

3rd International ESS Conference:
“Understanding key challenges for European societies in the 21st century”
13-15th July 2016, Amphimax, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Call for papers now open

The 3rd International ESS Conference will showcase research that uses data from the European Social Survey (ESS) to address a range of substantive issues highly relevant to European societies. It will bring together ESS data users from around the world and working across a range of disciplines to share ideas, discuss their results and showcase the depth and breadth of research made possible by the ESS.

Papers should address one of the substantive topics covered by the ESS from a comparative perspective either cross-nationally and/or across ESS Rounds. Papers which draw out practical and policy implications of findings are encouraged. The use of complementary data (contextual data or data from other surveys) is welcome.

Papers should be submitted under one of the following themes:

- Immigration
- Labour market, work and family
- Health and well-being
- Welfare and social policy
- Political evaluations and engagement
- Social attitudes, norms and values
- Other societal challenges

Papers may be submitted either to one of the pre-defined sessions (see separate session listing) OR to the open session under the relevant theme.

Abstracts should be submitted by January 17th 2016 through the online submission tool available [here](#).

For your paper to be considered, please submit an extended abstract of up to 500 words (plus 3-5 key words) outlining your research and stating the ESS data the paper is based on.

You will be notified by March 2016 whether your paper has been accepted and for what session. The full conference programme will be announced in April 2016.

Participants must submit papers in advance of the conference to encourage discussion. Papers will be made available online to participants. The deadline for papers is June 30th 2016. Early career researchers may wish to consider submitting their paper for the Jowell-Kaase prize ([see separate call](#)).

For more information about the conference please see the ESS website (www.europeansocialsurvey.org/about/conference) or email ESSconf2016@fors.unil.ch

3rd International ESS Conference:
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 13-15th July 2016, Amphimax, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

List of sessions for call for papers:

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3rd International ESS Conference

Call for papers

Theme: Immigration

Session 1.1

Attitudes to immigration in cross-national perspective

Keywords: immigration, symbolic threat, economic threat, inter-group contact, racism

Session organiser(s): Anthony Heath, Nuffield College, Oxford; Moshe Semyonov, Tel Aviv University and University of Illinois; Anastasia Gorodzeisky, Tel Aviv University; Eldad Davidov, University of Zurich; Anu Masso, ETH Zürich / University of Tartu; Peter Schmidt, Giessen University; Jan Cieciuch, University in Warsaw / University of Zurich

Round 7 of the ESS contained a repeat module of questions on attitudes to immigration. This module replicated many questions from the module fielded in round 1, in 2002/3, thus enabling one to chart changes over a twelve-year period which has seen heightened controversy around immigration. There are repeat questions on attitudes to migrants from different origin regions (European and non-European, richer and poorer countries), on the qualifications for entry (such as education and work skills, speaking the destination-country language, or coming from a Christian background), on refugees, on economic and symbolic threat, and social distance. The module also contains some new questions on attitudes to immigration by Jewish people, Muslims, and Roma, on biological and cultural racism, on different forms of intergroup contact, on fraternal relative deprivation and national attachment.

The proposed session(s) will focus on cross-national differences in overall support for or opposition to immigration, to specific sorts of migrant and to different criteria for entry. Other possible topics for inclusion in the session include change over time, particularly changes specific to certain types of migrant, qualification for entry or destination country.

Given the range of potential explanatory factors in the module, submissions exploring explanatory theories are encouraged. These could include both non-attitudinal determinants (such as intergroup contact) and attitudinal predictors (such as feelings of threat, ideological orientation, strength of national attachment, and racism) as well as interactions between the two types of determinant. In addition to the wide spectrum of micro-level sources of anti-immigrant sentiments, we are interested in contextual (e.g. neighbourhoods, regions, countries) sources of anti-immigrant attitudes which may derive from economic conditions, political context, migration policies or ethnic diversity.

The session(s) will put a special emphasis on the complex interrelationship among the sources of anti-immigrants attitudes. Research practice has often failed to effectively account for the complexity of potential interactions between social structure, institutional arrangements, and agency. The emergence of big data approaches and availability of quantitative analysis software packages have increased the possibilities to perform complex analyses, but they have also led to much research which has been conducted in a non-theoretically driven way, or to research that did not account for problems of incomparability of cross-national datasets. Multilevel modelling, incorporating individual, regional, and national levels and cross-level interactions will therefore be particularly welcome.

