – 10.15	<b>Welcome</b>	Kant		
10.15 – 11.30	<b>Opening Keynote: Mario Biggeri</b>	Kant		
11.30 – 12.00	Break			
12.00 – 13.30	<b>Session 1a</b>	Kant	<b>Session 1b</b>	Leibniz
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch			
14.30 – 16.00	<b>Session 2a</b>	Kant	<b>Session 2b</b>	Leibniz
16.00 – 16.30	Break			
16.30 – 18.00	<b>Session 3a</b>		<b>Session 3b</b>	
18.00	Reception			
<b>Friday, August 26</b>				
09.00 – 10.30	City Tour			
10.30 – 11.00	Break			
11.00 – 12.30	<b>Session 4a</b>	Kant	<b>Session 4b</b>	Leibniz
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch			
13.30 – 15.00	<b>Session 5a</b>	Kant	<b>Session 5b</b>	Leibniz
15.00 – 15.30	Break			
15.30 – 17.00	<b>Closing Keynote: Lucinda Platt</b>	Kant		
20.00	Conference Dinner			

## Schedule

<b>Room „Kant“: Session 1a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)</b>	
<del>Maksim Hübenenthal (University of Wuppertal)</del>	<del>What child poverty? What crisis?</del>
Manuel Jacinto Sarmiento and Gabriela Trevisan (CIEC- UMINHO)	Social crisis drawn by crisis: imagination and social knowledge
Julio Carabaña and Olga Salido (University Complutense of Madrid)	Economic cycle and child poverty: the role of employment and public transfers
<b>Room „Leibniz“: Session 1b (Chair: Asima Shirazi)</b>	
Polina Obolenskaya (London School of Economics and Political Science)	Changes in income poverty and material deprivation among young carers in Britain since the Great Recession
Angelina Höher (University of Amsterdam)	The Structural Hardship of Living under Occupation: Children’s Resistance and Resiliency in Hebron, Palestine
<del>Ladan Rahbari (University of Gent)</del>	<del>Child Poverty and Intersectionality: A Study of Iranian and Afghan Street Children in Tehran</del>
<b>Room „Kant“: Session 2a: (Chair: Mar Cabezas)</b>	
Veronika V. Eberharter (University of Innsbruck)	Childhood Poverty, and Capability Deprivation – Empirical Evidence from Selected Countries
Christos N. Tsironis and Chryssoula Almpani (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)	Living in Poverty, Living with Poverty: The community workers’ conceptions on Child Poverty in Greece
Amélia Bastos (Lisbon School of Economics and Management, University of Lisbon)	Child Poverty in Portugal: The Effects of the Crisis and the Structural Factors of the Problem

## Schedule

<b>Room „Leibniz“: Session 2b (Chair: Elena Pribytkova)</b>	
Asima Shirazi (University of Wollongong in Dubai)	Children of Tharparkar: A Violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
Badrinath Rao (Kettering University)	Ideology and the Indignity of Child Poverty in India
Tushar Kanti Saha (Kenyatta University)	Rights of Internally Displaced Children in Kenya in the aftermath of Post Election Violence (PEV)
<b>Room „Kant“: Session 3a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)</b>	
Marga Mari-Klose and Sandra Escapa (University of Barcelona)	Age, economic vulnerability and the Welfare State: social protection against child and old age poverty
Linda Hewitt (Centre for Research & Development, Trinidad and Tobago) and Deborah Mc Fee (University of the West Indies, Trinidad)	An Assessment of Child Poverty: Implications from Recent Oil Price Volatility Affecting a Small Oil Producing Economy
Ides Nicaise (KU Leuven )	How inclusive are European ECEC systems? The Impact of Institutional Settings of ECEC on the Accessibility, Perceived Quality and Use of Child Care by Disadvantaged Groups
<b>Room „Leibniz“: Session 3b (Chair: Amélia Bastos )</b>	
Enrica Maria Martino (University of Turin)	Mother, worker, Italian: is that possible? Maternal labor supply and perceived poverty after childbirth
Ronan van Rossem and Lieselot De Keyser (University of Gent)	The effect of growing up poor on early child development in Flanders – an analysis of birth cohorts 2006 – 2009

## Schedule

<b>Room „Kant“: Session 4a (Chair: Gunter Graf)</b>	
Athanasia Kleanthous – Kapa-kidou (University of Cyprus)	Child poverty in the new era: The case of Cyprus
Meral Kaufmann and Solinda Morgillo (University of Basel)	Child Poverty and Human Rights in Basel
Natália Fernandes (University of Minho), Gabriela Trevisan (ESE-PF/CIPAF, CIEC/UM ) and Sérgio Araújo (Polytechnic Institute of Porto) and Catarina Tomás (Institute Polytechnic of Lisbon)	Childhood, crisis and active citizenship in Portugal
<b>Room „Leibniz“: Session 4b (Chair: Helmut P. Gaisbauer)</b>	
Natasha Bogoevska, Suzana Borna-rova and Svetlana Trbojevik (University of Skopje)	Children of Transition: Poverty Impact in Multy-member Families
Lisa Moran, Sheila Garrity, Carmel Devaney and Caroline McGregor (National University of Ireland, Galway)	‘Hoping for a better tomorrow’: Narratives of Coping, Resilience and Identity among parents living in Direct Provision in the West of Ireland
Claudia Wenzig, Silke Tophoven and Torsten Lietzmann (Institute for Employment Research)	Living Conditions of Children in Households with Unemployment Benefit II Receipt in Germany

