

CALL FOR PAPERS

"But Some are More Equal than Others"

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Growing Inequality and the Need for Solidarity

July 15–17, 2021, Online or hybrid (online & onsite in Berlin)



CALL FOR PAPERS

After postponing the conference to 2021 due to the pandemic, we are glad to present this year's Call for Papers "'But Some are More Equal than Others' – Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Growing Inequality and the Need for Solidarity".

Annual Academic Conference of PhD-Students of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation

Inequality is arguably one of the main societal problems of the 21st century that can severely threaten the cohesion of a society (Kronauer 2007). Economic research of the past years has documented rising inequality throughout several OECD countries showing that since the 1970s, the richest one percent seem to increase their total share. This development is visible in the distribution of income (Bartels 2018; Bönke, Corneo and Lüthen 2015) and wealth (Bönke, Grabka, Schröder, Wolff 2017; Piketty 2015).

Beyond the economic dimension, inequality on the individual level is connected to different opportunities for action, life chances and living conditions (Solga, Berger, Powell 2009; Glatzer, Becker, Bieräugel, Hallein-Benze, Schmid 2009; Riphahn, Schnitzlein 2016). After focusing on class theories, the academic discussion on the analysis of social structure in the middle of the 20th century went on to theories of live style (i.e. Spellerberg 1996) and milieu (Bourdieu 1979), followed by theses of an ongoing individualization (Beck 1983) that came into focus (Burzan 2007; Geißler 2014). In recent years new approaches switch their focus to further dimensions of social inequality, like education, gender, race and ableism also partly from an intersectional view (Wimbauer 2006; Winker 2007; Pfahl 2011, Winker/Degele 2009).

This conference aims to address inequality in various dimensions, economic inequality i.e. analysis of the income and wealth distribution, as well as societal inequality, i.e. education, age, ethnicity/nationality, precarity and poverty (dis-)abilities and gender (Kleven, Landais, Sogaard 2018; Ludwig-Mayerhofer 2012; Geißler 2014).

Solidarity has traditionally been associated with the worker's movement (cf. Pensky 2008) and various forms of societal cohesion (cf. Durkheim 2014). Lately, it is increasingly seen as an ideal that can guide social relations in light of increasing inequality on various levels. Given the deepening rifts through societies it can be understood as a way of balancing individual and collective interests. A concept with no single established and many contested definitions (cf. Bayertz 1999; Scholz 2008), solidarity entails acts of support towards other individuals or groups based on a variety of reasons. It is commonly motivated by the expectation of reciprocity and a specific relation between the members of solidary groups that distinguishes it from related concepts like friendship, loyalty or justice (Hondrich, Koch-Arzberger 1992). Theories of solidarity range from specific movements to end oppression (cf. Shelby 2005), transnational projects, e.g. European solidarity (cf. Sangiovanni 2013; Habermas 2013) up to a global reach of solidarity (cf. Brunkhorst 2002).

To understand and discuss social and economic inequality and opportunities for solidarity, it is necessary to adopt an interdisciplinary perspective that takes various dimensions into account. The aim of the conference is to bring together research on inequality and solidarity from different disciplines and to examine these topics theoretically and empirically, considering macro-, meso- and microsocial perspectives.

Hence, we welcome submissions from economics, sociology, political philosophy and related disciplines, which may include descriptive and normative insights. The resubmission of contributions already accepted in 2020 is very welcome.

Keynote-Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatcă, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Dr. Jakob Egholt Søgard, University of Copenhagen

Prof. Dr. Nikita Dhawan, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen

POSSIBLE TOPICS

Topics may include but are not limited to (intersectional perspectives are also very welcome):

- Inequality and solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic**
What are the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on inequality and solidarity?
- Quantitative and qualitative analyses of social and economic inequality**
How do we measure inequality quantitatively and qualitatively? What do we know about different dimensions of inequality? How has inequality changed over time?
- Labour Inequality: “productive” and “reproductive” work, paid and unpaid work**
What are the drivers of wage inequalities? Which work should be paid and what can an equal distribution of economic resources look like?
- Precarious labour, precarious living conditions - obstacles for solidarity?**
What is the basis for successful solidarity?
- Ethnic, gender and class inequality, relational inequality?**
Which dimensions of inequality exist beyond the conventional measures?
- Inequality and political polarization?**
In which ways does inequality affect political institutions and contribute to political polarization?
- Inequality and the ecological footprint?**
How will current mechanisms of (climate) inequality play out in the future?
- Perspectives of a (transnational) solidary economy?**
Which actors are involved in a solidary economic system? What could a solidary economy look like and which democratic/institutional characteristics would it require?

- **Critical assessment of theory and practice of solidarity: dangers of exclusion and oppositional rifts in society**

Are there risks associated to the ideal of solidarity? How may they be countered?

- **Potential for solidarity in light of increasing inequality?**

Which opportunities for solidary action exist on the various societal levels?

How could solidarity contribute to more equality? Or is more equality necessary for successful acts of solidarity?

INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATION

The academic conference of the Hans Böckler Foundation 2021 serves as a platform for academics from various disciplines (economics, philosophy, sociology) to discuss the above-mentioned phenomena with experts in an intercultural as well as international setting.

We kindly invite you to actively participate with a presentation. Please send an abstract of max. 2 pages to WT2021@boeckler.de. The deadline is 20 May 2021.

The conference will be held in English.

The abstract should cover the following:

- Title and academic discipline(s)
- Objective(s) and research question(s)
- Socio-political relevance
- Contact data

We will inform you about our decision mid of June 2021. You can participate in the conference without holding a presentation.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty regarding future regulations, the conference will most likely take place online. However, depending on the future course of the pandemic, it might be possible to at least offer a hybrid event with some speakers presenting onsite in Berlin.

In case of an onsite event, the Hans-Böckler Foundation covers travel and accommodation costs and offers childcare arrangement (please let us know as soon as possible if needed). We also ask people with disabilities to contact us if certain support is required for participation. No conference fee is charged.

INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATION

Organizers: Mattis Beckmannshagen, Rick Glaubitz, Christine Körner, Maximilian Longmuir, Astrid Pape, Marie Wachinger

Academic Board: Dr. Charlotte Bartels (DIW Berlin), Prof. Dr. Miriam Beblo (Uni Hamburg), Dr. Jens Becker (Hans-Böckler-Stiftung), Prof. Dr. Timm Bönke (FU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Giacomo Corneo (FU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Natalia Danzer (FU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Jürgen Gerhards (FU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Stefan Gosepath (FU Berlin), Dr. Markus M. Grabka (DIW/SOEP Berlin), Dr. Lena Schürmann (HU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder (DIW Berlin), Prof. Dr. Katharina Spieß (DIW, FU), Prof. Dr. Viktor Steiner (FU Berlin)

Kontakt

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LITERATURE

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