We aim at having an interdisciplinary program. Therefore, we invite papers that are grounded in disciplines such as social psychology, sociology, economics, political psychology and political sciences.

[List of sessions](#)

3rd International ESS Conference
Call for papers

Theme: Immigration

Session 1.2

Researching migrants' well-being

Keywords: immigration, well-being, cross-sectional data

Session organiser(s): David Bartram, University of Leicester

This session will feature research that uses European Social Survey (ESS) data to investigate how migration affects the lives of the migrants themselves. Research on migration poses unique challenges in connection with questions of causality: it is very difficult to gain panel data that captures migrants before as well as after migration, and so longitudinal models are not possible. Use of cross-sectional data (such as the ESS) is a necessary compromise – but one must then exercise caution in drawing causal inferences from conventional analyses e.g. standard regression models comparing migrants to stayers (i.e., people who remain in the countries the migrants left). The obvious problem is that if one discerns a difference between migrants and stayers (say, in their willingness to trust others), it is not immediately apparent whether this difference represents a change for the migrants or a pre-existing difference that was somehow associated with their decision to emigrate.

This session thus invites researchers to consider how migrants' lives have changed as a consequence of migration, using techniques that address threats to inference that might arise in use of ESS data. Substantive focus is open, though preference will be given to papers that frame questions in terms of migrants' well-being (broadly conceived). People choose to migrate because they anticipate that doing so will lead them to a better life. The session offers an opportunity to consider whether that expectation is generally fulfilled for migrants moving within Europe (thus voluntary migrants, not refugees/asylum-seekers).

3rd International ESS Conference Call for papers

Theme: Immigration

Session 1.3

Ethnicity and ancestry

Keywords: ethnicity, measurement, identity, diversity, generation

Session organiser(s): Noah Lewin-Epstein, Tel-Aviv University; Anthony Heath, Nuffield College University of Oxford

At the same time that overt multicultural expressions are becoming more visible in many European countries, second and third generation children of immigrants are reshaping the deep structure of these societies. These processes are increasingly being acknowledged as countries come to terms with the fact that they have become ethnically-diverse post-immigration societies. Yet, capturing the ethnic diversity within the population is not a simple matter since ethnicity itself is a rather illusive concept and category. Sociologists typically rely on the Weberian definition referring to "... human groups that entertain a subjective belief in their common descent because of similarities of physical type or of customs or both, or because of memories of colonization and migration" (Weber, 1922). From this perspective ethnic group is a socio-cultural phenomenon much like nation and class. While the measurement of nation and class has been generally accepted, there has been considerable scholarly debate as to whether it is possible or useful to capture the concept of ethnic group in comparative survey research.

It remains true, however, that the richness of ethnic diversity in Europe is captured only partly by official statistics, as pointed out by Simon (2012). These are typically limited to country of birth and country of citizenship which serve as proxies for the national or ethnic groups to which one belongs. Longstanding ethnic or national differences within countries are also made invisible by the focus on country of birth or citizenship. The detailed module on migration and ancestry in round 7 of ESS can greatly enhance our understanding of ethnicity in Europe. This module provides objective information on place of birth and citizenship of the respondent and her/his parents. Importantly, the module also provides information on one's self-definition of ancestry and subjective perceptions of being part of an ethnic minority.

The aim of the proposed session is to encourage and bring together research papers on ethnic identification in European countries; how this is manifested across countries, between generations, and between groups within countries. We welcome research that explores the ways in which manifestations of ethnic identity are related to feelings of exclusion and discrimination as well as methodological papers exploring the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches to measuring ethnicity.

Weber, M (1922) *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology* (2 volume set) (1978 ed. p. 389)
Simon, P. (2012) Collecting ethnic statistics in Europe: a review. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35(8): 1366-1391.

3rd International ESS Conference

Call for papers

Theme: Labour market, work and family

Session 2.1

The quality of work and reconciling work and family life in Europe

Keywords: work-life conflict, well-being, working arrangements, type of households, family policy

Session organiser(s): Frances McGinnity and Helen Russell, ESRI Dublin; Michael Ochsner and Ivett Szalma, FORS Lausanne

A key current challenge for European societies is ensuring good quality jobs that are beneficial for workers and their families. Indeed the relationship between the quality of work, family life and individual well-being has become an increasingly salient issue in both research and policy in Europe. This is related to social changes and trends in both the family sphere (e.g., low fertility rate, growing number of single parents, fathers' involvement in child care and house work) and in the labour market sphere (e.g., growing number of increasing productivity, pressure on wages, job insecurity and increasing number of flexible work arrangements). Such trends vary considerably across European countries, as do policies, attitudes and institutional configurations relating to work and family life. The European Social Survey offers excellent potential to compare the quality of work and work-life conflict in Europe, both from the main questionnaire and the special modules on work and family in ESS 2 and ESS 5.