## Schedule

<b>Room „Kant“: Session 5a (Chair: Gunter Graf)</b>	
Andreas Hirseland (Institute for Employment Research), Florian Engel and Ajit Singh (University of Applied Sciences Fulda )	Welfare State, activation policies and child poverty – how children and their parents perceive conditions of poverty
Simon Wigley (Bilkent University) and Arzu Akkoyunlu (Hacettepe University)	Democracy and Child Mortality: Does Media Freedom Make a Difference?
Mar Cabezas (University of Salzburg) and Carlos Pitillas (Universidad de Comillas)	Child Poverty as Potential Developmental Trauma: Shame, Self-Esteem, and Redignification of Childhood
<b>Room „Leibniz“: Session 5b: (Chair: Helmut P. Gaisbauer)</b>	
Enrique Delamónica (UNICEF Nigeria and CROP), Maryam Abdu (UNICEF Sierra Leone), Aristide Kielem (UNICEF Jordan), Gibran Cruz Martinez (University College London), Ismael Cid Martinez (New School, New York), Alberto Minujin (Equity for Children and New school, New York)	Crisis and Child Poverty
Virginia Morrow (University of Oxford)	“I cannot attend class properly if I am hungry, so it affects my schooling”: Food and hunger in children’s everyday lives in rural Ethiopia: evidence from Young Lives
Elena Pribytkova (University of Basel)	Realization of the Right of the Child to an Adequate Standard of Living in Russia

## 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. To access the elevator you need to push the green button next to the door. 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

MARIO BIGGERI (DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE)

### *Children capabilities deprivation: exploring life trajectories in the times of crisis*

The capability approach is per se a powerful framework for understanding children's well-being and poverty in terms of capabilities since it forces to think about the complexities that characterize children lives.

An analysis of children capabilities and functionings during life could help us to reveal impediments to a "decent life" cycle at different ages. Biggeri et al. developed the concept of Evolving Capabilities (Biggeri, Ballet, Comim, 2011). The evolving capabilities process tries to capture the dynamics among three components that stand behind

capabilities: the capacity/ability concept, the opportunity concept and the agency concept. This dynamic conception of the capability approach can enrich substantially the Sen's framework (Comim, 2004) especially for analyzing the capabilities of children and their deprivation in times of crisis.

The main objectives the paper are two. The first is to explore children capabilities deprivation during time of crisis from a theoretical perspective. The second is to propose a new class of indexes to monitor children life trajectories from a multidimensional standpoint.

In the first section of the paper the children multidimensional poverty is outlined. The second section children life trajectories in the time of crisis are analysed theoretically. In the third section, a new class of indexes to monitor children life trajectories from a multidimensional perspective is introduced. In the fourth section the conclusions of this research in terms of methods and policy implications and regarding the opening of new frontiers of research on measurement and analysis of child poverty are presented.

---

## Closing Keynote

LUCINDA PLATT (LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE)

### *Child Poverty Amelioration in the UK: historical perspectives and contemporary cleavages*

This paper discusses how the primacy accorded to child poverty as a policy imperative has varied over time, with implications for the inclusion or exclusion of particular groups of children. It takes the UK as a specific example of both the historical mobilisation of action around child poverty, and of cleavages within the experience of children.

First, it provides a broad overview of the historical imperative towards child poverty reduction, over a period of more than a century. I discuss how the evolution of ideas of a 'universal childhood' developed and fed into earlier and more recent commitments to child welfare at specific political moments; but how such commitments have ebbed and flowed with economic and political circumstances.

Second, I use the specific case of ethnic minority children in the UK to illustrate the impact of a universalist agenda on rates of child poverty and to discuss the implications of different child welfare discourses for the inclusion and exclusion of specific groups. I conclude by discussing the implications of both the recession and 'austerity' for the poverty risks of specific groups of children. I outline the development of discourses that serve to justify the exclusion of specific groups from the policy imperative to address child poverty, with consequences both for the concept of universal child rights and for future social inequalities.

## Abstracts

### Panel 1a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)

MAKSIM HÜBENTHAL

#### *What child poverty? What crisis?*

On viewing the public debate about child poverty in Germany, one could easily get the impression of a concordant discourse. This is due to circumstances where there is a widespread and powerful obligation to address child poverty as a particularly tragic problem and to label children in poverty as innocent victims and, hence, ‘worthy poor’ who – in contrast to the adult poor population – deserve the fullest public support without question. On this superficial level of public moralisation and simple lip service, even normally-opposed public protagonists stand harmoniously side by side. However, a deeper look behind this ubiquitous moral attitude reveals that child poverty is anything but a concordant phenomenon. On the contrary, it entails antagonistic understandings – or, in technical terms, social constructions – that are characterised by severe tensions.

Based on the findings of a recent Grounded Theory analysis of the German political field, it is the aim of this presentation to demonstrate that child poverty in Germany comes in four different forms: virtue, educational, monetary and rights poverty. Each construction is characterised by a specific conceptualisation of: (a) why the phenomenon of child poverty exists, (b) what the core of the problem is, and (c) what strategy should be introduced to solve the problem. All four constructions rely on a specific understanding of the ‘crisis’, such that: (a) advocates of the virtue poverty construction assume it as an external problem of the international financial market which threatens the German social-market economy, (b) those favouring the educational poverty construction see it as a matter of chance and an obligation to adapt to the ‘knowledge society’, (c) those who endorse the monetary poverty construction interpret it as an expression of the basic failure of capitalism, and (d) supporters of the rights poverty construction have no need to conceptualise the ‘crisis’ at all, due to their distance from questions of economic prosperity. In today’s European societies poverty and material deprivation often are combined.

MANUEL JACINTO SARMENTO AND GABRIELA TREVISAN

#### *Social crisis drawn by crisis: imagination and social knowledge*

The social and economic crisis that has been underway since 2008, particularly in Southern European countries, has had a special impact in childhood with the rise of poverty and vulnerability indicators and exposure to social risk and loss of rights

(Sarmiento, Fernandes&Trevisan, 2015). Analysis on these incidences has been the focus of a significant number of reports from International NGO's and academic studies. These implies, for instance, policy analysis, statistical indexes and data. Less usual however are researches that aim to interpret children's representations on the crisis and on its specific expressions on their daily lives. This paper looks at children's representations on the social and economic crisis and is based on previous studies that authors have been conducting on childhood and crisis in Portugal. Here graphic narratives made by children aged 6 to 10 years old, from working class families are analyzed, from two different contexts: children's after school activities programs and foster care centers. Through these narratives, children express using visual forms their imaginative ways of representing the crisis in which they are simultaneously positioned: as observers, as interpreters and as actors. The methodological device applied to the interpretation of these graphic narratives allows the understanding of meanings only possible through visual expression deriving from children's ways of imaginative interpretation and transfiguration of social reality. Hence, children's imagination is a means to access knowledge on society.

