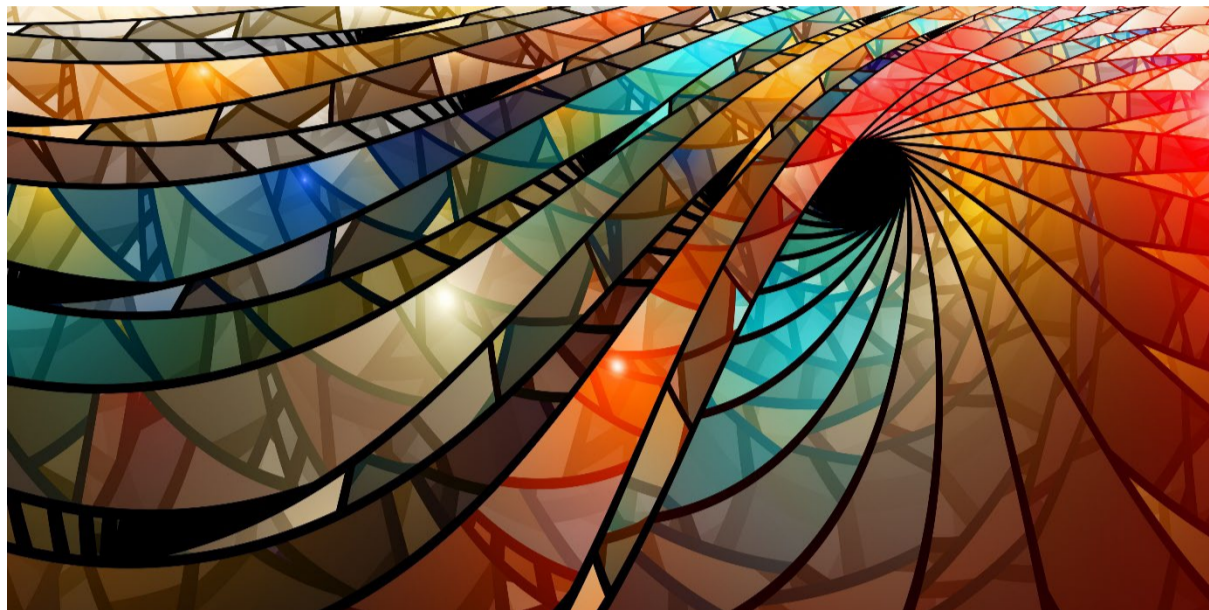


INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG, 3 - 4 NOVEMBER 2023

STA 0.106, RTE DES BONNESFONTAINES 11, CH - 1700 FRIBOURG



THE TROUBLE WITH TRUST: RELIGION, SOCIAL COHESION AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Social trust is central for societies to thrive and to meet today's social and economic challenges (OECD 2017). At no time has this become clearer than during the Covid-pandemic (Cairney/Wellstead 2020). But how social trust works is often quite perplexing. How is it that Sweden embarked on a controversial public health strategy during the pandemic and yet, citizens' trust in the government and public institutions remained high, whereas many other countries, adopting more cautious and protective measures, have seen trends of decreasing trust-levels? Recent studies have pointed to the positive effects of large and efficient public welfare sectors in creating high levels of social trust (Rothstein & Stolle 2008; Bergh & Bjørnskov 2011). Others point to the importance of Lutheran traditions in shaping 'trust societies' that allowed for the formation of extensive welfare states (Naumann & Paterson 2020; Stopa 2020). The snag is that only a handful of small nations in the North of Europe boast such welfare systems with predominantly public welfare provision, and with Lutheranism as majoritarian religious tradition. Most other societies in the world rely more heavily on other institutions than the state for welfare – the family, civil society and the market – and in most societies, other religious orientations are more dominant, whether actively practiced or as historical backdrop.

While drawing on insights about the positive nexus between social trust and social policy in the "Nordic model", this symposium aims to move beyond Nordic exceptionalisms and, from a global perspective, asks fundamental questions about the connections (and rifts) between public and institutional legitimacy and different forms of societal cooperation in the organization and delivery of social welfare in different societies. We will explore the links and conflicts between religion, society and the state in the formation of modern, mature and developing welfare systems, starting from the assumption that religion has played, and still plays, a multi-faceted role in shaping social relations, welfare institutions and practices: for example, Islamic traditions can be a source of collective Zakat-based welfare in the context of strong distrust in state institutions; Confucian orientations may underpin social acceptance of institutional authority while dampening support for social welfare policies; the strengthening of new religious movements such as Pentecostalism in South Africa or Latin America may open new social cleavages and question established welfare arrangements; while secularized "cultural religion" may still play a central role in shaping citizen-state relations and the public/private welfare mix in mature European welfare systems.