We invite theoretically-informed empirical papers investigating the quality of work, how work interacts with family life and how work and work-life conflict affect individual well-being. Papers may address key issues regarding quality of work debates such as job control, working time and working time flexibility, health and safety at work, job insecurity, work commitment, work pressure and work-family conflict, as well as issues in the home such as partners' working hours, gender role attitudes, housework hours and family financial difficulties. Papers can also consider how work and family life changes in periods of economic growth and in economic recession. On the macro level we are also interested in how the work and life tensions vary across countries or different types of welfare regimes.

Papers should primarily focus on evidence from the ESS, however additional data can be used, e.g. for comparative reasons or for evidence from a broader range of countries. Given the growing body of research using the ESS, contributors are encouraged to highlight the original contribution of their research to scholarship. Innovative methods and interdisciplinary approaches would be particularly welcome.

3rd International ESS Conference Call for papers

Theme: Labour market, work and family

Session 2.2

Social preferences, institutions and performance in the labour market

Keywords: work attitudes, labour market institutions, unemployment, labour supply, work culture

Session organiser(s): Simone Moriconi, Università Cattolica di Milano

An extensive economics literature associates the bad functioning of the labour market to the persistence of inefficient institutions (unemployment insurance, labour taxation, unionization) and adverse economic shocks (see Arpaia and Mourre [2010] for a review). A related strand points out that aggregate employment outcomes may reflect underlying individual preferences. In-work and job search effort depend on the opportunity cost of enjoying leisure in terms of foregone income. This cost is subjective and can be high e.g. in the presence of a social norm of unemployment (Clark et al. [2010]). Individual perceptions regarding job insecurity are important predictors of own employment probabilities (Dickerson and Green [2012]). Also, individuals' attitudes towards inequality and fairness as opposed to preferences for hard work, personal responsibility and merit may shape policies, thus the characteristics of a country's institutions. Finally, individual risk attitudes shape preferences too, and the view regarding government's commitment towards disadvantaged worker categories.

Notwithstanding their importance, it is widely acknowledged that individual preferences are made of two components. The first component is idiosyncratic, affected by the social and economic context where an individual lives and responsive to external shocks. The second component, is structural, deeply rooted in the past, and may be inherited from past generations through "culture", thus exogenous to other individual decisions e.g. labour supply (see Alesina et al., [2006]; Algan and Cahuc [2007], Alesina and Giuliano [2010], Giavazzi et al., [2013], and Moriconi and Peri [2015]).

Papers in this session will have to tackle the issues sketched above, and will try to answer the following questions. What is the role of individual preferences for important decisions in the labour market (e.g. labour supply, job-search, job mobility etc..)? What is the relationship between preferences and institutions? Does the evolution of preferences shape individual views regarding government intervention in the institutional setting? How does the idiosyncratic component of preferences matter as compared with deep and culturally-transmitted preferences in determining institutional and economic outcomes in the labour market?

References

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- Moriconi, S. and G. Peri [2015] "Country-Specific Preferences and Employment Rates in Europe", *NBER Working Paper* 21561.

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3rd International ESS Conference

Call for papers

Theme: Labour market, work and family

Session 2.3

The effects of entrepreneurship on well-being

Keywords: entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial support, job satisfaction, social recognition, happiness

Session organiser(s): Maria Petrescu, Nova Southeastern University, USA

The key points of entrepreneurship are represented by the capacity to reorganize resources and come up with new products, new methods of production, new sources of supply, new markets or new ways of organization (Hwang and Powell 2005, Schumpeter 1934). We, therefore, consider entrepreneurship as the ability to recognize and take advantages of opportunities on the market in order to produce innovation, new products or new ways of organizing the supplies. It can bring, therefore, significant changes in a country's well-being, economic development and levels of happiness.

Given its importance, there have been many studies in relation to entrepreneurship, from its antecedents, to its effects, many that can be pursued using the European Social Survey. A variety of social factors from entrepreneurial literature has a significant influence an individual's decision to become an entrepreneur (Carter et al. 2003; Dyer 1994; Reynolds 1997). Nevertheless, socially related variables, such as the need for recognition and reputation and approval can be significant entrepreneurial motivators. Family and community support for the entrepreneurial career can also have an impact on career choice, including family, financial, psychological support, community help and recognition (Carter et al. 2003).

