



Distributive Politics and Social Protection in the 21st Century

Dramatic economic and demographic transitions have prompted societies around the world to renegotiate the social bargains underpinning national social protection systems. In the process, social welfare reforms have laid bare deep fault lines of distributive conflict, cleaving societies across generations, income levels, and risk groups. Although considerable scholarly attention has been paid to the distinctive contours of these reforms, much of this inquiry remains bound within regional or national lines. As a step toward bridging these empirical and theoretical gaps, this workshop will bring together scholars engaged in research on social protection and distributive conflict in diverse regions of the world, from Latin America to Europe and Asia. Questions addressed in the workshop will include efforts to understand the longer-term implications of social welfare transformations, while asking what changes in social welfare spending, structure and function will imply for longer-term distributions of political and economic resources, risk and life chances. Lastly, participants in the workshop will ask how the shift of risks from collective social insurance programs to individuals affect social cohesion, and democratic stability.

Friday, October 29
Mershon Center
Room 120

1:00 p.m. **Social Protection in the Developing World: Spending, Pressure and Government Priorities**

Nita Rudra, "Democracies and Social Spending in Developing Countries" (with Stephan Haggard)

Irfan Nooruddin & Joel Simmons, "The Politics of Hard Choices: IMF Programs and Government Spending"

DISCUSSANT: **Robert Kaufman**

3:00 p.m. *Coffee break*

3:30 p.m. Keynote lecture. **T.M. Scanlon**, "When Does Equality Matter?"
Sponsored by Mershon Center Citizenship Speaker Series

5:00 p.m. *Reception*

Saturday October 30
Mershon Center
Room 120

8:30 a.m. *Coffee and Continental breakfast*

9:00 a.m. **Social Protection in the Post-Soviet Context**

Linda Cook, "Welfare Politics in Putin's Russia: Toward a Subsidiary State"

DISCUSSANT: **Dinissa Duvanova**

Vanessa Ruget, "Social Rights and Citizenship in Kyrgyzstan, An overview of Kyrgyzstani citizens' perceptions"

DISCUSSANT: **Sarah Wilson**

11:00 a.m. *Coffee break*

11:15 a.m. **Social Protection in Asia: the Transformation of the Social Safety Net**

Stephan Haggard, "The Evolution of Social Contracts in East Asia, 1980-2000"

DISCUSSANT: **Sarah Brooks**

12:15 p.m. *Lunch*

1:30 p.m. **Social Protection Reform and the Politics of Mobilization**

Daniel Béland, "Avoiding Protest: Labor Mobilization and the Politics of Pension Reform in France" (*written with Patrik Marier*)

DISCUSSANT: **Christina van Wijnbergen**

2:30: *Coffee Break*

2:45: **Cross-national Patterns and Linkages in the Politics of Pension Reform**

Kurt Weyland, "The Diffusion of Innovations: How Cognitive Heuristics Shaped Bolivia's Pension Reform"

DISCUSSANT: **Marcus J. Kurtz**

Sarah Brooks, "Explaining Structural Pension Reform around the World"

DISCUSSANT: **Kurt Weyland**

5:00 p.m. *Reception*