

## Stream #16

# Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy

### Conveners:

- Katharina Bohnenberger, BOKU University
- David Palomera, University of Southern Denmark
- Robin Schulze Waltrup, Bielefeld University

The transgression of planetary boundaries represents a fundamental challenge to contemporary welfare states, which have been conceptualised as both problem-causing entities, by relying on a system of mass-production and mass-consumption, and problem-solving entities, by potentially cushioning the negative social consequences of, for example, climate change (mitigation), through social protection mechanisms. At the same time, the rising ecological crises increasingly intersect with issues of financial resource constraints and welfare spending, existing inequalities, labour market transformations, and the reform of social protection systems. In this context, the stream invites contributions that conceptually and empirical advance debates on eco-social policy and sustainable welfare.

### Key questions include:

- What are the (re)distributional consequences of climate change and environmental policies?
- How are established social policy fields being modified to address ecological risks and related ecological inequalities (and what new eco-social policy fields are emerging)?
- What political coalitions and actors have emerged to articulate conflicts over costs and benefits related to specific eco-social reform proposals within the existing welfare state institutions?
- What are the existing ideational, institutional and material growth dependencies of welfare states and how can social policy transformations address them?
- What transformations are welfare and growth/demand regimes undergoing due to the social and economic consequences of climate change and the energy transition?
- How are existing local, national and/or international institutions and narratives interacting with eco-social policy processes?

- What role do institutional actor for example of the European Union (EU) play in formulating eco-social policies? Particularly welcome are examinations of the impact of goal-oriented EU funding, such as the Social Climate Fund, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, or related instruments.
- What is the interplay between actors on multiple levels of governance when pushing for eco-social concepts onto the agenda?

We invite theoretical, qualitative and quantitative research on cross-national case studies and comparative research as well as in-depth research focusing on single cases, including the EU, and we particularly welcome contributions by early-career researchers. Contributions may address these and related social policy and welfare state topics from diverse theoretical frameworks, including historical institutionalism and power resource theory, comparative and critical political economy, narrative policy frameworks, and other policy process theories.