Using ESS data, research has shown that individuals who are self-employed have distinct characteristics from those who are running their own small business and have different levels of job satisfaction (Petrescu, 2014). At the same time, many other topics related to entrepreneurship and self-employment can be studied in relation to its beneficial impacts on a society, the well-being of the individual and the overall well-being of the country, as well as in connection to the evolution of the always difficult balance work/family. All these topics can be analyzed through studies performed using the very useful European Social Survey.

This session intends to discuss of papers taking into consideration different types of well-being, including individual and country level, and a comparison of its evolution across ESS rounds, and their relation with policy changes.

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Call for papers

Theme: Health and well-being

Session 3.1

Comparative health research: studying health and illness cross-nationally and over time

Keywords: comparative research, health inequalities, cross-national, temporal variation, repeated cross sectional design

Session organiser(s): Sarah Van de Velde, University of Antwerp; Veerle Buffel, Ghent University

In this session we focus on comparative research on social disparities in physical and/or mental health, across countries, and across time in Europe. Attention may be paid to disparities by gender, age, family or socioeconomic position. Identifying in which institutional context and/or period, these health disparities occur and exploring their relation with specific social policies (such as family, health care, and labour market related policies) may improve the understanding of the phenomena. Therefore, we welcome cross-national research exploring health inequalities across different institutional contexts at different levels, such as the country and/or the regional level. In addition, we encourage researchers to submit research that additionally incorporates the temporal variation in health. The repeated cross sectional design of the ESS enables the exploration of age trajectories, cohort differences and/or periodical trends in health inequalities. The ESS has seven waves (since 2002 every two years) with information about the general health status, and three waves (wave 3, 6 and 7) with information on mental health.

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Call for papers

Theme: Health and well-being

Session 3.2

Health inequalities in Europe and their social determinants

Keywords: health, health inequalities, social determinants, sociology

Session organiser(s): Courtney McNamara, Norwegian University of Science and Technology; Terje Eikemo, Norwegian University of Science and Technology;
In partnership with: Mirza Balaj, Norwegian University of Science and Technology; Tim Huijts, Queen Mary University London; Clare Bamba, Durham University

Social inequalities in health continue to be a key public health problem in European countries. They also represent an area of increasing interest to public health researchers, medical sociologists and social epidemiologists. This session aims to assemble top papers which test theories of health inequalities through use of the ESS rotating module 'Social inequalities in health and their determinants'. This new rotating module incorporates a broader set of comparable European health determinants and more nuanced health outcomes than has previously been available. Papers will be selected so that a range of health outcomes (e.g., mental health, BMI, self-reported diagnoses) and social determinants (e.g., childhood conditions, working environment, psychosocial factors, and lifestyle factors) are considered. Comparative studies as well as single-country case studies focusing on determinants of health inequalities will be welcome. Preference however, will be given to studies which draw on a cross-national macrosociology of population health.

An additional objective of this session is to produce a set of papers for an edited book on social inequalities in health. Participants will therefore be asked to submit elaborated papers for discussion.

3rd International ESS Conference
Call for papers

Theme: Welfare and social policy

Session 4.1

Public attitudes towards the welfare state and its institutions: Cross-cultural commonalities and differences

Keywords: welfare, institutional performance, cross-cultural studies

Session organiser(s): Michael Ochsner, FORS, Lausanne; Wim van Oorschot, KU Leuven

There is a wealth of research on welfare states and policies in the OECD countries, mainly focusing on Western countries. Most research uses institutional data or data on public attitudes towards general issues distinguishing different welfare regimes and linking them to, amongst others, economic performance, issues of poverty, family and work organisation, historical events, or notions of solidarity. However, knowledge on public attitudes towards the welfare states and the performance of its institutions is much scarcer yet none the less important. Public attitudes on the welfare state shed light on the legitimacy of welfare expenditure and opinions on the performance of welfare institutions can put attitudes towards the welfare state in context revealing the perception of the welfare state's output. This makes it possible to relate the respondents' ideal world (preferences for the welfare state) to their perception of the real world (performance of welfare institutions).

