

4th International ESS Conference

Turbulent times in Europe: Instability, insecurity and inequality

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F1. Bridging ESS and EVS to study social attitudes, norms and values in a troubled Europe

Europe is facing times of instability, insecurity, and increasing social inequality. The working conditions of the Europeans are still scarred by the last recession, visible in high unemployment rates especially in the Southern European countries. The refugee crisis divides Northern and Southern Europe; terrorism threats became part of social life. Events as the Brexit referendum, the rise of extreme-right wing parties in many national elections, the polarization of politics, the uncertain government formation in countries like Germany and Italy, cause political uncertainty in many European countries, often fed by populism and skepticism towards political institutions as well towards information sources. In these times of permanent global social change and dramatic transformations in Europe, the question about value changes is immanent.

Cross-sectional surveys in Europe such as the European Social Survey (ESS) and the European Values Study (EVS), support scholars aiming at studying human values in comparative perspective, both across countries and over time, by providing high quality data concerning several life domains. The ESS collects data through rotating modules every 2 years since 2002 in a varying number of countries (the maximum was 31 participating countries in 2008), while the EVS investigates the Europeans' values since 1981 in more than 40 countries every 9 years (the maximum was 47 participating countries in 2008).

While keeping their different goals and identities, these two programmes provide measures to investigate common dimensions in the domains of social and institutional trust; political participation; life satisfaction and happiness; national identity; religiosity; attitudes towards immigration, gender roles, climate change, welfare, and others. Scholars often exploit this commonality to enlarge the coverage of their studies, for example combining the datasets to obtain a longer time-series or a larger number of countries.

This session welcomes papers that adopt the combined use of ESS and EVS in the comparative study of values including the domains of family, work, and well-being, religiosity and national identity, politics, environment and climate change, welfare, social inequalities. Particularly appreciated are papers investigating the potential bridging of EVS measures and ESS items from methodological perspective, focusing on issues such as (but not limited to): comparative demographics; data harmonization; measurement equivalence; strategies to combine data from different (individual level) data sets.

Keywords:

European Social Survey (ESS), European Values Study (EVS)

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