

## Stream #12

# Social Policy Context of Life-Course Transitions

### Conveners:

- Rense Nieuwenhuis, Stockholm University
- Tomas Korpi, Stockholm University

Life-course transitions represent critical developments to people's and families' lives, such as school-to-work, unemployment to employment, transitions related to family formation and dissolution, and into retirement. They represent moments in which inequalities emerge, as well as accumulate. As such, life-course transitions provide a particularly interesting angle to study social policy, and to integrate insights from policies that cover a wide range of focus areas: education, (un)employment, income protection, family support, work-family reconciliation, pension policies, among many others.

This stream invites empirical research that studies the social policy context of life-course transitions. The focus on life-course transitions brings to fore a number of perspectives, including:

- **Transitions:** What social policy contexts facilitate (successful) transitions from one life-course stage to the next? To what extent does the effectiveness of social policy support for life-course transitions vary by – for instance – gender, family composition, or migration background?
- **Cumulative inequality:** In what social policy contexts are inequalities in one lifecycle stage less likely to transmit to, or accumulate in, the next life-course stage? To what extent are social policy contexts of life-course transitions associated with unintended consequences, such as Matthew effects, in which the more advantaged disproportionately benefit from policy supports?
- **Policy Interplay:** To what extent are transitions between two life-course stages best supported by the combination of policies typically associated with both life-course stages? Is each specific life-course transition best supported by a unique set of policies tailored to that transition specifically, or are some policies (such as income protection, employment protection legislation, policies to support gender equality, ...) universally supportive across a range of different life-course transitions?

This stream equally welcomes quantitative and qualitative papers, as well as comparative and country-case studies. To ensure quality feedback and to initiate a lively exchange, the stream coordinators will assign a discussant to each paper. Each paper presenter will be expected to provide feedback to another paper in their session.