Therefore, in this session, we put the focus on public attitudes towards the welfare state as well as towards the performance of its institutions. Specifically, we put an emphasis on cross-cultural commonalities and differences of such attitudes shedding light on diverging as well as converging trends of such public attitudes across cultures and countries. We are interested in papers exploiting the ESS welfare data in innovative ways or combining ESS welfare data with other data (e.g., comparing ESS data with other sources of public attitudes towards the welfare state, combining ESS data with institutional or country/region-level data, or relating public attitudes towards the welfare state with other attitudinal or behavioural data).

Given the integration of former East European countries into the EU on the one hand and the growing tensions between Europe and some Eastern European countries (e.g., Russia, the Ukraine, and to some extent Hungary) on the other hand, we specifically, but not exclusively, encourage papers focusing on differences and commonalities between Eastern and Western Europe, unravelling some sources and patterns of mutual understanding and cooperation as well as potential conflict.

3rd International ESS Conference
Call for papers

Theme: Political evaluations and engagement

Session 5.1

“Democracy”, democracies, and their critics: European citizens investigated

Keywords: democracy, political support, citizens’ evaluations, Europe

Session organiser(s): Mónica Ferrín, University of Zürich; Pedro Magalhães, University of Lisbon

Democracy matters, in the view of many people in the world. Yet democracy is also highly imperfect, according to its many critics, even the most sympathetic ones. What about European democracies? How critical are European citizens with the functioning of their democratic regimes? How well have European democracies responded to the demands of their citizens? In 2012, the European Social Survey conducted a new module on ‘Europeans’ Understandings and Evaluations of Democracy’. This new module contains a battery of questions specifically designed to measure both Europeans’ conceptions of what “democracy” should be and their evaluations of how their democracies work in practice, and provides a precise instrument to assess the health of European democracies according to its citizens. Critically, this ESS module has been implemented during a severe economic crisis in Europe, which has strongly challenged democratic performance in Europe and led many to protest in the streets around the common call for more democracy.

This new module allows therefore for the investigation of a number of questions which have to date been only partially examined by scholars of political support. Is there a common understanding of democracy among all Europeans? Which aspects are crucial in citizens’ evaluations of their democratic systems? How legitimate are European democracies in the eyes of their citizens? How (and how much) do democratic attitudes influence citizens’ political participation? In this session, we welcome papers that make use of Round 6 of the European Social Survey to explore these and other questions. In addition to substantive contributions, we welcome methodological papers which engage in critical evaluation of the module on democracy, both conceptually and empirically.

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Call for papers

Theme: Political evaluations and engagement

Session 5.2

Protest trends in post-recession Europe

Keywords: protest, economic recession, political activism, public opinion

Session organiser(s): Francesca Vassallo, University of Southern Maine, USA

Citizen activism since the global recession has skyrocketed. Europe has witnessed an increased level of unconventional political engagement since the 2008 financial collapse. Citizens in multiple countries have expressed their disappointment and anger at political governments over the economic choices made. Participation levels at demonstrations, street protests, boycotts and square occupations across Europe have risen, as new popular movements (from the Indignados in Spain to Syriza in Greece) become well known and new political actors.

Scholars have published research on this new level of citizen activism, yet very few works have employed empirical, quantitative and micro level data to support first impressions of mass protest across Europe. This session invites proposals for papers investigating protest activism in Europe since the 2008 economic collapse using multiple rounds of the ESS datasets. In particular, studies focusing on cross country analyses as well as longitudinal investigations are encouraged. Possible topics of research include a focus on the new relevance of economic indicators to predict protest, on the dominance of socio-demographic characteristics to understand why individuals choose unconventional political action at this time, on the evolution of contentious activism vs. conventional participation in European countries since the economic crisis, and on the increased use of social media activism to plan and execute protest participation.

The final goal for this session of papers is to provide answers about a possible change among citizens in their selection of political participation options: if Europeans are indeed more prone to protest after the 2008 economic downturn than before, typical political actors, such as political parties, will have to adapt to the new preferred channels of activism and embrace unconventionality more, together with new forms of activism communication (social media and online grass-roots campaigns).

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3rd International ESS Conference

Call for papers

Theme: Political evaluations and engagement

Session 5.3

Divided perspectives on engagement of young people and adults in Europe

Keywords: citizenship, political evaluations, engagement, participation

Session organiser(s): Daniel Oross and Péter Róbert, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

The extreme social upheaval witnessed during the early decades of the 21st Century has impacted on the lives of citizens in significant ways. Therefore both their attitudes to politics, their levels of engagement with political systems that are responsible for shaping their lives have changed substantially. The global economic crisis has had specific direct impacts upon young citizens¹, they are most likely to face unemployment, unstable career prospects, and so feel alienated and disenfranchised from their societies. Although politicians and academics have pointed to the fact that young people are increasingly disengaged from conventional politics and papers have been published about different aspects of this topic, young peoples' perspectives and generational differences are rarely taken into account simultaneously. Is there a generational cleavage concerning the perspectives on engagement among young people and adults in Europe?

