

WORKSHOP ON PERCEPTIONS AND POLICY PREFERENCES

7 MAY 2021

Western societies in Europe and North America have been witnessing an increase in inequality over the last decades that has been reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Interestingly, reactions to (a surge in) inequality can be counterintuitive. Parties promoting social justice are not necessarily successful, social inequality does not always lead to more support for redistribution, and the conflict between the rich and the poor over the distribution of income and wealth within society is not as strong as theory suggests. Recent research has worked on this puzzle, finding that (mis-)perceptions of socio-economic facts can explain a mismatch between theoretical predictions and empirical findings. Using mostly survey experiments, studies revealed that correcting (mis-) perceptions of the extent of inequality, of the degree of social mobility, or of the share of migrants may affect preferences. However, we still lack knowledge on the mechanisms that shape the formation and adjustment of redistributive and social policy preferences.

For this interdisciplinary workshop, we invite empirical contributions (full papers preferred) that examine how perceptions of socio-economic factors shape redistributive or other policy attitudes, preferably relying on longitudinal and/or experimental studies. Junior scholars are encouraged to apply and might also present research designs or ideas for survey experiments in a designated session. Topics may include - but are not limited to – (mis-)perceptions of inequality, migration, labor markets, education, and their consequences for policy preferences or party support/voting behavior.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Emanuele Ciani (OECD)
- Jonathan Mijs (Harvard University, Erasmus University Rotterdam)

SUBMISSION

Please send your submission until 28 March 2021. Authors of accepted papers will be notified by 9 April 2021. Presenters must register by 16 April 2021 and may be asked to discuss another paper. Young researchers are particularly encouraged to send their submission. At this stage, we are planning a *digital workshop*.

ORGANIZERS

This workshop is conducted within two mrez research projects that are funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs ([SOECBIAS](#), [IMES](#)). There are *no conference fees*. The organizing team consists of Miriam Beblo, Elisabeth Bublitz, Julian Jäger, Henning Lohmann, Elias Naumann, and Hequn Wang.

CONTACT

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