



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Emerging Global Policy Challenges: What can Social Policy and International Development Studies Learn from Each Other?

26th & 27th April 2013

A Development Studies Association (DSA) and Social Policy Association (SPA) Joint Conference

Hosted by the Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath, UK with the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York, UK

Preamble

The UK Social Policy Association and the Development Studies Association are pleased to convene a joint conference to be held at the University of Bath. In an era of global change and increasing uncertainty, both Social Policy and Development Studies are aware of the need to generate new ideas and responses. In organising a joint conference, we recognise that researchers and practitioners from both associations and beyond, can learn much more from each other and that collaboration will put us in a stronger position to respond to future challenges.

Conference Concept

The essential point of departure is a steady collapsing of the intellectual distinction between social policy and development. This is mainly driven by the entry of poor countries into middle income status while retaining large scale poverty and inequality, such as India and China, where the largest proportion of the world's poor are located. What is the nature of this 'middle income' status in terms of revenues, access to social security and correlative duties? What impact does this have upon ideas in welfare and policy development and arguments for international aid? That point of departure is reinforced by other trends including:

- persistent and multidimensional inequalities in richer countries leaving large proportions of their populations, particularly children, highly vulnerable, insecure and socially excluded;
- the geographical restructuring of capitalism re-creating new social risks and re-allocating insecurities on a global scale;
- the casualisation and dualisation of labour;
- new forms of forced migration and trade dynamics;
- the failures of financial markets reinforcing shifts in the discourse on welfare policy making towards austerity, recommodification and government safety nets;
- sovereign debt with whole, sometimes erstwhile comfortable, countries increasingly vulnerable across all aspects of the private and public sector interface;
- increasingly polarised political discourses between public, corporate and third sector solutions with strong arguments for 'industrial development' projects along Keynesian lines and productivist social investment strategies to re-juvenate exhausted economies;
- impacts of climate change and energy use re-allocating vulnerabilities and responsibilities at a global level.

Contemporary global stresses resulting from these trends are having profound effects upon the political landscape in terms of ideas, identities, movements, coalitions, conflicts, gender and racial equality and diversity, challenges to entrenched elites and privilege, protest, violence, riots and so on.

Conference Details

We envisage the conference addressing many of these issues from conceptual, methodological, technical and practitioner perspectives in terms of themes, sectors, countries and populations. There are a number of examples, which are relevant here including:

- the comparative welfare/wellbeing regimes analysis and the related varieties of capitalism approach;
- The Limited Access state analysis associated with Douglas North;
- the discourse on global social citizenship and ideas in crisis recovery and welfare recalibration in historical perspective;
- the study of multi-pillar, corporate and informal welfare, but also more particularly social transfers – unconditional, conditional, universal or targeted – and their respective impact on poverty, inequality and well being in different development contexts;
- the analysis of changes in the global economy, special economic zones, global cities and their impact on social policy development;
- the study of mechanisms and impact of transnational and global processes of social policy and campaigns such as the global Social Protection Floor Initiative;
- the analysis of poverty reduction strategies and PFIs.

The conference will begin on **Friday 26 April 2013 at 13:30** and end on **Saturday 27 April at 14:30**. There will be four sessions, each with three invited speakers who are asked to address the broad aim of their session from a theoretical, policy, comparative or methodological perspective. The final hour of the conference will consist of a panel discussion which will reflect on options for further interdisciplinary collaboration between the two intellectual traditions. Confirmed speakers include **Sarah Cook**, Director of UNRISD, **Peter Lloyd-Sherlock**, Professor of Social Policy & International Development, University of East Anglia, and **Naila Kabeer**, Professor of Development Studies, SOAS University of London. A full programme will be made available shortly at <http://www.social-policy.org.uk/international.html>.

| Friday 26 th April 2013 | | |
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| Session One | 13.30-15.00 | Poverty |
| Session Two | 15.30-17.00 | Interdependence and Global Processes |
| Joint Dinner | 18.00-20.00 | |

| Saturday 27 th April 2013 | | |
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| Session Three | 9.00-10.30 | Social and Economic Development |
| Session Four | 11.00-12.30 | Global Political Economy |
| Lunch | 12.30-13.00 | |
| Concluding Panel | 13.00-14.30 | Which way forward for International Development Studies and Social Policy collaborations? |

The full conference registration fee is **£50** (includes Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch). On-campus overnight accommodation is also available priced at **£50 per night**. The number of participants is restricted to 25 – **please secure your place early to avoid disappointment**. For bookings & communication please contact dsaspa2013@gmail.com.



THE UNIVERSITY of York
Department of Social Policy and Social Work

The members of the joint conference steering committee are Stefan Kühner (SPA, University of York), Geof Wood (DSA), Joe Devine (University of Bath), Rana Jawad (University of Bath), Graham Room (University of Bath).