A multitude of factors shape engagement (e.g. education, social status, economic circumstances, trust in politicians, interest in civic affairs, to list some of the factors described in literature) and there are many steps which can be taken by a wide range of political and social actors to enhance, encourage and support citizens in developing appropriate patterns of civic and political participation therefore political evaluations and evidence-based policy recommendations can assist political and social actors to contribute towards this goal. This panel takes up different perspectives of adults and young people on engagement that include aspects of psychology, political sciences, sociology, as well as social policy and education.

Using data issued by the European Social Survey, the panel welcomes papers dealing with the aspect of political participation and engagement of the European Social Survey. Papers which utilize additional European datasets such as the European Values Study or the ISSP are especially welcome. Preference will be given to papers that (1) make use of advanced statistical techniques (2) compare periods before and after the crisis by employing earlier and more recent rounds of the data.

Contributions building on rich empirical evidence are encouraged. The session requires participants to submit papers for discussion; a journal special issue is planned after revising the submissions on the ground of the comments in the conference.

¹ Following the categorization of Eurostat young people are defined as persons aged between 15-29 years.

3rd International ESS Conference
Call for papers

Theme: Political evaluations and engagement

Session 5.4

Politics, parenthood and family

Keywords: political engagement, social and political attitude, family, gender, parenthood

Session organiser(s): Susan Banducci and Dan Stevens, University of Exeter, UK

Becoming a parent dramatically affects the lives of men and women—introducing salient new social roles and identities, altered social networks, tighter finances and greater stress, as well as the joy of having a child. Even though modern family life has evolved in many important respects, parenthood continues to shape the lives of men and women in very different ways, typically reinforcing traditional gender roles and behaviours. Scholars in a range of disciplines have explored the effects of parenthood and find that becoming a parent has important impacts on broad life orientations such as happiness and psychological well-being, and that these effects significantly vary by gender. Given that parenthood changes the lives of men and women in profound, and profoundly different ways it seems likely that raising a child would bring about changes in the way women and men think about and engage in politics and policy issues. These differences are also likely to vary in important ways cross culturally – under different welfare regimes that provide different levels of support for parents and families and different cultural contexts that perceive the roles of mothers and fathers differently. Yet, until recently, parenthood, and the distinctions of motherhood and fatherhood across countries, has been overlooked in most studies of public opinion and political behaviour. For this session, we seek papers based on ESS data focusing on the role of parenthood in explaining cross-national variations in any aspect of political behaviour.

3rd International ESS Conference

Call for papers

Theme: Social attitudes, norms and values

Session 6.1

The European project and European values: convergence or divergence?

Keywords: norms, values, attitudes, European Union, Eurozone, convergence, divergence

Session organiser(s): Pepijn van Houwelingen, Dutch Institute for Social and Cultural Research

The European (monetary) Union (euro) is entering a critical period. It is by now widely recognized that a monetary union, to succeed, requires a political union. A prerequisite however for a successful and viable political union is the existence of shared social attitudes, norms and values among the countries that constitute a political union. Do these shared social attitudes, norms and values exist as far as the European Union and especially the Eurozone are concerned?

European countries and especially those that constitute the Eurozone have converged institutionally since the outbreak of the euro crisis forced (some of) them to implement reforms. But what about a possible convergence in attitudes, norms and values? Longitudinal ESS data that can be traced back before the beginning of the euro crisis should allow researchers to investigate if the social attitudes, norms and values in the different European countries have converged, diverged or remained the same. Of special interest, of course, is the research question whether or not, since the euro crisis, social attitudes, norms and values in Eurozone countries have started to converge more and at a faster pace compared to European countries that are not a part of the Eurozone.

Papers should be based on empirical analysis and participants are encouraged to draw policy recommendations especially as far as the possibility for a monetary or political European Union are concerned. Have countries, within the Eurozone become more similar to one another, especially after the outbreak of the euro crisis, as far as their social attitudes, norms and values are concerned, compared to the countries within the European Union at large? And what are the implications, based on the differences in norms, values and attitudes that (still) exist, for the future of the European project in general and the possibilities for a political union in particular? Those who would like to present a paper are asked to provide their discussion papers ahead of the conference so as to facilitate lively and informed panel discussions.