JULIO CARABAÑA AND OLGA SALIDO

### *Anchored child poverty and its cognitive consequences.*

Studies on consequences of child poverty often conflate relative with absolute poverty. For instance, authors like Heckman or Esping-Andersen had underlined that cognitive abilities, crucial for adult success, depend on child poverty, without specifying which type of poverty, The European Commission approved as of 2013 the Recommendation To Invest in Infancy: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage, which tries to establish a frame for national policies against child poverty without questioning its relative definition of poverty. At times, both types of poverty are treated on equal foot, writing, for instance, that 'living in a low-income household, in a dwelling in bad condition or to be exposed to an inadequate diet during infancy negatively affects health, cognitive aptitudes, school achievement or social behavior (Marí-Klose, 2014).

Our study aims to leave aside relative poverty and to concentrate on universal indicators. Inadequate nutrition, a factor whose influence on intellectual development is well documented, greatly varies among countries and has notably increased during the crisis ("After 2008, the % of households with children not eating meat, fish or the equivalent in proteins every two days has doubled in Estonia, Greece, Iceland and Italy, reaching 10%, 18%, 6% and 16%, respectively, in 2012" (Innocenti Report, 2013: 19). We will also use an indicator of monetary poverty unique for all countries and anchored in a low threshold. Among the consequences of child poverty we choose adolescent literacy as measured in PISA. Our expectation is to find some relation at very low income levels.

## **Panel 1b (Chair: Asima Shirazi)**

POLINA OBOLENSKAYA

### *Changes in income poverty and material deprivation among young carers in Britain since the Great Recession*

This paper examines new empirical evidence on the prevalence of income poverty and material deprivation amongst young carers between the period before the financial crisis and in its aftermath in the UK. Young carers and young adults carers are defined as dependent children (aged 5-19) and independent young adults (aged 16-24) who provide care for someone who experiences a long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability, or problems relating to old age, on an informal basis (not as part of a formal job).

This paper utilises data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) and Households Below Average Income survey (HBAI). We report on the prevalence of income poverty and material deprivation amongst young carers in the period between 2005/06 and 2013/14, applying the definitions set out in the Child Poverty Act (2010) and replicating the methodology applied by the Department for Work and Pension in the HBAI reporting of poverty among children as closely as possible. Our main findings show that during the period since the crisis and downturn, young carers (dependent children aged 5-19) have been fairing worse in terms of the trends in their income poverty risks than non-carers.

The paper sets out our empirical findings and contextualises and evaluates them drawing on two bodies of literature: the first focussing on disadvantage amongst young carers in Britain, and the second focussing on overall trends in income poverty and material deprivation since the Great recession.

ANGELINA HÖHER

### *The Structural Hardship of Living under Occupation: Children's Resistance and Resiliency in Hebron, Palestine*

This paper aims to give insight into the difficult lives of Palestinian children from their own subjective lenses and shows how they deal with the everyday hardship of the Occupation through mechanisms of resistance that render them resilient. Rather than focusing on negative effects of uncertainty, political violence and the structural poverty children are forced into, we need to acknowledge the mechanisms of resilience and resistance that children develop through meaningful everyday practices.

The data for this paper comes from ethnographic research conducted among families in the occupied neighborhood Tel Rumeida conducted from August 2015

until January 2016 and more particular from in depth interviews with twenty children between 8 to 13 years of age.

The data suggests that the children are robbed of their childhood since the ramifications of the Occupation are real for adults and children alike. From the observations in the field it also became clear that the children are aware of their responsibility and thus constantly test the boundaries when it comes to ways of dealing with the Occupation. It is precisely the everyday practices that fortify the children's sense of agency and resiliency despite the traumatic experiences they encounter due to the Israeli Occupation and the structural poverty they are forced into.

In sum, recognizing children's everyday acts as meaningful acts of resistance transforms these children into social actors. Contrary to usual outcomes, comprehending children's everyday practices as act of resistance, we can acknowledge their potential in advancing children's rights and needs in Palestine.

LADAN RAHBARI

### *Child Poverty and Intersectionality: A Study of Iranian and Afghan Street Children in Tehran*

According to the latest official census of street children, their population is more than thirteen thousand in Tehran. Half of Iran's street children live in the capital city. Most street children spend the day and part of the night in the streets working as vendors, beggars or are engaged in other informal economic activities. Seventy nine percent of them give all or most of their income to their families, as their economic participation is essential for the family's survival. It is estimated that eighty percent of them have family and/or close relatives and about seventy seven percent of them spend the nights at their parents' or relatives' houses. Family poverty, illiteracy and/or unemployment of the parents and family size are related to children being put in the streets as young as four years of age. Street children are in danger of sexually transmitted diseases, physical violence and psychological distress. Due to the high rates of sexual abuse, and risk of alcohol and substance consumption, their physical health is considered to be in crisis. It is reported that HIV is as prevalent among street children as it is among Iran's prostitutes. The street child issue is a transnational issue; some authorities have mentioned that half of Iran's street children are refugee children; other sources have reported percentages between thirty and forty. The significant number of Afghan refugees and immigrants in the capital city, and their exposure to poverty, lack of legal rights, and cultural stereotyping is related to the child poverty. This study aims on providing a systematic review of the street child issue in Tehran and its relation to the Afghan immigration.