This symposium brings together scholars and early career researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds (sociology, political science, history, theology, religious studies, anthropology) and different parts of the world, to share their research on various aspects of the interplay between religion, society and social policy, in different national contexts and from historical and contemporary perspectives. Over the course of two days, the symposium seeks to explore the diverse religious influences on the development of welfare systems in comparative perspective, as well as discuss the interactions and tensions between different religions and other social groups with respect to social cohesion and social welfare in today's pluralist multi-faith societies. The symposium will offer a unique opportunity for international and interdisciplinary exchange and shared intellectual reflection.

Organized by:

Prof. Dr. Ingela Naumann / Departement für Sozialarbeit, Sozialpolitik und globale Entwicklung /Bereich Soziologie, Sozialpolitik, Sozialarbeit
(www.unifr.ch/sopa)

PROGRAMME

Friday, 03.11.2023

- 09:00 – 09:15** Welcome
- 09:15 – 09:45** Introduction: Religion, social cohesion and welfare systems
Prof. Dr Ingela Naumann, University of Fribourg, Department of Social Work, Social Policy and global Development
- 09:45 – 10:15** Trust your neighbour as yourself: Theological influence on the historic development of Nordic trust cultures
Dr Sasja Stopa, Aarhus University, Department of Theology
- 10:15 – 10:45** The Lutheran household state and the Social Democratic welfare state: a key to a Swedish culture of trust?
Prof. Urban Claesson, University of Uppsala, Department of Theology, Church History and Mission History
- 11:00 – 11:30** Calvinist Presbyterianism and skepticism of the state: the case of Scotland
Prof. emeritus Lindsay Paterson, University of Edinburgh, School of Social and Political Sciences
- 11:30 – 12:00** Gift relationship vs. citizenship: tensions and complementarity between two courses of legitimacy for welfare services in Italy
Prof. Costanzo Ranci, University of Milano, Social Policy Lab
- 12:00 – 12:30** Cooperation and non-cooperation between religious and state actors in matters of human security: Examples and inquiries
Dr Ansgar Jödicke, University of Fribourg, Department of Social Sciences, Religious Studies
- 14:00 – 14:30** Social policy and political legitimacy: Different aspects on the role of religious narratives in non-democratic states
Prof. Amany Elhedeny, FEPS/ Cairo University and MC/ British University in Egypt
- 14:30 – 15:00** Religion and gender in social policy making in Iran
Prof. Samad R. Aghdam, Azerbaijan Shahid Madani University, Tabriz - Iran
- 15:00 – 15:30** Remarks on the relationship between welfare state development and religion in Turkey (1923 – 2023)
Dr Kerem G. Öktem, University of Bremen, Research Centre Socium (Inequality and Social Policy)
- 15:45 – 16:15** How Confucianism influences women's status in the economic domain in South Korea and China
Mr. Ran Chen, Doctoral Candidate, University of Edinburgh, School of Social and Political Sciences
- 16:15 – 17:30** General Discussion (and reserve time)

Saturday, 04.11.2023

- 09:00 – 09:15** Introduction
- 09:15 – 09:45** Exploring the role of religion in health care delivery in Latin America
Dr Jasmine Gideon, Birkbeck, University of London, School of Social Sciences
- 09:45 – 10:15** The welfare state and religion in Latin America: an overview and the case of Chile
Mr. Luis Aránguiz Kahn, Doctoral Candidate, University of Santiago & University of Fribourg
- 10:15 – 10:45** The embeddedness of religion in social policy: Disputing gender policies in Brazil
Prof. Catarina Ianni Segatto, University of São Paulo, Department of Political Science
- 11:00 – 11:30** Interest and control: the Catholic Church and social policies in Ireland and Poland
Dr Dorota Szelewa, University College Dublin, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
- 11:30 – 12:00** Health care professionals: what is the role of religious faith in their behaviour
Prof. Emmanuele Pavolini, University of Milano
- 12:00 – 12:30** (reserve time)

Audience members are welcome but asked to register in advance at the German-speaking secretariat (sopa@unifr.ch) due to space restrictions.

Venue : Rte des Bonnesfontaines 11, 1700 Fribourg