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3rd International ESS Conference

Call for papers

Theme: Social attitudes, norms and values

Session 6.2

Mapping Europe: is the concept of East and West Europe still relevant?

Keywords: cleavages in Europe, social indicators, political culture, demographic trends, social stratification

Session organiser(s): Anna Andreenkova, CESSI (Institute for Comparative Social Research), Russia

In both theoretical and empirical research, Europe is often divided by an “East” - “West” line. This division is not purely geographic and has long historical, political and economic roots. Derived from the separation of West (Catholic) and East (Orthodox) Christian church in early Middle Ages, the concepts “Eastern” and “Western Europe” appeared in the academic literature in the XIX century, emphasizing economic as well as ethnic, religious and linguistic differences between two parts of Europe. After the Second World War the division into Eastern and Western Europe became the dominant discourse among the political and academic communities describing differences in socio-economic and political systems as well as military alliances.

In the last twenty years, however, rapid changes had taken place in economic structures, international relations, political institutions, communication and the attitudes and values of people across Europe. The traditional division lines cannot be taken for granted anymore. Some scholars argue that East and West Europe gradually converge especially if considering demographic and family structure, cultural aspects and lifestyles. Moreover, Eastern Europe is also no longer considered as a homogenous region but rather as a collection of very different units. Nevertheless, many research show that large differences between East and West Europe still persist and this division has strong explanatory power.

There is a need for new empirical evidence and theorizing about the relevance of the concepts of East and West Europe in academic and political debates. The ESS provides the data to analyse changes in social attitudes, values and behaviour across countries. It can serve as a basis for further discussion how the map of Europe can best be understood by social scientists in the XXI century.

In this session we propose to examine in which areas the division of Europe into East and West still fruitful for academic and policy debates and in which areas the salience of this division diminished or even disappeared using the empirical analysis of ESS data. We will concentrate on four main social domains – demographic trends and family, social stratification and labour relations, political attitudes and behaviour and general life values, environmental attitudes and attitudes toward equality and social solidarity. We welcome papers from scholars working in either East or West Europe (or collaborations between the two) and from different disciplines.

3rd International ESS Conference
Call for papers

Theme: Social attitudes, norms and values
Session 6.3

Attitudes towards homosexuality and experiences of same-sex couples

Keywords: lesbian, gay, attitudes, well-being, health

Session organiser(s): Lisette Kuyper, The Netherlands Institute for Social Research | SCP

The political, societal and scientific attention directed towards lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals is sharply increasing. Many national governments, but also the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, The Fundamental Rights Agency, and the European Commission addressed these issues in recent statements, resolutions, and directives. The number of scientific papers addressing LGB issues is also on the rise.

Two topics are frequently addressed in scientific studies and the societal debate: population attitudes towards LGB individuals and the position of LGB individuals in today's society. The ESS data can enhance our understanding in both areas. First of all, the ESS includes a measure on the attitude towards gay men and lesbians. This provides the opportunity to address cross-country differences in attitudes and trends in these attitudes over time. It also allows for examining the association between attitudes toward gay men and lesbian women with other social values and norms, changing sociodemographics, and the interplay between legislation and attitudes. The data can also be used to explain the differences between countries and the developments over time. Secondly, the ESS data includes an item on the gender of one's partner. Although these questions receive less attention in scientific papers, it might provide researchers with the opportunity to address differences in social capital, health, and well-being between same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

The current session calls for papers addressing the attitudes towards gay men and lesbian women as well as differences in the position of same-sex couples versus opposite-sex couples in areas such as health, well-being, social capital, and other important life domains. Presentations can address differences in attitudes between countries, developments over time, and associated factors. Presentations on the interplay between societal attitudes and the position of same-sex couples in European societies are also encouraged.