## Panel 2a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)

VERONIKA EBERHARTER

### *Childhood Poverty, and Capability Deprivation – Empirical Evidence from Selected Countries*

One of the primary goals of family policy in the industrialized countries is to ensure social and economic equality, and to combat poverty. In more recent times politicians focus on combating child poverty, because children have no personal responsibility for their own economic and social situation. Furthermore, the negative consequences for the economically and socially disadvantaged children and the society may be considerable (Vleminckx and Smeeding 2001), because child poverty often feeds a vicious circle that implies a higher risk of impoverishment in adulthood (Corak 2006). The methods to measure child poverty are manifold and cover unidimensional income-based as well as multi-dimensional approaches (Redmond 2008, Mehrotra 2006). The capability approach (Sen 1992) is a multi-dimensional approach that defines poverty by financial as well as capability restrictions (Robeyns 2005). This paper aims to analyze the economic and social situation of children from pre-school to the teenager age in a capability perspective and to derive policy implications. Based on nationally representative data, the paper derives determinants of the risk of children to be multi-dimensionally deprived. The analysis focuses on countries with different welfare state systems as well as observation periods with different economic conditions. The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides the theoretical background and the related literature. Section 3 presents the data and the methodology used. Section 4 discusses the empirical results, and section 5 concludes with a summary of findings and future prospects for economic and social policy against child poverty and deprivation.

CHRISTOS N. TSIRONIS AND CHRYSOULA ALMPANI

### *Living in Poverty, Living with Poverty: The community workers' conceptions on Child Poverty in Greece*

The recent worldwide economic crisis generated the burst of a debt crisis in Greece that now can only be conceived of in terms of a multi-factor pathogenic dynamic enforced by the confluence of ambivalent economic, political and social trends. The crisis severely affected the Welfare State as well as the overall social policy of the country. In this socio-economic framework, child well-being has been deeply affected as the ultimate consequence of a dramatic increase in unemployment rates that leads to a vicious circle of intergenerational transmission of poverty and inequality. Against a backdrop of uncertainty and insecurity that characterizes the liquid

modernity, Greek families' inability to provide care to their children is emerging in ways that few would ever have foreseen. The continuously growing number of students' fainting incidents in Greek school units and the number of families dependent on the local soup kitchens reveal the emergency of the child poverty risk.

Normally, it is the adult family members who bring back home the social aid. In Greece the family bears the responsibility to act as a protective shield both against children's social exclusion and their social embarrassment. Taking this into consideration one can only sideways approach the children's own perspectives on the effects of the economic recession on their family's life and their personal well-being. Thus, this paper presents the conclusions of a qualitative research addressed to Church and NGO community workers and employees who are involved in the support of economically vulnerable families with children. In this context, the research aims to bring in focus these volunteers' views on the way children in Greece experience the consequences of the economic downturn and the degradation of their well-being.

AMÉLIA BASTOS

### *Child Poverty in Portugal: The Effects of the Crisis and the Structural Factors of the Problem*

Child poverty is a major issue in the EU. However in Portugal this problem is more accentuated than the EU average. In our country around one in every four child is poor which means living with income below the poverty line and with living standards under the minimum acceptable. Moreover, children has been the age group more vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion during the crisis. This scenario points out for the scale of child poverty and suggests an obvious reason for social concern about the future of these children.

The design of effective social policies to alleviate this problem is needed. However, to assure the efficiency of such policies the knowledge of child poverty features is required. Our aim is to analyze recent trends of child poverty in Portugal, in order to disentangle the effects of the crisis that has been affecting our country since 2009. Besides this investigation we also want to seek for the structural conditions in terms of sociodemographic and economic factors that have been preventing to tackle the problem of child poverty in our country and / or have been contributing to accent the effects of the crisis. Our approach to the analysis of poverty lies on the concept of poverty or social exclusion in order to apply a multidimensional approach to the problem. Our empirical analysis uses EU-SILC dataset from 2009 to 2014, covering the financial bailout and the structural reforms unleashed.

## Panel 2b (Chair: Elena Pribytkova)

ASIMA SHIRAZI

### *Children of Tharparkar: A Violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?*

Children in Pakistan are subject to several risks ranging from natural disasters, famines and terrorist attacks. In December 2014 terrorist attack on a school resulted in the death of 132 children. In 2016 famine in Tharparkar has resulted in the death of 200 people including women and children. Unfortunately this is not the first year. Children dying of hunger and malnutrition would be in the remit of the definition of a famine. Famine itself can be a consequence of an adverse shock or a steady decline in the standard of living. An extreme manifestation of child poverty can be seen in Tharparkar where children are dying due to malnutrition or disease. A timely response by the government and other organizations could have prevented this occurrence. Why isn't any action taken to mitigate this risk when it is a recurrent happening. Can this be due to market failure or government failure? This is also a violation of the basic right of a child which stipulates "every child has the inherent right to life" (Article 6, CRC). Article 2 of the CRC states that every child's right should be ensured "without discrimination of any kind". This paper explores the causes of starvation in Tharparkar (particularly amongst children) to understand whether people do not have enough to eat due to a lack of entitlement or there is not enough to eat. Policy recommendations will be made on the basis of the findings. The analysis is based on secondary data and published literature.

BADRINATH RAO

### *Ideology and the Indignity of Child Poverty in India*

If the morality of a society is revealed in how it treats its children, then India easily ranks as one of the most pathological societies in the world. The parlous plight of the majority of India's 440 million children and adolescents - who comprise 42% of the nation's population - is one of the most egregious failures of the Indian polity. Despite India's impressive growth in recent decades, its children remain a neglected lot; their human development indices are among the lowest in the world. Nearly 45% of children below the age of five are stunted in growth and 43% are underweight. According to UNICEF, India has the dubious distinction of the highest number of under-five deaths in the world. 1.3 million Indian children under five died in 2013. The UN Special Envoy for Global Education estimates that 116 million children are involved in hazardous work. 61 million children are not in primary schools. The magnitude of deprivation and blight are truly staggering.

