

# CfP: Heterogeneity and Inequality: Differentiation in Education and Consequences for Educational Inequalities

Conference organized by the Sociology of Education Research Network of the Swiss Sociological Association (SSA) – 5./6.11.2020, University of Bern / University of Teacher Education, Bern, Switzerland

## Theme

Educational systems differ in how they deal with the heterogeneity of the student body. For example, the degree of organizational differentiation and stratification (tracking) can differ greatly depending on the school or place of residence as well as between countries. In addition to ability tracking, different types of internal differentiation are used to meet the different needs of children and young students in the acquisition of knowledge and competences. However, since tracking and different types of internal differentiation directly affect skill development and further educational attainment, these measures can both reduce and exacerbate inequalities. Policy measures designed to include specific groups of students might unintentionally lead to even higher levels of exclusion. Besides, existing institutional arrangements can directly contribute to a strengthening of educational inequalities by excluding certain groups of pupils from additional remedial education or by restricting educational options, by imposing strict admission requirements.

Authors are invited to submit proposals that focus on the relationship between heterogeneity and educational inequalities at different educational levels including vocational education and training. We especially invite proposals that address the following research questions:

- 1) How can we quantify and compare the inclusiveness or exclusiveness of cantonal (differences between and within language regions) or country specific educational systems at different educational levels?
- 2) What measures that are aimed to include specific groups of students are (in)effective, when and for whom? Do we observe that institutional regulations are designed in such a way as to unintentionally exclude certain groups of pupils from remedial teaching or educational programs?
- 3) What are the effects of tracking and different types of internal differentiation regarding skill development, educational attainment, and returns to education? How do these aspects relate to intended and unintended consequences of educational policies?
- 4) How are tracking and types of internal differentiation interrelated with educational aspirations, decisions and attainment at different educational levels and what differences are observed for different groups of students in terms of social origin, gender and migration background?

In addition, contributions in the field of sociology of education that do not explicitly refer to the listed research questions are welcome as well.

## Keynote speaker

Prof Dr. Jan Skopek (Trinity College Dublin)

PD Dr. Hanna Dumont (DIPF | Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education)

## **Submission & Deadline**

A structured abstract of 600 words maximum should cover Background (context of the study), Purpose and Theory (main research aims/questions, theoretical framework), Design and methods (study design and methods, including dates of data collection, sampling method, methods of data collection and analysis), Results (main findings in relation to the research aims/questions), and Conclusions (arising from the research). **The deadline for submitting abstracts is 30 March 2020.** Please submit your abstracts via conftool at [www.conftool.com/soceduc](http://www.conftool.com/soceduc). Authors will be notified whether the abstract has been accepted by 1 June 2020. The conference fee is about 50 CHF.

## **Format**

The conference will take place over 2 days (Thursday morning to Friday afternoon). We invite social scientists to contribute to the conference with:

- paper presentations (approx. 15 minutes presentation plus 10 minutes of discussion), or
- posters

The conference language is English.

Further details are available on the conference website: <http://www.soceduc.edu.unibe.ch>. Please feel free to contact the organizing committee ([soceduc@edu.unibe.ch](mailto:soceduc@edu.unibe.ch)) should you have any questions.

## **Scientific committee (several responses pending)**

Michael Beck (PHSG), Rolf Becker (University of Bern), Gaële Goastellec (University of Lausanne), Andrea Erzinger (University of Bern, Interfaculty Centre for Educational Research, ICER), David Glauser (University of Bern), Sandra Hupka-Bruner (University of Bern, TREE), Christian Imdorf (University of Hannover), Irene Kriesi (EHB Zollikofen), Regula Julia Leemann (Pädagogische Hochschule FHNW), Mathias Mejeh (University of Bern), Thomas Meyer (University of Bern, TREE), Caroline Sahli Lozano (University of Teacher Education, Bern)

## **Organizing committee**

David Glauser (University of Bern), Caroline Sahli Lozano (University of Teacher Education, Bern), Mathias Mejeh (University of Bern)

## **Coordinating board of the research committee**

Farinaz Fassa (University of Lausanne), David Glauser (University of Bern), Chantal Hinni (University of Fribourg), Irene Kriesi (SFIVET, Zollikofen), Philippe Losego (HEP Vaud)

**“1<sup>st</sup> RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana” and “SMUS Conference”  
in cooperation with ESA RN21 “Quantitative Methods”  
15 – 21.03.2021, Gaborone, Botswana**

*Call for Session Organizers (Deadline: 31.03.2020)*

Dear Colleagues,

we are happy to announce that the Research Committee on “Logic and Methodology in Sociology” (RC33) of the “International Sociology Association” (ISA) together with the “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS) and the Research Network “Quantitative Methods” (RN21) of the European Sociology Association” (ESA) will organize a **“1<sup>st</sup> RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana”** which will at the same time be the **“1<sup>st</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (“SMUS Conference”)** from Monday 15.03 – Sunday 21.03.2021, hosted by the University of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana. The main conference days will be from Thursday 18.03. – Saturday 20.03.2021. There will be travel grants GCSMUS members and African scholars can apply for.