3rd International ESS Conference
Call for papers

Theme: Social attitudes, norms and values
Session 6.4

**Social innovativeness and social progress in comparative perspective:
Findings from the ESS**

Keywords: social innovation, social progress, comparison, culture

Session organiser(s): Michael Hoelscher, German University for Administrative Sciences Speyer; Georg Mildenerger, University of Heidelberg; Eva Bund, University of Heidelberg; Ulrike Gerhard, University of Heidelberg

Current research claims that social innovations are probably as important for social progress and societies' wellbeing as are technological innovations. Societal challenges such as the climate change, poverty, social inequalities, or growing migration flows require new solutions or rethinking of established practices at the global, national, or local level. This raises growing interest, both in science as well as by governments, for empirical evidence of preparedness towards and outcomes of social innovations. However, as the field is quite new, no empirical approaches for measuring social innovativeness exist (Ametowobla, Baur & Jungman 2015; Moris et al. 2008; Howaldt et al. 2014; Roth, Müller & Wetzel). One definition of social innovation comprising most of the points mentioned in literature regularly, though, is the following one: "Social innovations are new solutions (products, services, models, markets, processes, etc.) that simultaneously meet a social need (more effectively than existing solutions) and lead to new or improved capabilities and relationships and/or better use of assets and resources. In other words, social innovations are both good for society and enhance society's capacity to act" (The Young Foundation 2012: 18). The satisfaction of social needs and the stimulation of social progress are at the core of social innovation as outlined in the definition. However, "preparedness for social innovations" (e.g. Bund et al. 2015, Krlev et al. 2014) not only depends on political innovation strategies, rather is even more related to societal values, attitudes, and beliefs in the society as a whole.

The European Social Survey (ESS) as the main source for European comparative data on these issues provides a good basis for testing these claims of social innovation. It is a suitable data basis to measure not only the value-related readiness towards social innovation rather also dimensions of its outcomes, i.e. social progress.

We therefore invite papers that use the wide range of cultural and social indicators included in the ESS to measure dimensions of social innovativeness and social progress. Potential research questions might be, but are not limited to:

- How can theoretically derived dimensions of social innovativeness and social progress be measured with the ESS?
- To what extent can social value systems explain social progress at the regional and/or national level?
- Which cultural specifics have to be taken into account when aiming at measuring social innovativeness and social progress?
- How is social innovativeness and innovation related to social progress and wellbeing?
- How can ESS-data be combined with other data sources of social indicators to reflect dimensions of the concept of social innovation?

The aim of the session is to discuss the issue of social innovation and progress from different angles, gaining from substantive-methodological synergies, thereby fostering theoretical and methodological progress.

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Please submit an abstract of up to 500 words outlining your main research questions and its expected contribution to the aim of the session.

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3rd International ESS Conference Call for papers

Theme: Other societal challenges

Session 7.1

European attitudes in global perspective

Keywords: Social attitudes, global comparisons, analytical challenges

Session organiser(s): Rory Fitzgerald, City University London

The European Social Survey (ESS) provides an unparalleled source of cross-national survey data with which to explore attitudes, values and beliefs across more than 30 European countries. Given the diversity of cultures, societies and institutions represented, significant insights can be gained from the intra-European comparisons facilitated by the ESS, either through studying differences between individual countries or between different regions or country groupings.

There is also interest in looking further afield and considering how the European experience compares to that in other parts of the world. How and why might European attitudes and values differ from those in other parts of the world? To what extent are differences within Europe greater or smaller than those between Europe and the rest of the world? Are there instances where historical cultural or political ties between European and non-European countries have led to long-standing similarities in attitudes and values across continental boundaries? Making these broader comparisons has the potential to tell us more about the way societies work and the possible cultural, historical, geographical and institutional drivers of public attitudes and behaviour.

Such global comparisons may be facilitated in a number of ways. Questions fielded on the ESS have been included on high quality surveys outside of Europe. Examples include the General Social Survey (GSS) in the USA, which has fielded the Schwartz Human Values Scale, and the South African Social Attitudes survey, which recently fielded ESS questions on health inequalities and attitudes to democracy. Global surveys such as the International Social Survey Programme often cover similar topics to the ESS and, for some topics, may have questions that are sufficiently similar to ESS items to facilitate comparison.

In this session we invite papers that use the ESS in combination with other national or international surveys to investigate how social attitudes in one or more European countries compare with those in other parts of the world. Papers may make comparisons on any of the topics covered by the ESS. The ESS should provide the main source of European data with other surveys contributing data from outside Europe. In addition to providing descriptive results, papers will be expected to a) provide a theoretical and/or empirical rationale for why the particular comparison chosen is of interest b) hypothesise about the possible drivers (cultural, economic, demographic, institutional etc.) of any differences observed between Europe and other parts of the world. The primary focus of papers should be substantive but participants should touch on the analytical challenges of comparing and combining data across different survey programmes.

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