The Indian state has enacted several laws to improve the conditions of its children. Prominent among them are the Commission for the Protection of Child Rights Act (2005), Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009), the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act (2012), and the revised National Policy for Children (2013). India is also a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). In addition to these statutory measures, governments at all levels have, from time to time, framed policies aimed at ameliorating the socio-economic circumstances of children. Impressive as they might seem, these efforts are largely symbolic; they have made little difference in the lives of children. The government's efforts are hamstrung by poorly drafted laws, lax enforcement, and bureaucratic apathy. In sum, children are not a priority in India. What exacerbates this situation is that children cannot vote, articulate their concerns, or mount a challenge to the ruling class.

Going beyond perfunctory policies and indifferent implementation, I wish to argue that child poverty and the consequent loss of human potential are primarily due to the reluctance of the elites to recognize the personhood and humanity of children. Deeply entrenched feudal attitudes with their premium on status, power, and wealth preclude the Establishment from acknowledging children as persons with human capabilities. An instrumental approach to people eclipses their intrinsic worth. India will squander its demographic dividend if it does not change its medieval, moth-eaten mindset regarding children. Well-conceived measures aimed at the efflorescence of human capabilities hold the key to the elimination of child poverty in India. The first step in this process requires a radical transformation in one's outlook, one that sees children as purposeful, empowered social actors and citizens, not just as flotsam fit for being tossed around.

TUSHAR KANTI SAHA

### *Rights of Internally Displaced Children in Kenya in the aftermath of Post Election Violence (PEV)*

Disasters, displacement and deprivation are common experience of humanity. However, human induced and human made disasters are distasteful and disparaging. People in Africa are continually devastated by human made disasters and crisis. The children are caught in the crossfire of adult game by no fault of their own traumatising their existence with enactment of horrors and deprivation of childhood. Recruitment of child soldier by LRA, abduction of girl children by Boko Haram are the cruellest instances of coldblooded inhumanity perpetrated by the offenders of crime against humanity. The victims of all these events are also impacted by political fluid unleashed by electoral violence that happened in Kenya. The children suffered most in this theatre of violence orchestrated by the criminal minds. Kenya's post-election violence in 2008 resulted in 1,133 casualties, at least 350,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), approximately 2,000 refugees, significant, but unknown, numbers of sexual violence victims, and the destruction of 117,216 private

properties. Internally displaced persons comprise a huge number of families with children. Displaced children had been affected more than the adults apart from the instances of gang rape, schooling, nutrition, companionship and socialisation which had become part of life. The physical, psychological and spiritual development of the children's personality had been compromised and it is a problem staggering on the prospect of the nation. The Paper dwells on the deprivation of rights of children of IDP in Kenya under Child Rights Convention as well as national legal regime and examines how these issues have been addressed.

## **Panel 3a (Chair: Mar Cabezas)**

MARGA MARÍ-KLOSE AND SANDRA ESCAPA

### *Age, economic vulnerability and the Welfare State: social protection against child and old age poverty*

Poverty risks are unequally distributed throughout the life cycle. In this study we provide a portrayal of this distribution across countries and analyze the impact of public transfers on poverty risk in two life stages that have traditionally concentrated economic vulnerability: childhood and old age. Data suggest during the economic crisis child poverty has increased significantly in Europe. In most EU countries poverty rates of children are higher than poverty rates of the elderly, especially when more extreme indicators of poverty and exclusion are considered. At the same time the impact of public transfers in reducing children economic vulnerability has declined. In contrast, life conditions among elderly have consistently been improving across countries. Drawing on the Spanish EU-SILC survey, we examine the main dimensions of social protection that impinge on elderly and child poverty risks and build counterfactual scenarios to assess how different policy options could redistribute poverty risks.

LINDA HEWITT AND DEBORAH MC FEE

### *An Assessment of Child Poverty: Implications from Recent Oil Price Volatility Affecting a Small Oil Producing Economy*

This paper will focus on the impact of the recent economic downturn that has been precipitated by the extreme volatility of oil prices on a small country (Trinidad and Tobago) of merely 1.3 million that derives a major share of its national income (40%) from the production and sale of oil. The country's annual budget is pegged to prevailing oil prices such that the steep declines and loss of substantial national income earnings have precipitated a severe crisis. The maintenance and sustenan-

ce of decent livelihoods at virtually every level has become greatly affected. Aside from the economic situation, the vulnerability of children has generated much concern worldwide necessitating a declaration (The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, World Declaration and Plan of Action 1989). The summary report to the UNICEF's conference on Children Rights and Poverty in Developing Countries (Gordon, Pantazis and Townsend has additionally brought attention to their plight of poverty that has increasingly become widespread. The areas to be deliberated at the upcoming conference, i.e. severity of the economic crisis as it impacts upon households, families and especially children and the necessity for policy interventions, present an opportunity to benefit from the deliberations and recommendations to be derived. Several household survey data (Survey of Living Conditions, Household Budgetary, Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey together with that from the Population and Housing Census and National Accounts collected on a fairly regular basis will constitute the sources to be used for data analysis and measurements for the paper.

IDES NICAISE

### *How inclusive are European ECEC systems? The Impact of Institutional Settings of ECEC on the Accessibility, Perceived Quality and Use of Child Care by Disadvantaged Groups*

Early childhood education and care (ECEC) is one of the most crucial elements of social investment to alleviate social and economic inequalities. As the European welfare states realised the importance of ECEC especially for disadvantaged children as an early investment in their human capital, the accessibility of ECEC services became a hot topic in Europe and the ECEC participation rate became an important welfare indicator. Certainly, the way ECEC services are regulated, provided and financed has a strong impact on their accessibility and actual use. This paper investigates the effect of the institutional setting of ECEC on the accessibility, perceived quality and use of ECEC services in Europe, particularly among disadvantaged groups (e.g. low-income, migrants).

We use multilevel modelling to analyse the two-level structure. The first level is the family-level where various demographic and socio-economic indicators determine the use of ECEC services. The second level is the country-level where characteristics related to the institutional setting of ECEC come into play such as age of legal entitlement to ECEC, split or unitary ECEC, private provision, public spending, etc. Underlying welfare regime characteristics Demographic, socio-economic, and ECEC type- and use-related variables are explored based on the 2013 cross-sectional data from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) as well as the 2012 European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS). Macro-level indicators are taken mainly from Eurostat and Eurydice. We expect

the results of this study to help policy-makers in making better choices to improve access to ECEC, especially by disadvantaged families.

