

#1 – Inequality, welfare, and social justice cluster

Short description

Type of object: Studies and events promoted by a cross-disciplinary group

Source (organisation): European University Institute (EUI), Inequality, welfare, and social justice cluster

Issues: Relationships among inequality, social welfare, democracy, and social justice (focus on inequalities of class and fortune, gender, race, religion, age, region)

Time span: The studies have the 80s as their starting point

Geographical coverage: Mainly Europe

Link: <https://www.eui.eu/research-hub?id=inequality-welfare-and-social-justice>

Note/Interpretations

“This cross-disciplinary group takes as its point of departure a sobering fact: after a long period during which economic inequalities progressively – if unevenly – narrowed, and poverty levels fell, most European countries have experienced rising economic inequality since 1980. This has had negative effects on social cohesion, equal opportunity and democratic stability.

Our group uses historical and contemporary analysis to explore today’s crisis of inequality, and to unpack the evolving relationships among inequality, social welfare, democracy and social justice. In late nineteenth and early twentieth century Europe, the question of who would provide social services to whom and on what terms was a subject of sharp and complex political and ideological contest. The links that were consciously forged between social welfare and democracy in the mid-twentieth century were the outcome of political struggles and choices made in the shadow of World War II.

However, as the rise of right-wing and populist welfarism in Hungary, France, Italy, Poland and elsewhere demonstrates, the connections between welfare and politics can be, and are being re-thought, with dramatic consequences for the rights of individuals.”

[Here](#) the **events** organized on 2020-21.

The following **research projects** are carried out:

- [Inequality, welfare and social justice](#)
- [Wellbeing Returns on Social Investment Recalibration](#)
- [Social Politics in European Borderlands. A Comparative and Transnational Study, 1870s-1990s](#)
- [Equality Law in Europe](#)
- [Democracy and its discontents. A historical examination of the current predicament of democracy](#)
- [Latin America Working Group](#)
- [CLIC](#)
- [The Geography of Social Mobility in Europe: Mapping territorial variations in social mobility between and within EU countries](#)
- [Technological inequality – Understanding the relation between recent technological innovations and social inequalities](#)
- [Sorting into tertiary education: lessons from the UK](#)
- [Rewriting the Social Contract over the Great Lockdown](#)
- [E-learning Engagement Gap During School Closures: Differences by Academic Performance](#)
- [Critical Life Events and the Dynamics of Inequality: Risk, Vulnerability, and Cumulative Disadvantage](#)

Related projects are:

- [CLIC – Comparative Life Course & Inequality Research Centre](#) (Juho Härkönen and Herman Van De Werfhorst)
- [EUI-YouGov ‘Solidarity in Europe’ project](#) (Anton Hemerijck)
- [Social Politics in European Bordelands. A Comparative and Transnational Study, 1870s-1990s](#) (ERC Project – Laura Downs)
- [Understanding Society](#) – The UK longitudinal household study (Thomas Crossley)
- [WellsIRE](#) – Wellbeing Returns on Social Investment Recalibration (ERC Project -Anton Hemerijck)

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