

Call for Papers

## **Politics and Public Policies in Ageing Societies Establishing a New Research Field**

Date: 24-25 July 2008

Place: Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne (MPIFG)

Organiser: Achim Goerres

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 January 2008

Many societies are currently experiencing ageing processes that fundamentally change their social make-up. These processes pose new challenges and opportunities for policy-makers and alter the politics of these societies. So far, political scientists have only analysed some political aspects of these large-scale changes without trying to establish a broad research agenda. The topics of this potential agenda could come from a cross-section of political science and related disciplines: political sociology, political economy, comparative politics, political theory, public policy analysis and others.

This two-day workshop will bring together a group of scholars who are interested in the politics and public policies of ageing societies. There are three objectives: (1) to present and discuss a series of papers, (2) to develop a research agenda of this emerging field, (3) to lay the foundations for an international network of scholars.

Papers are invited on all conceptual and empirical aspects of politics and/or public policies of ageing societies. They should address questions dealing with the impact of changing demographic profiles of ageing societies on politics and public policies and vice versa – preferably from an internationally comparative viewpoint.

Potential themes could be the following:

1. Policy constraints and advanced welfare states: What are feasible policy reforms in ageing welfare states?
2. Comparative analysis of political consequences of ageing in “young” and “old” societies: To what extent are the consequences of ageing in relatively young societies, such as India, similar or different to the ones in relatively old societies, such as the European societies?
3. Intergenerational relationships: What set of policies are desirable and feasible to generate intergenerational justice?
4. Changing demos: What do individuals want in an ageing society?
5. New political actors and adaptation strategies of established ones: What impact do old-age interest groups have? How do political parties and trade unions deal with the challenges and opportunities of ageing societies?
6. Empirical democratic theory: Do democracies in ageing societies work similarly to democracies in other demographic contexts?
7. Regional variations: What are regional variations in the political impact of ageing?
8. Public policy and demography: What impact do policies have on fertility and family formation and vice versa?

Proposals containing the title, name(s) of author(s), institutional affiliation(s) and an abstract of a maximum of 300 words should be submitted by e-mail to the organiser. In addition, submitters should provide a few keywords on their research interests in the area of politics and public policies in ageing societies.

Deadline for submission: 15 January 2008. Decisions will be taken shortly after that.

The MPIfG can pay for travel costs of scholars coming from within Europe and for two nights of accommodation. The number of funded attendees is limited to 12. We would especially like to encourage early-career researchers to submit proposals.

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