## **Panel 3b (Chair: Amélia Bastos)**

ENRICA MARIA MARTINO

### *Mother, worker, Italian: is that possible? Maternal labor supply and perceived poverty after childbirth*

This paper aims at exploring the causal relation between number of children and maternal labor market behavior and perception of nancial diculties, in the years before and after the economic crisis. I use data from the Birth Sample Surveys (conducted by the Italian National Institute of Statistics in 2002, 2005 and 2012) and I adopt a 2SLS specication to control for age, labor market history, education and partner's characteristics, using twin births as instrumental variable; this identication strategy follows, among others, Rosenzweig and Wolpin (1980) and Angrist and Evans (1998) and presents some criticisms, which I thoroughly discuss and address in the paper.

Results show a negative and signicant impact of the number of children on maternal employment and a positive and signicant impact on nancial vulnerability, these causal relationships being conrmed by several robustness checks. The impact on maternal employment is larger for single mothers and for women whose partner is not employed, while no heterogeneity emerges with respect to maternal education. When restricting the analysis on women who were employed when they got pregnant, the estimated impact doubles; in particular, self-employed women and women without a regular contract are more strongly aected, while there is not signicant impact on public sector employees.

The impact on perceived poverty is highest among young and less educated mothers. My results are likely to have important policy implications, shading light on the causal relationship between childbirth and maternal employment behavior in Italy, and identifying groups that are particularly at risk of leaving the labor market or being nancially vulnerable.

---

LIESELOT DE KEYSER

*The effect of growing up poor on early child development in Flanders – an analysis of birth cohorts 2006 – 2009.*

Objective. Early childhood is considered the most important developmental phase throughout life. Many studies have demonstrated that socio-economic deprivation of a household negatively affects the neo- and perinatal health of children. This paper investigates to what extent the socio-economic household background – measured by a poverty index and maternal education - influences birth characteristics and the physical development of young children during the first three years of their life. Method. The administrative IKAROS dataset registers longitudinal data on the development of nearly all children (0-3 years) in Flanders. The study uses data of children born between 2006 – 2009. Physical health is operationalized by 2 parameters : weight-for-age and height-for-age. Results. First, maternal education better predicts differences in physical development than the poverty index does. Second, despite that differences are relatively small, the size of the differences is more or less consistent during the measurement period. Third, weight development of children of low-educated mothers is during the first six months a little retarded. From then on, these children overcompensate with higher weight-for-age z-scores than children of higher educated mothers. Discussion. Despite all initiatives to reduce the effects of socio-economic inequalities on child development, a social gradient is still observable in the physical development of infants. As health problems early in life may be predictors of health status later in life, monitoring of all children must remain a policy priority.

## **Panel 4a (Chair: Gunter Graf)**

ATHANASIA KLEANTHOS – KAPAKIDOU

*Child poverty in the new era: The case of Cyprus*

Child poverty is an issue of prime importance to all societies. Generally, a large numbers of factors are identified in the literature as determinants of children. This paper examines the reasons for the increase of child poverty in Cyprus during the economic crisis era. Basics factors such as the importance of social policy, the role of family, the changing nature of work and inadequacies in state child support system plays a critical role in the specific case study. Furthermore, government may entail a public role with significant societal effects. Under the sociological perspective, we will investigate the implications for young people in Cyprus in the post crisis era.

MERAL KAUFMANN AND SOLINDA MORGILLO

### *Child Poverty and Human Rights in Basel-City*

Child poverty matters. It is a violation of fundamental rights of the child and a serious legal issue. Even in Switzerland, which counts as one of the richest countries in the world, we face at least 230'000 children and their parents living in poverty. Though a social protection system in the canton Basel-City is considered to be one of the best in Switzerland, the standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are not completely fulfilled there. Our paper focuses on difficulties in the realization of the rights of the child to social security and an adequate standard of living in Basel-City. In the spotlight are the following questions: What are the mechanisms for ensuring income security, social integration and access to essential social services for children in Basel? Which official bodies are responsible for social protection of children in the canton? What assistance is provided to poor families with children, especially for children from migrant and travelling families as well as for children of undocumented parents? The research combines sociological (qualitative and quantitative) methods and a legal analysis. Its fundamental goal is to identify gaps in the system of protection of basic socio-economic rights of children in Basel-City and to elaborate recommendations to the authorities on how to improve the situation.

GABRIELA TREVISAN, NATÁLIA FERNANDES, SÉRGIO ARAÚJO AND CATARINA TOMÁS

### *Childhood, crisis and active citizenship in Portugal*

Childhood poverty is still a persistent phenomenon in different geographies in spite all conquests made in the history of children's rights. Far from being eradicated, it seems to have reached more serious consequences over the past years, particularly in this generational group and here, especially in southern European countries which have had bail out programs or were/still are implementing austerity measures, like Portugal. Amid an increase of fiscal contributions over wages, less social benefits to families and a higher unemployment rate, children have become the generational group with higher effective rates of poverty and risk towards poverty. From a documental analysis of Portuguese public policies during the financial intervention period and poverty indexes this paper reflect on the effects on childhood well-being and their rights, whether in protection provision or participation ones. Economic crisis also had impacts in children's participation even if it was previously a tenuous one. Authoritarian discourses and practices arose with direct impacts in a sustained childhood citizenship. We start by presenting the course and orientation of public policies in Portugal during 2009-2015 particularly on children's poverty. A selected set of indexes is then discussed: poverty indexes, inequality indicators, family's income and social transferences, analysing the impacts of these policies in Portuguese children's rights. Finally we will question these impacts in

sustaining an image of an active and participative child looking at several international reports.

