

### **Mini Conference of the soeb research network**

At the 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE):  
“Inequality in the 21st Century”, July 2-4, 2015, London School of Economics and Political Science

### **Inequality of What? Social Monitoring and the Difficult Choice of Analytical Concepts and an Implementable Metric**

The growing debate on the degree of social inequalities stresses the need to achieve a common understanding of the kind of (in)equality in question. Analytical concepts and indicators that are suitable to measure inequalities are the very foundation of comparison: What dimensions, aspects, or aspirations are taken into account, and with what priorities? The discussion on social inequalities evolves both with different theoretical and normative choices and corresponding legitimizations and with the evolution of diverse scientific methods and data sources. There seems to be a broad consensus recently that GDP per capita cannot serve (any more?) as a good proxy for well-being on a macro level of society. This has induced a lively discussion on what should replace the outdated metric. This discussion is likely to impact social life in terms of practical policies, as public debate and political decision-making on (in)equalities are framed and informed by social indicators and monitoring systems. Accordingly, there have recently been a number of high-level initiatives from the political sphere which aimed at an improved measurement of human well-being. It stands out that there is still an important gap between the theoretical debate on highly sophisticated concepts of social (in)equalities on the one side and their effective implementation in (in)equality measurements and social monitoring on the other side. Moreover, the understanding of the emergence of social inequalities requires analyses of its driving forces on the meso and the micro level of society. The Mini-Conference focuses on different metrics of inequality which are discussed in different disciplines and the political sphere, on their justification, and on the methodology of implementation.

Invited for the Mini-Conference are theoretical as well as empirical (and potentially interdisciplinary) contributions which deal with one or several of the following questions: What kind of analytical concepts and indicators are suitable to measure social inequalities? How big is the overlap between alternative approaches, and what are their important differences (advantages, disadvantages)? What possibilities are there for combining different approaches? What new approaches are made possible by recent data trends and research methods? What impact have recent political initiatives had on the practice of inequality monitoring so far? Are there similar approaches in different countries? How can yardsticks used for the measurement of social inequalities (dimensioning, weighting, thresholds) be justified in practical research? What are the political implications of different concepts of (in)equality and social monitoring?

**For more information about the SASE conference**, please visit: [https://sase.org/2015---london/sase-27th-annual-conference-theme\\_fr\\_202.html](https://sase.org/2015---london/sase-27th-annual-conference-theme_fr_202.html)

**For registration**, please visit: [https://sase.org/about-sase/join-sase-\\_fr\\_55.html](https://sase.org/about-sase/join-sase-_fr_55.html)

Please note that the early bird registration is valid through April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**For more information about the soeb research network**, please visit: <http://www.soeb.de/en/>

## Preliminary Program

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| <b>Defining and Measuring Inequality/Poverty: Dynamic Approaches and Policy Monitoring (Chair: Andrea Hense)</b> |  |
| Sabina Alkire / Jose Manuel Roche / Ana Vaz  | Multidimensional Poverty Dynamics: Methodology and Results for 34 Countries  |
| René Lehwess-Litzmann  | Longitudinal Measures of Labour-Market Inequality. What Could They Contribute to Public Discussion? The Case of Germany        |
| Suman Seth / Sabina Alkire   | Did Poverty Reduction Reach the Poorest of the Poor? Assessment Methods in the Counting Approach                               |
| Alice Krozer   | Where Do We Draw the Line? Suggesting a Threshold for Extreme Inequality   |
| <b>Happiness / Subjective Well-Being and Its Determinants (Chair: Ortrud Lessmann)</b>                           |  |
| Yoko Niimi   | Can Happiness Provide New Insights into Social Inequality? Evidence from Japan   |
| Orsolya Lelkes   | Happily Ever after. Happiness and Public Policy  |
| Andrea Hense   | Measuring and Explaining Self-Perceived Employment Risks   |
| Annie Austin   | On Well-Being and Social Justice: The Case for an Objective Account  |
| <b>Multidimensional Measurement of Quality of Life and Capabilities (Chair: Jürgen Kädtler)</b>                  |  |
| Polly Vizard   | Inequalities in Capabilities in Europe and the Impact of the Crisis: Latest Findings Using the European Quality of Life Survey |
| Ortrud Lessmann / Peter Bartelheimer   | Inequality of What? Socioeconomic Reporting and Capability, Participation and Precariousness                                   |
| Graciela Tonon   | A Model to Measure Inequalities and Quality of Life  |
| Nicolai Suppa  | Towards a Multidimensional Poverty Index for Germany   |