

# „The Futures We Want: Global sociology and the Struggle for a Better World“ 3<sup>rd</sup> International Sociological Association Forum of SOCIOLOGY

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<http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/>

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (deadline 30 September 2015)

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/rc/rc.php?n=RC19>

RC19 - Research Committee on Sociology of Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy

## The Challenges of Innovating Social Policies

### Session Organizers

Yuri KAZEPOV, University of Vienna, Austria, [yuri.kazepov@univie.ac.at](mailto:yuri.kazepov@univie.ac.at)

Massimo BRICOCOLI, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, [massimo.bricocoli@uni.lu](mailto:massimo.bricocoli@uni.lu)

Stefania SABATINELLI, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy, [stefania.Sabatinelli@polimi.it](mailto:stefania.Sabatinelli@polimi.it)

### *Session in English*

A long wave of reforms has affected welfare policies ever since the 1970s. More substantial changes have been introduced in the last two decades, further boosted by the 2008 Great Recession, affecting both the vertical and horizontal regulation axes.

On the vertical axis, supra-national arrangements and devolution processes challenge the established national configuration of social policies, highlighting the increasing role of the local dimension in structuring inequalities.

On the horizontal axis, social innovations involve new actors, with different degrees of engagement and accountability, and through participatory and/or competitive approaches that risk to discriminate social actors, and territories, with different capabilities.

The context in which innovations occur influences both the type of innovation and its impact: the variable configurations of scales and actors may favour or hinder specific forms of innovation. Moreover, the combined effects of vertical and horizontal cleavages have potentially relevant impacts on the institutional design, and on the inequalities' structure.

It is time to take stock of ongoing research, critically tackling the interplay between institutional levels, actors and resources in order to answer both empirically and theoretically the following questions:

- Do participatory and localized innovations undermine the redistributive capacity of the state?
- Do social innovations produce new forms of inequalities? Who is affected?
- What (pre)conditions could allow to avoid such risks?
- What consequences have different welfare arrangements in producing social innovation?
- If successful social innovations are strongly embedded in their context, how can they be upscaled?

Papers presenting comparative research results are especially welcome.

Please submit your proposals through the ISA online submission form following this link:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/cfp.cgi>