

## **Latest News**

Information on press releases and related news of the department "Dynamics of Inequality in Welfare Societies".

- 20 News

29.03.2021

### **Relevanz und blinde Flecken des Zeitverwendungserhebungsgesetzes (ZVEG)**



Dr. Ruth Abramowski als Sachverständige bei Anhörung im Deutschen Bundestag

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02.09.2020

## Gründung des Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt



Auftaktveranstaltung des Bremer Teilinstituts am 10.09.2020

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21.07.2020

## Violence, Age, and Gender (VAG)



Ten Bremen University scholars from three departments (Law, Social Sciences, Pedagogy and Educational Sciences) and three institutes (bigas, artec, and SOCIUM) set up an interdisciplinary lab

## What is it about?

Research innovations need cooperation. The interdisciplinary lab, which was founded as part of the WoC (Worlds of Contradiction) will approach the topic of “Violence, Age and Gender” from a legal and social science perspective and bundle competencies. The aim is to merge national and international knowledge about the occurrence and causes of gender-specific violence and harassment in public, institutional, and private spheres in an interdisciplinary manner to derive further research questions and develop strategies to prevent violence. Starting point is the current Convention 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the work environment adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Experiencing violence in a structural and individual way means to live in and with contradictions. Forms of violence are experienced at different times of life and within different circumstances, which affects social and individual development opportunities.

Ten Bremen University scholars from three departments (Law, Social Sciences, Pedagogy and Educational Sciences) and three institutes (bigas, artec, and SOCIUM) use gender as the common analysis criterion for the investigation of violence-induced contradictions in (the course of) life, applying an intersectional perspective. The intertwined inequality dimensions gender, age, class, and ethnicity result in overlaps with violence, migration, and racism.

The underlying interdisciplinary and interdependent concept of violence allows the investigation of governmental, institutional, organisational or interpersonal violence against people of all genders and different age groups as well as power relationships, such as power imbalances in employment relationships or multiple discrimination. Sources related to international and regional legal conventions, including their monitoring, as well as research results from the legal and social sciences are used as the foundation.

The lab thus builds on the gender research that has been established at the University of Bremen since the 1980s and, with its interdisciplinary perspective on the subject of violence, aims at a theory-practice transfer contributing to concrete improvements of living conditions. The results will be made available for knowledge transfer between politics, administrations, and civil society.

Prof. Dr. Konstanze Plett, LL.M. (founding member)  
Prof. Dr. Ursula Rust (founding member)  
Prof. Dr. Simone Scherger (founding member)  
Prof. Dr. Ines Weller (founding member)  
Prof. Dr. Betül Yazar (founding member)  
Ass. Prof. Dr. Fatma Karakaş-Doğan (founding member)  
Dr. Ruth Abramowski (founding member)  
Dr. Anna Hokema (founding member)  
Dr. Sylke Meyerhuber (founding member)

Dr. Sabine Ritter (founding member)  
Wiebke Blanquett, M.A. (founding member)  
Privatdozent Dr. Thorsten Fehr (since 13.07.2020)

In addition to the active scholars involved, the lab collaborates with colleagues who pursue research within the tradition of gender research at the University of Bremen: Prof. Dr. Karin Gottschall (FB 8, SOCIUM board member, head of the department of “Dynamics of Inequality in Welfare Societies”) and Prof. Dr. Gabrielle Bolte (FB11, managing director of the IPP).

Various lectures and workshops with renowned European and international lawyers and sociologists researching violence are planned for 2021. A larger conference (including around 100 participants) at the Protestant Academy “Loccum” is planned for December 2021, with the subsequent publication of an anthology collection.

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**[Dr. Ruth Abramowski](#)**

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19.12.2019

**Double Honor for Ruth Abramowski**



Member of SOCIUM receives the Award for Family Sociology of the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Soziologie (ÖGS) as well as the AK-Wissenschaftspreis 2019 of the Arbeitnehmerkammer Salzburg

The double award honors Ruth Abramowski, since March 2019 Postdoc at SOCIUM, for her PhD thesis *“Bringing Power Back In: Zur Kontinuität traditioneller innerhäuslicher Arbeitsteilungsarrangements in Paarbeziehungen – Ein europäischer Vergleich”* which she successfully defended at the University of Salzburg, Austria. How can we explain the division of responsibility for family work in partner relationships in various European countries? And what effects does this have on the implementation of societal norms based on equal rights? Ruth Abramowski discusses in her PhD thesis central questions of family sociology from a new perspective which entails a typology of individual, cultural and institutional dimensions of power.