## **Panel 4b (Chair: Helmut P. Gaisbauer)**

NATASHA BOGOEVSKA, SUZANA BORNAROVA AND SVETLANA TRBOJEVIK

### *Children of Transition: Poverty Impact in Multy-member Families*

Republic of Macedonia as a post-communist country has been developing its political, economic and social system for over two decades. This transitional process within which Macedonia was established as a democratic and pluralistic multy-party system has been accompanied by severe societal changes and subsequent social problems. Poverty and unemployment were among the problems that most heavily affected citizens of Macedonia. As a response, social coverages typical of socialistic regimes were gradually replaced with new coverages and measures for which institutional basis was not always suitably established. In addition, insufficient policy-making expertise, reliance on external support, unsustainable and financially unsupported strategic planning and frequent, often ad-hock legislative changes, all contributed to the worsening of the social situation of most vulnerable population groups, such as multi-member families. This resulted in subsequent poor targeting which heavily affected the social well-being of children in particular. On the other hand, family policy orientation towards pro-natalist measures and increased state support to informal family-based care, have not resulted in expected lowering of poverty rates among families with more children.

This paper aims to depict the above challenges of the transition process in Macedonia, with focus on social reforms and policy responses designed and implemented to protect children living or at risk of poverty.

LISA MORAN, SHEILA GARRITY, CARMEL DEVANEY AND CAROLINE MCGREGOR

### *'Hoping for a better tomorrow': Narratives of Coping, Resilience and Identity among parents living in Direct Provision in the West of Ireland*

This paper focuses on narratives of parents seeking asylum in Ireland, about their experiences living in Direct Provision (DP) in a predominantly rural community, Ballyhaunis. The Direct Provision system provides full board and ancillary services to persons whilst they await decisions on their asylum applications (RIA 2010).

The Direct Provision Centre opened in Ballyhaunis in 2000 and is inhabited by 204 children and adults at present, although the number was considerably higher in the past. Ballyhaunis is also a unique case-study site due to its substantial Asian immigrant population who relocated here in the 1970s and 80s, for mainly economic and religious reasons (McGarry 2012). Despite the substantial population of families living in Direct Provision across Ireland, research underlines that Direct Provision contribute significantly to economic deprivation and exacerbates the social marginalisation of children and families (cf. Ogbu et al. 2014). Drawing on qualitative materials from a study of family support services for children and families in Ballyhaunis, we argue that families living in Direct Provision experience consistent poverty and enforced deprivation. Lack of income and feelings of being reliant on the state for ‘everyday’ services reinforces social marginalisation, insider/outsider distinctions, racism and labelling. Overall, results presented in this paper illustrate the significance of ‘informal’ social networks for children and families living in Direct Provision.

CLAUDIA WENZIG, SILKE TOPHOVEN AND TORSTEN LIETZMANN

### *Living Conditions of Children in Households with Unemployment Benefit II Receipt in Germany*

In Germany – like in most European countries - children and adolescents are still at greater risk of poverty and of social benefit receipt. In 2013 in about one third of all households with unemployment benefit II receipt there lived children under the age of 15. Growing up in poverty or with social benefit receipt might have detrimental effects on the living conditions and on the child’s development.

In this paper, we compare the situation of children in families with unemployment benefit II receipt with families with a secured financial position (no income poverty/benefit receipt).

For our analysis we use the eight wave of the panel study “Labour Market and Social Security” (PASS), which is an annual household panel survey for research on unemployment, poverty and the welfare state in Germany. The questionnaire includes more than 20 deprivation items to measure economic deprivation which can be defined as the non-availability of goods considers essential for an appropriate standard of living in a society, e.g. having an apartment with balcony, having television, having a hot meal per day, inviting friends for dinner at home.

The analyses show that the living conditions of children in families with unemployment benefit II receipt in terms of availability of goods and opportunities to social and cultural participation are characterized by an undersupply in almost all areas considered. Furthermore it is also apparent that financial reserves can hardly be formed and unexpected expenses can rarely be overcome. However, in the availability of basic goods only slight differences occur.

## Panel 5a (Chair: Gunter Graf)

ANDREAS HIRSELAND, FLORIAN ENGEL AND AJIT SINGH

### *Welfare State, activation policies and child poverty – how children and their parents perceive conditions of poverty*

One of the Welfare State's core tasks is to prevent and fight poverty and thus to guarantee participation as a fundamental civil right. As a reaction to economic crisis Germany, as much as other EU-countries, shifted welfare policies from provisional to activating policies stressing 'self-responsibility' and thus exerting more pressure on welfare recipients – widely known as "Hartz IV". At the same time an increasing part of the population, among them many children, live at the poverty-line.

Referring to data from a qualitative study of families (N=35) living on welfare benefits the presentation will discuss everyday-life perspectives and practices of these families dealing with their marginal position as welfare recipients. This will be done against the background that children's perspectives on and experiences with poverty are mediated through various welfare-state institutions, local circumstances, cultural and family backgrounds. Methodically our research covers interviews with parents as well as with their children, appropriate to data triangulation. As a result of our research, child poverty in contemporary Germany appears in many different shapes, each of them having an impact on poor children's wellbeing, their chances to participate and their future perspectives. This leads to conclusions about the specific situation of poor children and the phenomenon of child poverty within an affluent society.

The research project is carried out by the Institute for Employment Research (Nuremberg) in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences Fulda and the University Augsburg as part of the Evaluation of the Hartz-IV-reform by order of the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

SIMON WIGLEY AND ARZU AKKOYUNLU

### *Democracy and Child Mortality: Does Media Freedom Make a Difference?*

One potential flaw of democratic governments is that they may be no better than autocratic governments when it comes to improving the well-being of the poorest. That is because democratic leaders do not necessarily require the support of low-income voters in order to secure a winning majority. In response to that challenge we argue that democratic leaders have a greater incentive and capability

to reduce deprivation. Democratic governments have more of an incentive to seek the economic benefits associated with deprivation reduction. More importantly, democracies are better equipped to reduce deprivation because the greater protection they afford to media freedom enhances the quality of government decision-making. Freer media means that government officials are better informed about the need for intervention as well as the success, or failure, of its poverty-reducing policies. In short, the quality of government decision-making is dependent on the quality of information received by (elected or unelected) decision-makers. In order to test that theoretical claim we use a panel of 167 countries for the years 1994-2011, measuring deprivation in terms of under-5 mortality. Child mortality tends to be concentrated amongst the poorest. We find robust evidence that the negative association between level of democracy and under-five mortality increases as the level of media freedom rises. That lends support to the claim that the greater communication openness typically produced by democratic states enhances the quality of the government's decision-making and, thereby, its ability to reduce child mortality.