The seven-days conference aims at **promoting a global dialogue on methods** and should attract **methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences** (e.g. area studies, architecture, communication studies, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning). Additionally, the conference programme will include advanced methodological training courses, Ph.D. workshops and a social programme. Thus, the conference will enable scholars to get in contact with methodologists from various disciplines all over the world and to deepen discussions with researchers from various methodological angles.

With this mission, we **invite scholars of all social and spatial sciences** and other scholars who are interested into methodological discussions **to suggest a session topic**. Conference sessions should mainly address a methodological problem. All sessions on general issues of social science methodology and epistemology as well as on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches are equally welcome. In addition, we especially invite scholars to suggest session topics on one of the following issues:

- spatial methods and analysis
- cross-cultural methods and issues of comparability
- decolonizing social science methodology
- methods of and for the Global South
- methodological issues relevant for specific world regions (e.g. Africa, America, Asia, Europe)
- monitoring and evaluation methods and analysis
- applied research methods on urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning
- arts- and design-based methods
- participatory and action research methods
- interdisciplinary and collaborative research methods
- big data, digital methods and cross-disciplinary research
- methods for values research, global wellbeing and sustainability
- methods for analysis of space and social inequality (e.g. space and class, gendered spaces, space and age, space and race)

If you are interested in organizing a session, please submit an abstract containing the following information to (**botswana2021@mes.tu-berlin.de**) by **31.03.2020**:

- Session Title
- Session Organizers (Name, Email-Address, Institutional Affiliation)
- Session Abstract (containing a short description of the session and the type of papers you want to be submitted to the session).

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of submission within three working days, please resend your submission. The conference organizers will inform you, if your session has been accepted, by 13.04.2020. Please note that all sessions apply to the **rules of session organization** named in the RC33 statutes and GCSMUS Objectives (**see below**).

Please find more information on the above institutions on the following websites:

- “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS):  
[www.mes.tu-berlin.de/spatialmethods](http://www.mes.tu-berlin.de/spatialmethods)
- ISA RC33: <http://rc33.org/>
- ESA RN21: [www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods](http://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods)
- University of Botswana in Gaborone: [www.ub.bw](http://www.ub.bw)

If you are interested in getting **further information on the conference** (such as Calls for Abstracts) and other GCSMUS activities, please **subscribe to the GCSMUS newsletter** by registering via the following website:  
<https://lists.tu-berlin.de/mailman/listinfo/mes-smusnews>

Please also kindly **forward this information to anybody to whom it might be of interest**.

Best wishes,

Nina Baur  
RC33 Past President and GCSMUS Speaker  
Technische Universität Berlin  
Germany

Gabriel Faimau  
GCSMUS Botswana Lead Partner  
University of Botswana  
Botswana

### **Rules for Session Organization (According to GCSMUS Objectives and RC 33 Statutes)**

1. There will be no conference fees.
2. The session organizers and speakers will be expected to cover the costs of their accommodation and travel expenses themselves. However, members of GCSMUS partner institutions will be able to apply for a travel grant via their home institution. In addition, there will be travel grants for non-GCSMUS scholars from Africa who present a paper or organize a session. Travel grants will cover travel costs and living expenses. Details on the application process will follow later this year.
3. The conference language is English. All papers therefore need to be presented in English.
4. All sessions have to be international: Each session should have speakers from at least two countries (exceptions will need good reasons).
5. Each paper must contain a methodological problem (any area, qualitative or quantitative).
6. There will be several calls for abstracts via the GCSMUS, RC33 and RN21 Newsletters. To begin with, session organizers can prepare a call for abstracts on their own initiative, then at a different time, there will be a common call for abstracts, and session organizers can ask anybody to submit a paper.
7. GCSMUS, RC33 and RN21 members may distribute these calls via other channels. GCSMUS members and session organizers are expected to actively advertise their session in their respective scientific communities.
8. Speakers can only have one talk per session. This also applies for joint papers. It will not be possible for A and B to present at the same time one paper as B and A during the same session. This would just extend the time allocated to these speakers.
9. Session organizers may present a paper in their own session.
10. Sessions will have a length of 90 minutes with a maximum of 4 papers or a length of 120 minutes with a maximum of 6 papers. Session organizers can invite as many speakers as they like. The number of sessions depends on the number of papers submitted to each session. E.g. if 12 good papers are

submitted to a session, there will be two sessions with a length of 90 minutes each with 6 papers in each session.

