

Stream #2

Time-Related Social Policies in the World of Work and Care

Conveners:

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Time is a crucial yet seldom explicitly addressed element of many social policies. Time-related policies and institutions shape life courses by structuring life phases such as education, family formation, retirement, and individual's daily time use including time spent on paid work and care activities. Importantly, time-related social policies and their effects are often not uniform but vary on characteristics such as gender, socioeconomic and health status. There is extensive scholarship on time-related policies in several social policy fields: Labour policy research discusses working time models such as part-time work, reduced standard working hours, and flexible working, while family policy research discusses eligibility, generosity, and extent of parental leave schemes and childcare services. Work care conciliation in other areas such as long-term care policy is so far more marginally researched. However, the holistic view on time-related social policies, encompassing different perspectives, and its role in shaping individual life course trajectories remain scarce.

Therefore, this stream aims to bring together time-related labour, care, and family policy scholarships to facilitate overarching discussions. This is important because, firstly, different (time) regulations and benefits across policy fields interact with each other and serve as functional equivalents, for instance in the case of flexible working arrangements and care leave policies. Secondly, broader research and reflections on how future of work and care could/should look like both individually and societally are crucial especially in times of major crises and transitions such as automation of work, care worker shortages, and climate change. Namely, do we need new working time standards to react to such challenges?

This stream invites both theoretical and empirical papers that address social policies shaping working and caring time, for instance as regards policy design,

policy effects, and underlying norms. We invite contributions which address, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- How are working time and caring time related? How do social policies shape time use and work-care patterns across the life course?
- Which measures and models exist to design flexible care and work time arrangements across life courses? How do they address and affect gender and social inequalities?
- How can the welfare state react to societal transformations and changing individual needs and norms regarding time use preferences? What do we know about these needs and norms? Which (new) standards and regulations could be suitable for (future) societies?