



DEMSoZ

DAS FORSCHUNGSPROJEKT

Welfare State Reform 'FROM BELOW'?

Interest Representation of People Affected by Poverty in Social Policy



CONFERENCE 30.03.2023 | 09:00-17:30

Social policy reforms, such as the introduction of the new citizens' income (Bürgergeld), can be interpreted as the result of political processes involving the pursuit of (conflicting) interests. The focus of the conference is to examine how, to what extent, and with what success the interests of individuals affected by poverty are (potentially) incorporated into social policy reform processes. Additionally, it will analyze the role played by social work actors in representing these 'weaker interests.' The conference will present initial findings from the [DemSoZ](#) project, which will be discussed with national and international experts. It aims to bridge the gap between comparative welfare state research and social work sciences. We invite you to join a productive academic discussion about the possibilities of politically representing the interests of the socially disadvantaged.

Conference: 30.03.2023, 09:00 - 17:30

Location: Cologne University of Applied Sciences (TH Köln), Ubierring 48, 50678, Cologne, Room 212

Registration: registration is requested by 23.03.23 at larina.kleinitz@th-koeln.de

Sponsored by:

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



A joint event by:

Technology
Arts Sciences
TH Köln

UNIVERSITÄT
DUISBURG
ESSEN

Offen im Denken



PROGRAM

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09:00 – 09:15	Arrival & Registration	14:00 – 15:30	Panel 3
09:15 – 09:45	<i>Sigrid Leitner (TH Köln) & Simone Leiber (Uni Duisburg-Essen)</i>		<i>Corinna Schein (Uni Duisburg-Essen) & Ragnar Hoenig (TH Köln)</i>
	Welcome and Introduction to the DemSoz Project		Welfare Associations in the Political Process
09:45 – 10:30	<i>John Gal (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) & Idit Weiss-Gal (Tel Aviv University)</i>		Commentary: Christoph Strünck (Uni Siegen)
	Keynote: When Social Workers Impact Policy and Don't Just Implement It: A Framework for Understanding Policy Engagement		Panel 4 (in German)
10:30 – 11:15	<i>Florian Blank (Hans-Böckler-Foundation)</i>		<i>Laura Einhorn (TH Köln) & Werner Lindner (EAH Jena University of Applied Sciences)</i>
	Keynote: Turning back the clock? Current trends and decisions in German activation and minimum income policies		Potentialities for Shaping Local Youth and Social Policy
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break	15:30 – 15:40	Break
11:30 – 13:00	Panel 1	15:40 – 17:10	Roundtable Discussion (in German)
	<i>Christopher Smith Ochoa (Uni Duisburg-Essen) & Sonja Blum (Bielefeld University)</i>		<i>Eva Maria Löffler (TH Köln)</i>
	Welfare Associations' Policy Narrative Strategies during the COVID-19 Pandemic		Social Workers in Politics – Discussion with Local and State Politicians
	Commentary: Riccardo Guidi (University of Pisa)	17:10 – 17:30	<i>Sigrid Leitner (TH Köln) & Simone Leiber (Uni Duisburg-Essen)</i>
	Panel 2 (in German)		Closing Words & Wrap-Up
	<i>Laura Schultz (Uni Duisburg-Essen) & Michael David (Diakonie)</i>		
	Weak interests: Self-advocacy by People Experiencing Poverty and Social Workers' Policy Engagement at the Street Level		
	Commentary: Katrin Toens (EH Freiburg) & Benjamin Benz (EvH Bochum)		
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch		

Language

The conference will be held in both **German** and **English**. Both keynotes will be in English. One English and one German-language panel will be offered simultaneously during the panel section.

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