MAR CABEZAS AND CARLOS PITILLAS

### *Child Poverty as Potential Developmental Trauma: Shame, Self-Esteem, and Redignification of Childhood*

This proposal aims to enrich the traditional approaches concerning child poverty exploring the relation between poverty, trauma, shame, and self-esteem. We will suggest that child poverty could be approached not only as a socio-economic problem, but as a trauma, as it fulfills the required criteria and have the same negative effects on child's evolution as other psychological traumas leading to posttraumatic stress disorders (Herman, van der Kolk, Briere, Pelcovitz).

In our view, if poverty is understood not only as a negative experience, an instance of social exclusion, or a corrosive disadvantage, but as a trauma, then some insidious outcomes for children's mental well-being and well-becoming could be approached in a more inclusive perspective, which could entail a positive impact on measures' design and social awareness on the topic.

Firstly, as a trauma, child poverty may filter future experiences, affecting so the child's well-becoming. In relation to the long-term impact, child poverty is not a simple cause-effect situation. Rather, that experience may filter how other negative experiences are interpreted and managed. Secondly, we will try to shed light on how from the point of view of trauma, some of the complex effects could be better understood. If child poverty were seen as a trauma with a deep impact on the child's identity and self-esteem at a crucial period of her life, then apparently contradictory effects would become comprehensible. In fact, child poverty commonly leads to feelings of shame, low-self-esteem and learnt helplessness, but also to less-studied strategies used by children to invert the effects of shame, such as exhibitionism, and violence, just to name a few. As a result, we will advocate for the role of self-esteem in order to re-dignify the traumatized

child and as a guide concept to avoid re-victimizations both in future life and in the therapy process itself.

## **Session 5b (Chair: Helmut P. Gaisbauer)**

ENRIQUE DELAMÓNICA, MARYAM ABDU, ARSITIDE KIELEM, GIBRAN CRUZ MARTINEZ, ISMAEL CID MARTINEZ AND ALBERTO MINUJIN

### *Crisis and Child Poverty*

In this paper, two questions are asked: Why do we expect economic crises or natural disasters to impact child poverty? What are the consequences of these crises on poor children and their families? Answering the first question relies on elaborating and building upon the concept and definition of child poverty which has been developed during the last decade and a half in academic journals and inter-governmental and UN resolutions. Children are defined as poor when their right to education, health, water, sanitation, housing, information, and nutrition are violated. This provides a holistic view of poverty as experienced by each child, estimated at the individual (as opposed to households) level. A novel theoretical framework combining economic and sociological elements is used to explore the transmission mechanisms from economic crises and natural disasters to changes in the fulfilment of each of these rights constituting child poverty. In the empirical part of the paper, these theoretical contributions are combined with a distinct methodological approach differentiating among the elements constituting child poverty those variables that respond fast or slowly to changes in per capita income, income distribution, natural disasters, public expenditure, and initial socio-cultural conditions. These variables and relationships, then, are used to analyze and reveal the consequences of crises/disasters on children living in poverty and their families as well as to test hypotheses and policy prescriptions emanating from the proposed theoretical framework.

VIRGINIA MORROW

*“I cannot attend class properly if I am hungry, so it affects my schooling”: Food and hunger in children’s everyday lives in rural Ethiopia: evidence from Young Lives*

This paper explores how a combination of different crises – economic downturn, increased food prices, and drought - affected children’s life-course trajectories in rural Ethiopia, drawing on four rounds of longitudinal qualitative research with

50 children collected from 2007 to 2014 as part of Young Lives . The paper will explore the following:

- how food and hunger affects children over time, influencing decision-making about time-use and work, and movement of children between households, including early marriage;
- children’s descriptions of the quantity and quality of meals and the linkages to economic ‘shocks’ such as illness, death, loss of employment, drought and inflation;
- implications for children’s diets of social protection schemes aimed at alleviating poverty, such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (which provides cash or food grain for work).

Qualitative analysis will be contextualised within descriptive statistics illustrating access to public programmes and dietary diversity from the most recent round (2013) of Young Lives survey. Theoretically, the paper conceptualises childhood poverty holistically/multi-dimensionally, emphasising the interrelatedness of domains of children’s lives, and children’s and young people’s constrained agency in resource-poor settings.

ELENA PRIBYTKOVA

### *Realization of the Right of the Child to an Adequate Standard of Living in Russia*

The current economic crisis has considerably increased the level of poverty in Russia. Above all, it affected children who are at the highest risk of poverty in the country: families with children amount ca. 64% of the total number of poor households. Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes “the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development” (Art. 27). Though the Constitution of the Russian Federation declares that the state’s policy “is aimed at creating conditions for a worthy life and the free development of man” (Art. 7), this formulation does not vest a subjective right to an adequate standard of living. Guarantees of a worthy life are defined as a goal of the state but not a necessary element of contemporary legal order. At the same time, the Russian legislature substitutes a concept of an “adequate standard of living” with a concept of “minimum subsistence level”, which excludes any possibility of a dignified existence and is considerably lower than its international standards. Additionally, state benefits for children from poor families average only 3% of the minimum subsistence level of the child and, therefore, they do not reduce child poverty. The principal goal of the paper is to formulate legal and political measures whereby the right of the child to an adequate standard of living might be guaranteed in Russia in the time of economic crisis.



# We thank our sponsors!



*F ü r   u n s e r   L a n d !*