

Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (FISS)

2017 Conference – Call for Papers

'RESPONDING TO MANY CHALLENGES: THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY'

5-7 June 2017 – Sigtuna, Sweden

The **Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (FISS)** is pleased to invite paper proposals for its 24th International Conference to be held on 5-7 June 2017 at the Sigtunahöjden conference centre in Sigtuna, Sweden.

This year's conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on how social security systems are responding to the many challenges they face, including growing inequality, the adverse impacts of poverty in all its dimensions, the equitable treatment of vulnerable groups, the changing nature of work, the aftermath of the financial crisis, and political uncertainty and instability. How are these factors impacting on social security systems and what reforms are being implemented to address them? What role can research play in identifying problems and designing solutions? What can individual countries learn from the experience of others about how to understand the nature of current problems, their underlying causes and the effectiveness of alternative solutions? Is there a need to explore more radical solutions to what appear to be a growing number of complex problems?

As in the past, the conference will provide a robust but relaxed forum for researchers and policy makers to come together to discuss these and other issues related to the design, financing, delivery and impact of social security provisions - broadly defined to include health care systems.

Keynote speakers:

- **Philippe Van Parijs** - Hoover Chair of Economic and Social Ethics, Catholic University of Louvain
- **Elsa Fornero** - Professor of Economics, University of Turin
- **Qin Gao** - Associate Professor of Social Policy and Social Work, Columbia University
- **John Hudson** - Professor of Social Policy, University of York

FISS welcomes submissions containing the title of the paper, the name(s) and affiliation(s) of author(s) and an **Abstract** of between 200 and 300 words by **24 March 2017**. Submissions should be sent as an email attachment to the FISS Conference organisers at the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy (University of Antwerp) at the following address: julie.vinck@uantwerpen.be. Authors will be informed of whether or not their paper has been accepted no later than **21 April 2017**.

More information is available at the [FISS website](#).

The **FISS/Intersentia Best Paper Prize** will be awarded to the contributed paper assessed as best from among those presented at the conference. Judging will be conducted by a sub-set of the FISS Board of Governors who will be attending the conference. The winner will receive 500 Euros and the paper will be published in *The European Journal of Social Security* (subject to satisfying the journal's refereeing process).

Peter Saunders & Bea Cantillon
FISS President & Secretary General

Keynote speakers:



Philippe Van Parijs - Hoover Chair of Economic and Social Ethics
Catholic University of Louvain

Philippe Van Parijs studied philosophy, law, political economy, sociology and linguistics at Saint Louis University (Brussels) and at the Universities of Louvain, Oxford, Bielefeld and California (Berkeley). He holds doctorates in the social sciences (Louvain, 1977) and in philosophy (Oxford, 1980). He teaches at the Universities of Louvain, Saint Louis as well as the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a member of Belgium's Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts and of the European Academy of Arts and Sciences. He holds an honorary doctorate from Laval University (Québec). In 2001, he was awarded the Francqui Prize, Belgium's most generous scientific prize, and in 2011 the Arkprijs voor het Vrije Woord. In 1986, he was one of the founders of the Basic Income European Network (BIEN), which became in 2004 the Basic Income Earth Network, and he chairs its International Board.



Elsa Fornero - Professor of Economics
University of Turin

Elsa Fornero is Professor of Economics at the University of Turin, Scientific Coordinator of the Center for Research on Pensions and Welfare Policies at Collegio Carlo Alberto, Vice President of SHARE and Research Fellow at IZA and Netspar. She served as Minister of Labour, Social Policies and Equal Opportunities in Italy's technocratic government (16 November 2011- 28 April 2013) and in this capacity conceived and drafted the pension reform and labour market reform that were fundamental to a) the subsequent lifting of the EU excessive deficit procedure against Italy and b) a process of long term rebalancing of economic relationships between generations, from the middle aged to the younger ones. She has published widely on issues related to public and private pension systems, pension reforms, population ageing, household saving, retiring choices and life insurance.



Qin Gao - Associate Professor of Social Policy and Social Work
Columbia University

Qin Gao is an Associate Professor at the Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW) and a Faculty Affiliate of the Columbia Population Research Center and Weatherhead East Asian Institute. She is also an Academic Board Member of the China Institute for Income Distribution at Beijing Normal University and a Public Intellectual Fellow of the National Committee on United States-China Relations. Before joining the faculty of CSSW, she was a Professor and Coordinator of International Initiatives at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. Her research focuses on low-income families and children in China, the US, and other countries, with an emphasis on rural-to-urban migrants in China and Asian immigrants in the US.



John Hudson – Professor of Social Policy
University of York

John Hudson has worked at the University of York since 1998. He was Head of Social Policy/Deputy Head of Social Policy & Social Work from 2009-2014 and is currently the Co-Director of the Centre for Research in Comparative and Global Social Policy within the Department of Social Policy & Social Work. He is specialised in comparative analysis of the politics of social policy and has published widely on related themes. He is currently involved in research projects about an examination of the impact of culture on welfare states (ESRC), an analysis of the impact of cash and in-kind benefits on child well-being outcomes (OECD), an international comparison of inequalities in child well-being (UNICEF), and a review of historical evolution of attitudes to the welfare state (Shelter).