Partner relationships reflect not only societal, culturally determined behavioral norms and their dynamics over time. They are also the manifestation of power relationships. Since current research usually neglects this vital fact many well-intentioned suggestions for the improvement of the equal distribution of this family work are bound to fail. Both awards praise not only the refreshingly new perspective of the analysis but also the micro as well as macro sociologically based theoretical argument and method. The thesis offers new venues for interesting research in a central area of family sociology.

The ÖGS award honors excellent PhD theses in the area of family sociology defended at Austrian university in the last three years. The *AK Wissenschaftspreis* supports young scholars of all disciplines at the institutions of higher education in Salzburg and was awarded for PhD or MA theses of the last two years. Ruth Abramowski received her BA in Social Sciences from the University of Stuttgart, her MA in Social Sciences from the University of Oldenburg and her PhD from the University of Salzburg.

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11.12.2019

## **Two Members of SOCIUM Elected to the Review Boards of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)**



Olaf Groh-Samberg in sociology and Frank Nullmeier in political science successful

**Every four years all scientists active in research in Germany are asked to elect the members of the Review Boards of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). In this year's election two members of SOCIUM were successful. Olaf Groh-Samberg was elected for the first time as a member for empirical social research. Frank Nullmeier was reelected as a member for political science in the Review Board for Social Sciences.**

The Review Boards of the DFG are important institutions in the peer review process for applications for research funding. Potential members are recommended by universities and research institutions (Max-Planck, Leibniz, Fraunhofer etc.) but most importantly by the associations of the different research disciplines. Olaf Groh-Samberg was not only recommended by a dozen universities but also by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie*. Frank Nullmeier received support from both German political science associations, the *Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft* as well as the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Politikwissenschaft*. The newly elected Review Boards will commence their work on February 2020.

more Information:

[https://www.dfg.de/dfg\\_profil/gremien/fachkollegien/fk\\_wahl2019/index.jsp](https://www.dfg.de/dfg_profil/gremien/fachkollegien/fk_wahl2019/index.jsp)

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17.07.2019

## **Karin Gottschall Elected Member of DFG-Senate Committee on Collaborative Research Centres**



Prof. Dr. Karin Gottschall

DFG elects new members for its Senate Committee and Grants Committee on Collaborative Research Centres



Recently the Senate of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) elected some of the bodies of the DFG. In doing so it elected one of the members of SOCIUM in two important committees. Karin Gottschall, Professor of Sociology at Fachbereich 8 and Department Head at SOCIUM, became member of the Senate Committee on Collaborative Research Centres of the DFG and at the same time member of the Grants Committee on Collaborative Research Centres.

The task of the Senate Committee on Collaborative Research Centres is to participate in the preparation, assessment and decision-making on financing the applications for Sonderforschungsbereiche (Collaborative Research Centers) at the DFG. It consists of 40 scientists from all disciplines.

The Grants Committee, as its name indicates, decides about the financing of applications for Collaborative Research Centers by the DFG. It consists of the 40 members of the Senate Committee plus one representative of the Federal Ministry and one representative each for the 16 Länder governments.

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30.04.2019

## **Laurel Wrath for the Graduates of the Double Degree "European Master in Labour Studies and Social Policy"**



Graduates of the joint Master program of the University of Bremen together with the Università degli Studi di Milano



## Four Students Defended Their Master Theses at the Università degli Studi di Milano

On March 26th, 2019 already the second cohort of the joint Master program of the University of Bremen together with the Università degli Studi di Milano successfully finished its studies. Chiara Bresan, Sinem Dogan, Verena Sattler and Laura Rappold defended their Master theses which dealt with issues of comparative European industrial relations as well as inequality in the labour markets. Following the defenses they were allowed to don, as a sign of their successes, the customary laurel wreath ("corona d'alloro").

Already since the Winter Semester of 2015/2016 the Università degli Studi in Milano, Italy and the University of Bremen cooperate in a university program that awards a double degree (both in Germany and Italy) as a "European Master in Labour Studies and Social Policy". Central contents of this program are industrial relations in international comparative perspective including trade unions, employers' associations and their political and social embedding. An additional focus of this two-year program with the first year at the University of Bremen and the second at the Università degli Studi is the comparative analysis of inequality and social policies. The deadline for applications for this international Master program is June 15th, 2019. Both universities accept such applications.