11. Papers may only be rejected for the conference if they do not present a methodological problem (as stated above), are not in English or are somehow considered by session organizers as not being appropriate or relevant for the conference. Session organizers may ask authors to revise and resubmit their paper so that it fits these requirements. If session organizers do not wish to consider a paper submitted to their session, they should inform the author and forward the paper to the local organizing team who will find a session where the paper fits for presentation.
12. Papers directly addressed to the conference organising committee (and those forwarded from session organizers) will be offered to other session organizers (after proofing for quality). The session organizers will have to decide on whether or not the paper can be included in their session(s). If the session organizers think that the paper does not fit into their session(s), the papers should be sent back to the conference organizing committee as soon as possible so that the committee can offer the papers to another session organizer.

## **15th Conference „Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe“**

### **Convergence or Divergence?**

#### **Changes in attitudes, socioeconomic structures and well-being across Europe**

Villa Vigoni, Loveno di Menaggio, October 12-14, 2020

Call for Papers

---

The initiation and arrangement of processes resulting in convergence among the member states of the European Union has always been and still is a great hope and major goal of EU policies, for example the introduction of a common European currency. It is thus upward convergence in economic, social and territorial terms – ultimately convergence and progress in well-being and socio-economic levels and structures – whilst preserving diversity in terms of cultures and languages at the same time that is at the heart of European integration and the European project.

In 2012 the World Bank Report „Golden Growth“ acknowledged that “Europe has achieved economic growth and convergence that is unprecedented” and attested Europe to be a „convergence machine“. A more recent (2018) World Bank Report - titled „Growing United“ – however identified „growing divides“ and thus called for an upgrade of Europe’s convergence machine.

The Great Recession of 2008-2013 has affected the living standards, economic conditions and social climate in many European countries. However, its impact as well as the speed and extent of recovery varied due to different national economic situations, institutions and policies. The crisis intensified reflections on both, the actual degree of economic and social convergence between countries and the normative perspectives on links, dependencies and solidarity between and within the societies.

Whereas economic convergence has been widely studied, issues of social convergence and divergence are not equally well researched and thus can be seen as a challenge as well as an opportunity for cross-national social monitoring and reporting to provide urgently needed evidence on the extent of similarity and dissimilarity of national and regional developments. Whilst a number of tools have recently been developed and applied in the context of assessing economic convergence in the EU, systematic research of trends, drivers, and consequences of social convergence or divergence is still underdeveloped.

Reflecting on the diagnosis of „growing divides“, the 15th „Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe“ - conference seeks to bring together and discuss empirical evidence to better assess whether or not and to what extent European societies are converging in terms of well-being,

attitudes and socioeconomic structures. Moreover contributions addressing the conceptualization and measurement of social convergence across Europe are welcome as well. The perspective of the conference is not limited to the European Union and considers Europe broadly. Papers are invited to address one or more of the following issues:

- Living apart together? – measuring the extent of similarity and dissimilarity of European countries
- Convergence and divergence in quality of society, civic values, and political preferences
- Convergence and divergence in well-being, living standards, social structures and inequalities
- Convergence and divergence in institutional arrangements
- Trends of regional inequalities in Europe
- Consequences of divergence, e.g. in trust and views of the citizens: is the European project at risk?
- Observations of „undesired convergence“, e.g. diminished diversity in cultural domains

Although the conference will mainly focus on issues of social convergence and divergence in Europe, there will also be opportunities to discuss „recent developments in European social monitoring and reporting“. Contributions presenting new initiatives, projects and releases on social monitoring and reporting in Europe are very welcome as well.

Please submit your abstract (no more than 300 words) to Dr. Heinz-Herbert Noll (hh.noll@t-online.de). **The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2020.**

Decisions about the acceptance of submissions will be made by the conference committee: Jeroen Boelhouwer (SCP, The Hague), Carla Collicelli (CNR, Rome), Peter Farago (formerly FORS, Lausanne), Tadas Leončikas (Eurofound, Dublin), Heinz-Herbert Noll (formerly GESIS, Mannheim), Christian Suter (University Neuchatel), István György Tóth (TARKI, Budapest)

For information on previous conferences see: <http://www.tarki.hu/villa-vigoni-conferences>

The conference is kindly supported by:

