



SPS Accademia Fiesolana 2018

Seminar, SPS introduction 2018-2019

24, 25, 26 September

13.30 – 15.00

24 September, Seminar Room 2

25 September, Seminar Room 2

26 September, Sala del Capitolo

Organised by Anton Hemerijck (Director of Studies)

No registration required (compulsory for all first-year researchers)

Contact: Maureen.Lechleitner@eui.eu

Description

As part of the introductory program for new researchers, the SPS department is organizing the “SPS Accademia Fiesolana 2018” on the topic of Inequality and European Solidarity on **24, 25 and 26 September from 13.30 pm to 15.00.**

EUI is an exceptionally vibrant space of academic intercourse, where a plethora of seminars, workshops, public lectures, book launches, thesis defences, and high-level workshops, staged each and every week throughout the academic year. So as to induct the new cohort of SPS researchers to the vibrant and engaged discursive environment at the EUI, the SPS department is organizing the “SPS Accademia Fiesolana” for our new members.

The “SPS Accademia Fiesolana” is meant for exchanging and discussing ideas, evidence and arguments on an important topic in the social sciences with a view not only to discuss this from a purely academic point of view, but also to deliberate about the issue(s) at hand from the perspective of political implications and policy relevance. The “SPS Accademia Fiesolana” takes place over three afternoon sessions.

This year’s topic is **Inequality and Solidarity in Europe**. What’s drives rising inequality? What variation do we observe and can we account for across countries and risk-groups? What kind of re-organized solidarity is effective in the aftermath of the crisis under the radically altered (international) economic, social, demographic, and (geo-)political conditions of the early 21st century? Last but not least, there are the social, economic and political aftershocks of the global financial crisis. The rise of populism all over Europe, Brexit, and nationalist authoritarian turns in Hungary and Poland, despite nascent growth, confront the European Union (EU) with a deep existential crisis. Can Europe’s unique ‘double commitment’ to social citizenship solidarity at the level of the nation state and ever deeper economic integration on the European plain be rescued in the

years ahead? These are some of the questions we aspire to debate on the 24, 25 and 26 September at the Giovane Salotto Fiorentina at the EUI in San Domenico di Fiesole.

On Monday 24 September, the sociologists Juho Härkönen and Fabrizio Bernardi to kick off the discussion on rising inequality, patterns and causes. On Tuesday, next, the Political Scientists Anton Hemerijck and Ellen Immergut will engage in a debate on the future of the welfare state in its institutional capacities (or lack thereof) to (re-)organize solidarity for ageing societies and knowledge economies in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. On Wednesday, rounding up the salotto, the political philosopher Andrea Sangiovanni, will focus the discussion on the responsibility of the EU – as a polity – in safeguarding social solidarity and social citizenship in Europe.

Each session is limited to about 2,5 hours. In the first hours, the professors introduce the terms of the debate on the basis of relevant literature that has to be read by all researchers in preparation of the salotto. After a coffee-break, at least one hour is reserved for engaged debate with the researchers.

Readings

Session 1: Inequality in perspective

Rising inequality has received increasing popular attention since the financial crisis. But which inequalities have increased, and where, and how should inequality even be conceptualized? What do we know about the drivers of (changing) inequality? What can be the limitations and even side effects of popular solutions to improving equality (such as increasing education)?

Readings:

Beckfield, Jason. 2013. The end of equality in Europe? *Current History* 112:94-99
https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/jbeckfield/files/beckfield_2013.pdf

Bernardi, Fabrizio. "La pericolosa cerca grande gatsby" *TED talk Pisa*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmNI92T8PgM>

Bernardi, Fabrizio & Ballarino, Gabriele. 2016. Education as the great equalizer: A theoretical framework. In *Ibid.* (eds.) *Education, Occupation and Social Origin: A Comparative Analysis of the Transmission of Socio-Economic Inequalities*. Elgar.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301587934_Education_as_the_great_equalizer_a_theoretical_framework

Young, Michael. 2001. Down with the meritocracy. *The Guardian* 20 June 2001.
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2001/jun/29/comment>

Session 2: Welfare state futures

The intensity of early 21st century structural – economic and social - structural change confronts policy makers with the imperative to redirect their efforts to organize solidarity, to recalibrate national welfare institutions and to update and redesign policies, also for EU regional cooperation, and to elaborate on new principles of social justice. However, as policy makers are pressed to find new ways to manage the adverse consequences of economic internationalisation and post-industrial differentiation, their attempts to recast national solidarity regimes are heavily constrained by long-standing commitments in the areas of unemployment and pensions, which in a period of relative austerity, may pre-empt or crowd out effective social policy responses for a successful transition towards the post-industrial knowledge economy.

Readings:

Esping-Andersen, G., 'Toward the Good Society Once Again, in: Esping-Andersen, G., D. Gallie, A. Hemerijck and J. Myles (2002), *Why We Need a New Welfare State*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, chapter 1 (pp. 1-25)

[https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:196962/one](https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:196962/one)

Pierson, P. (2011). 'The Welfare State over the Very Long Run', *ZeSArbeitspapier*, No. 02/2011,

<http://hdl.handle.net/10419/46215>.

Hemerijck, A. (2011). '21st Century Welfare Provision is more than the Social Insurance State – a Reply to Paul Pierson', *ZeSArbeitspapier*, No. 03/2011,

<http://www.socium.uni-bremen.de/veroeffentlichungen/arbeitspapiere/?publ=403&page=1>

Immergut, E. (2018), 'Welfare State Futures: What Role for Solidarity?', State of the Union Adress, EUI, BUYING TIME Florence

https://stateoftheunion.eui.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2018/05/WSF_State-of-the-Union-Address_Solidarity_Ellen_Immergut.pdf

Session 3: Is Europe Unjust?

In terms economic development, administrative capabilities, and salient policy preferences, the EU today is made of highly diverse but semi-sovereign welfare states. In an incremental, but cumulatively transformative fashion, European (economic) integration and regional expansion have fundamentally recast the boundaries of national systems of social protection, constraining the autonomy for domestic policy options, but also opening opportunities for EU-led multi-level policy coordination. Against this background, a key set of related questions arises: Does the EU promote social justice or undermine it? What principles of social justice (if any) ought to apply to the EU? What kinds of solidarity (if any) should the EU aim to promote? For example, should we encourage EU institutions to be more aggressive in reducing transnational inequalities via social policy and fiscal transfers? Or, should we rather aim to roll back European integration in the name of national justice and national democracy?"

Readings:

Core reading:

Streeck, W. (2014), *Buying Time* (London: Verso), Ch. 3.

[https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:305325/one](https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:305325/one)

J. Habermas (2015), *The Lure of Technocracy* (London: John Wiley & Sons), Ch. 7.

[https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:313365/one](https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:313365/one)

Sangiovanni, A. (2013), 'Solidarity in the European Union', *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 33: 213-41.

[https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:346846/one](https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:346846/one)

Further reading:

Streeck, W. (2014), 'Small-State Nostalgia? The Currency Union, Germany, and Europe: A Reply to Jürgen Habermas', *Constellations* 21: 213-21.

[https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:344661/one](https://opac.eui.eu/client/en_GB/default/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:344661/one)