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04.10.2018

## **WSI-Mitteilungen "Dynamics of Inequality" is published**

The Special Issue of the WSI-Mitteilungen was edited by the members of the working group "Social, Cultural and Economic Inequalities".

The working group "Social, Cultural and Economic Inequalities" edited the Special Issue 5/2018

"Dynamics of Inequality". The issue includes a variety of articles, discussion pieces concerning status competition and social segregation, right-wing populism, global inequalities, wealth and income inequality, taxation and many more.

The special issue was published on October 1st by Nomos and can be purchased and downloaded as of now.

**Download:**

[WSI Mitteilungen Ausgabe 05/2018](#)

**More information:**

[Working group "Social, Cultural and Economic Inequalities"](#)

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07.05.2018

**Professor at SOCIUM member of the German federal government's pension commission**



Prof. Dr. Simone Scherger

Simone Scherger member of the Commission "Verlässlicher Generationenvertrag" ("Reliable generational contract").

In their coalition contract, the parties of the governing Grand Coalition had agreed upon establishing a governmental commission on pensions. It consists of representatives of employers and trade unions, of members of the Bundestag and academic experts. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs now has appointed this commission consisting of ten members. Simone Scherger from SOCIUM is one of these members.

The aim of the commission is, according to the federal government, to ensure that the German pension system is organized in a just and reliable way for all generations. To this end, it is necessary to ascertain its sustainability and further development with regard to the statutory pension insurance as well as the second and third pension pillars - occupational and private pensions. In the two years to come, the commission is tasked to develop corresponding political options for the years after 2025. On May 3rd, 2018, Federal Minister Hubertus Heil officially appointed the members of the commission. They will start their work in June.

Among the three academic members, Simone Scherger is the only sociologist. Since April 2018 she has been Professor of Sociology with a special focus on social policy and the life course. The professorship is an endowed chair supported by the "Fördernetzwerk Interdisziplinäre Sozialpolitik" of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. In her research, Simone Scherger focuses on the relationship between life courses and social policies. Concrete topics are, for example, the social risks of atypical employment and new family forms, as well as the effects of social policy reforms (for example in the areas of pensions or employment) on individual life courses. Simone Scherger is especially interested in how specific groups - like women, migrants, people partially incapacitated for work, or free lancers and small self-employed - cope with social risks in their daily life styles and biographical decisions. From 2010 to 2017, Simone Scherger was head of the Emmy Noether research group on "Paid employment beyond pension age in Germany and the UK".

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29.06.2017

## **New endowed chair "Life Course Oriented Social Policy" at the University of Bremen**



The funding and support network "Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research (FIS)" run by the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs grants 1.1 million euro in initial funding for the SOCIUM Research Center.

A huge success for the SOCIUM Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy at the University of Bremen: The funding and support network "Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research" approved the application submitted by the Bremen Professor of Sociology, Karin Gottschall, for the provision of an endowed chair titled "Life Course Oriented Social Policy". The chair, embedded in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the SOCIUM research center, will be financed by the FIS with 1.1 million euro for the following five years. Research and teaching under the new chair will focus on the relationship of employment biographies, social policy, and social inequality.

### **Risks in the Life Course**

For decades, the German labor market has been characterized by high and persistent unemployment of specific groups and the increase of insecure employment relations. The idea of continuous employment up until retirement seems to be more and more unrealistic. This topic will rank high on the agenda of our society in the years to come. Against this background, the endowed chair will focus on new and old risks of changed employment relations and ways of life.

Moreover, consequences of recent social political reforms in the labor market and old-age provision in Germany will be investigated in an international comparison. Research will take into account specific groups such as women, people with migration backgrounds, low-wage earners, and the self-employed. Special emphasis will be given to the question of how individuals and groups perceive and address social risks in the life course and in everyday life.

At the same time, the chair will transfer sound sociological knowledge to the public on controversial issues like basic income and poverty risks. It also aims to further sustainable social- and labor-market policies which are sensitive to changing life course demands. The chair's approach promotes the newly established integration of social policy research and sociological inequality research at the SOCIUM and allows for sharpening the profile of interdisciplinary welfare state research at the University of Bremen.

### **The Bremen SOCIUM**

The SOCIUM is nationwide the only social science research institute which empirically and theoretically investigates question of inequality and social policy as well as social and political interdependencies. The focus of this work lies in interdisciplinary research on social, economic, political, cultural, organizational, legal, historical, and social-medical conditions.

### **The funding and support network "Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research"**

The funding and support network "Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research", which was set up in 2016 by the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, funds junior research groups, research projects and endowed chairs with the aim of promoting innovative approaches in social policy research.

### **Further Information:**

[Funding and support network "Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research"](#)

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05.12.2016

## **Muslims and the labor market: social and cultural factors inhibit**

## **employment more than social discrimination**

Ruud Koopmans at the Jour Fixe of the SOCIUM.

On Monday, 14th November 2016, Ruud Koopmans from the Berlin Social Science Center, was a guest at the Jour Fixe lecture series of the SOCIUM. Koopmans reported on his recent study which included interviewing 7000 people in six European countries (France, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland). His result, a hotly debated topic: The problems of employment of Muslims and its lacking integration into the labor market have less to do with social discrimination but more with social and cultural factors.

First of all, Koopmans pointed out the lack of language skills, traditional religiously-defined values and fewer interethnic contacts, which complicate the participation in the labor market for Muslim immigrants in Europe. The most obvious is the labor market participation of Muslim women, where the traditional understanding of gender roles is opposed.

### **Contact:**

Prof. Dr. Celine Teney

16.11.2016

## **Canada's discourse on social inequality and the shift of party-political weights**

Keith Banting lecture in the Jour Fixe of the SOCIUM.

Until the 1990s Canada was a typical re-distributive welfare state unlike to its southerly neighbor. But ever since the 2000s, together with the USA and Switzerland, the country belongs to the countries least redistributing in the OEDC-world. Keith Banting from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario/Canada has not only proved a surprising development but he also offered an explanation: In the last 25 years, the redistribution of party political weights has, until recently, had the consequences that social inequality has not become an important topic of public interest.

Banting pointed out that in recent years liberals as well as conservatives and the new democratic



social policy in a larger sense were defined as "protection of the middle class", which permitted all three to combine very different contents with such policies. Inequality was just one topic among many, so that the Canadian debate is much more diffuse than would be in the case of continental Europe.

**Contact:**

Prof. Dr. Celine Teney

13.09.2016

**Research on the lifestyle of the middle classes at SOCIUM**

A new Project has been approved by the German Research Foundation

Loss of income, educational panic or burn-out problems in the middle classes keep making headlines. The question of whether the middle classes are disturbed in their 'comfort zone' and whether the seemingly self-evident security is no longer valid for their own children is the subject of various and controversial public debates. In fact, little is known about the lifestyle of the middle classes in Germany. Sociologists from various departments of the SOCIUM will now investigate in a research project recently approved by the German Research Foundation (DFG) which events and developments lead to insecurity and how middle class people deal with these irritations.

In the three-year study (funding volume approx. 400,000 euros) with the title "Investing in Status as a Mode of Living: Practices, Conditions, Disturbances" members of different subgroups of the middle class, also in comparison to members of lower classes, are intensively interviewed on several areas of life such as work, partnership, investments to find out to what extent irritations in these areas affect the entire lifestyle.

The study is part of a larger research programme prepared by Uwe Schimank, Betina Hollstein and Karin Gottschall in collaboration with other sociologists at the University of Bremen and beyond. In addition to the qualitative study mentioned above, in which the postdoctoral researchers and doctoral students Nils C. Kumkar, Rixta Wundrak and Stefan Holubek will also be involved, further projects will investigate the lifestyle of the middle classes in a representative, longitudinal and international comparative manner.

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04.07.2016

## **Karin Gottschall member of the new Advisory Board of the “Network Promoting Interdisciplinary Research on Social Policy”**



Prof. Dr. Karin Gottschall

Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Andrea Nahles introduces new measures to

strengthen research activities on social policies and the Welfare state in Germany.

Around 30 percent of the GDP in Germany are produced or consumed by the welfare state. More than 40 percent of the federal budget is allocated to social policies. Nevertheless, due to a reduction in the number of professorships on social policy social scientific research on the welfare state is in decline. The “Network Promoting Interdisciplinary Research on Social Policy”, initiated by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, attempts to reverse this trend. Endowment chairs, promotion of young scholars, financial support for research activities – there is a broad spectrum of possible initiatives which will be supported by various sponsors already starting in 2017/18. The new-established interdisciplinary Advisory Board is primarily tasked with quality management.

In recent years various observers in Germany deplored the declining number and importance of social scientific research on the welfare state while at the same time the political, social and financial importance of social policies increased. Universities changed the designation of new chairs in social sciences. Research institutes realigned their focus. This leads to a major gap in research at a time when social and global developments result in pressing new questions regarding welfare and social justice. In February 2016 the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities organized a conference with sociologists, political scientists, economists, law scholars, historians as well as Christian social ethicists on the question of “Is there a Crisis of Social Policy Research?” in which several members of the SOCIUM participated. One result was the foundation of the “Network Promoting Interdisciplinary Research on Social Policy” based on a funding guideline of the Federal Ministry. The newly established Advisory Board convened on June 2nd, 2016 for its inaugural meeting and discussed funding for different types of research and networking. The program is to be announced by July 2016. Approved research proposals will commence in 2017/18.

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04.05.2016

## Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize awarded to Céline Teney



Sociologist receives most prestigious German award for young scholars.

The Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize, since 1977 jointly awarded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), aims at young scholars pursuing excellent research and providing an independent academic record. Céline Teney has now become part of this illustrious circle. She is one of only ten scholars who have been awarded this honor on May 18th, 2016 in Berlin. Ms Teney works as a sociologist at the SOCIUM and is head of the cooperative junior research group focusing on “Winners of Globalization? A Study on the Emergence of a Transnational Elite in Europe”, funded by the German Excellence Initiative.

The international jury selected the ten laureates among 134 proposals. In the award statement the jury praises the wide scope of Ms Teney’s research as well as her application of various different analytical methods. Her research not only focuses on the highly topical questions of the acculturation of ethnic minorities in modern societies but also on issues of transnationalization of elites and other social groups. Moreover, she works on the explanation of recent electoral successes of right-wing extremist parties, among them the German NPD. The prize is endowed with 20,000 euros.

Céline Teney studied sociology and ethnology at the university in Freiburg i.Br., obtained her PhD in social and political sciences in Brussels and then held positions as a research fellow in Brussels, at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB) and the Center for European Studies at Harvard University before she joined the faculty at the University of Bremen in 2014.

**Further information:**

[Press release of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#): Ten Researchers to Receive Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prizes

[forschung - Das Magazin der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft 1/2016](#): Hohes Potenzial und herausragende Leistungen, 2016/1, pp. 26-27 (in German)

**Contact:**

Prof. Dr. Celine Teney

21.10.2014

**ZeS Working Paper No. 04/2014**

Simone Scherger, Steffen Hagemann: Concepts of Retirement and the Evaluation of Post-Retirement Work. Positions of Political Actors in Germany and the UK

Concepts of retirement and related moral arguments play an important role in debates around pension reform. What retirement is - or should be - varies according to the surrounding welfare culture and an actor's general interests and beliefs.

In this paper, we study the meaning that specific collective actors in Germany and the UK attribute to retirement, and their evaluation of post-retirement work, which is an exception to 'normal' retirement. For this purpose, we examine interviews with experts from unions, employer federations and relevant non-profit organisations which have been conducted in the context of a wider comparative project. Additionally, we draw on policy documents by the same actors. Our

analysis of the interviews and the documents reveals similar retirement concepts among the same kinds of actors across countries: trade unions and at least some non-profit organisations advocate retirement as a social right and as a distinct (ideally work-free) phase of life. In contrast, employers have a less substantial concept of retirement. At the same time, when morally justifying what retirement should be in their view, the actors refer to ideas that establish a connection to the specific welfare culture surrounding them.

**Download:** [ZeS Working Paper 04/2014](#)

17.07.2013

## **Karin Gottschall appointed Vice Dean**

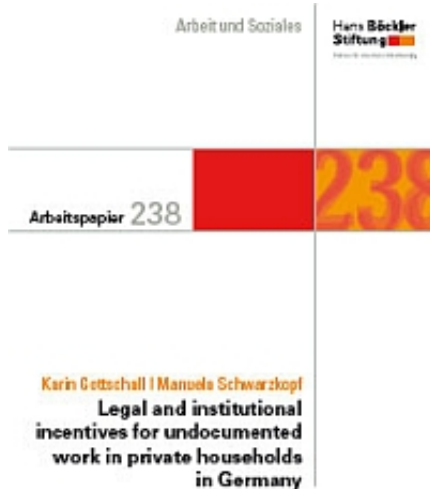
Starting with winter term 2013-14 for Faculty 8 Social Sciences

In the faculty council meeting of June 12, 2013 of faculty 8 Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Bernd Zolitschka was elected Dean. Prof. Dr. Karin Gottschall was proposed and appointed by the council to become Vice Dean. Both will assume office in the upcoming winter term and their appointment will be valid for two years.

03.01.2012

## **Legal and institutional incentives for undocumented work in private households in Germany**





## Legal and institutional incentives for undocumented work in private households in Germany

By Karin Gottschall and Manuela Schwarzkopf

Private households' demand for support in housekeeping, childcare and care of elderly is increasing. In Germany, it is met mainly by undocumented work.

The report shows that this constellation is eased by legal and institutional regulations: Social as well as tax legislation promote a marginal employment of married women. Restrictive rules for additional earnings in the social welfare law and high charges on low wage incomes are often a hindrance to the improvement of welfare recipients' and low-paid workers' precarious economic situation by regular work. Foreigners from a non-EU member state eventually have - due to restrictive immigration legislation - few possibilities to take up legal work in Germany. The interest in regular work might be raised (i.a.) by an increase of the upper limits on additional earning and the promotion of employment which ensures livelihoods in domestic services.

### Publication:

Gottschall, Karin; Schwarzkopf, Manuela, 2011: [Legal and institutional incentives for undocumented work in private households in Germany. Stocktaking and problem-solving approaches](#), 238/2011, Düsseldorf: Hans-Böckler-Stiftung

### Further information and order of the working paper:

[Hans-Böckler-Stiftung](#)

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## **ZeS hosts Emmy Noether Project for Excellent Young Researchers**



from left to right: Steffen Hagemann, Simone Scherger, Anna Hokema, Thomas Lux

The German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) will fund a project on "Paid work beyond retirement age in Germany and Britain", as part of the Emmy Noether programme for excellent young researchers.

Starting from October 2010, an independent junior research group lead by Simone Scherger will study the structures and conditions of paid employment among retirees, its biographical significance, and the collective discourses around old age, paid employment, old age provision and the welfare state.

Until now, paid employment in retirement has been an atypical combination of work, payments from a pension (or several pensions) and old age. This combination is counter to the assumed finality of retirement. The project aims at investigating the forms and conditions of paid employment in retirement in a perspective which compares Germany with Britain. The group will examine the incidence and structures of paid work in retirement, and the biographical constellations in the areas of work and family which lead to retirees engaging in paid work. Furthermore, the biographical significance of this form of work and the framing collective discourses around work, age and old age security will be studied. Comparing Germany and Britain sheds a light on the importance of the underlying welfare state regulations and traditions,

and the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods will facilitate a dialogue between structure oriented and action oriented perspectives.

**Further information:** [German Research Foundation \(Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft\): Emmy Noether Programme](#)

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## **Internationalisation of the Master in Social Policy**

During the winter semester of 2011/12, at the start of the exchange, faculty and students in Bremen were able to welcome the first student from Chapel Hill.

The Master Programme in Social Policy has been a member of a transatlantic student exchange programme since 2010. The Transatlantic Master Program (TAM), initiated by the renowned Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, comprises a consortium of ten European universities. Together the Universities of Chapel Hill, Bremen, Pompeu Fabra/Barcelona and VU Amsterdam cooperate in a so-called 'research track'.

During the winter semester of 2011/12, at the start of the exchange, faculty and students in Bremen were able to welcome the first student from Chapel Hill. In 2012/2013 the programme featured its first guests, including the first female student seeking to complete a degree in

Bremen. A new decisive innovation for the 2013/2014 academic year will allow for a transition to a double degree in TAM/Master Social Policy: students will spend one year in Chapel Hill and one year in Bremen. This is an intensive study program that includes a mandatory internship followed by mutual supervision while writing the master's thesis.

The opportunity to complete an interdisciplinary and European-oriented focus in the field of European Labour Studies is provided starting in the winter semester of 2010/2011 as part of the Master's Programme in Social Policy at the University of Bremen. These include supplementary courses abroad that are implemented in cooperation with foreign partner universities. Students studying at one of the partner universities obtain an international certification in the Master Européen en Sciences du Travail (MEST). With this certificate, acquired skills and competencies in the Master Programme in Social Policy will be expanded with the addition of an international profile.

**More information:**

[European Masters Labour Studies Network](#)

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