

# CALL FOR PAPERS

**“But Some are More Equal than Others”**  
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Growing Inequality  
and the Need for Solidarity

April 23–25, 2020, Freie Universität Berlin



# **CALL FOR PAPERS**

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## **Annual Academic Conference of PhD-Students of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation in cooperation with the Berlin Network of Labor Market Research (BeNA).**

**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 2016) 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; Hradil 1999; 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; Hradil, 1999; Geißler, 2014). In recent years new approaches switch their focus to further dimensions of social inequality, like gender, race and ableism (Wimbauer, 2006; Winker, 2007; Pfahl, 2011).

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, Søgaard, 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, 2007), 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 (Honneth 1992) and a specific relation between the members of solidary groups that distinguishes it from related concepts like friendship, loyalty or justice. 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 applications from economics, sociology, political philosophy and related disciplines, which may include descriptive and normative insights.

**Keynote-Speakers will be:**

- Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatcă, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
- Prof. Dr. Andrea Sangiovanni, European University Institute, Florence and King's College London
- Dr. Jakob Egholt Søgard, University of Copenhagen

# **POSSIBLE TOPICS**

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**Topics may include but are not limited to:**

- **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?

# INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATION

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The academic conference of the Hans Böckler Foundation 2020 serves as a platform for PhD students from various disciplines (such as economics, philosophy, and sociology). We discuss the mentioned phenomena with experts in an international setting.

We kindly invite to participate with a presentation. Please send an abstract of max. 2 pages until December 31st to following address:  
WT2020@boeckler.de

We will inform you about our decision until January 30th 2020.

The conference will be completely in English.

The abstract should cover the following:

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

The Hans Böckler Foundation covers catering, accommodation and travel costs. Should you require childcare arrangements, please let us know by February 15th. A publication is planned.

# PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATION

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Organizers: Dr. Jens Becker, Mattis Beckmannshagen, Rick Glaubitz, Christine Körner, Theresa Neef, Astrid Pape, Marie Wachinger, Maximilian Wenzel

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)

## **Contact**

WT2020@boeckler.de

## **Venue**

Freie Universität Berlin  
Henry-Ford-Bau  
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# LITERATURE

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