

The Politics of Inclusion

International workshop organised by the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty - CROP (ISSC/UiB), and UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France, 6-7 July 2017

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Social integration”, related to the concept of “inclusive society”, was first emphasized in the 1995 UN World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. While the term “social inclusion” was not explicitly identified at this stage, the concept gradually materialised in the context of the theoretical debates that followed.

Despite the fact that there is still no absolute consensus on social exclusion and social inclusion within the context of the social sciences, the concept of social inclusion is broadly accepted to be connected to poverty eradication. As highlighted by several authors, it is usually considered to be an “antidote” to poverty.

The ability to address competing interpretations of social inclusion, and to advance the concept as a key theoretical underpinning of the struggle against poverty, is rapidly emerging as a practical necessity for organisations such as UNESCO and CROP.

The implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development - in particular in relation to five of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); #1 (end poverty), #5 (gender equality), #8 (promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth), #10 (reduce inequality) and #16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies)- demands attention to several key “social inclusion” challenges facing policy makers and social scientists: How can the concept be removed from the utopian realm of a “perfectly inclusive” world vision? How can one promote an inspirational yet realistic set of policy measures geared towards a “society for all”? And how can one address the ways in which the terms of inclusion might be problematic, disempowering or inequitable?

This workshop will focus on examining how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets aimed at social and economic inclusion are conditioned by poverty, inequality and power relations, as well as on the types of social transformations that may be capable of changing the dynamics that keep people disadvantaged.

The workshop will critically assess both theoretical perspectives and empirical analysis, in order to discuss:

- The potential contribution of the social and human sciences to reduce poverty and promote social justice and inclusion in the context of Agenda 2030, especially in the fields of competence of UNESCO
- The way in which collaboration between UN entities and research networks and institutions could facilitate a shift in public policy-oriented analysis, from policy to politics and from particular anti-poverty interventions to longer-term development strategies focusing on social and economic inclusion

We would like to invite proposals for papers that would fit into one of the following four sessions:

1. Struggling with the concepts of inclusion, exclusion and adverse incorporation
2. Poverty and inequality as social constructions
3. Which social transformations are needed in order to “leave no one behind”?
4. Collaborative research: the way forward

The workshop will be conducted in English, and selected participants will engage actively in presentations and discussions of all the papers. After the workshop, participants should be willing to work on their paper with a view to publication. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and insurance. There will be support to cover room and board during the event. A limited number of travel subsidies are available.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: 31 January 2017

The abstract must not exceed 500 words (one page) and must include: the title of the proposed paper, a presentation of the subject, the central argument, the main research questions and/or hypotheses, and key references. A CV no longer than one page must also be submitted, clearly indicating the applicant's name, title, nationality and contact information, as well as a list of recent publications.

The **abstract** and **CV** must be submitted electronically at the University of Bergen, follow this link to do it: <http://bit.ly/2gQIL1e>

The Academic Selection Committee will notify accepted participants of their selection by 1 March 2017 with guidelines for the format of the final paper to be submitted by **1 June 2017**.