

WORKSHOP 4

4. Generational Politics: The Political-Sociological and Policy Consequences of Population Ageing

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Most of the advanced capitalist democracies are currently experiencing accelerated population ageing. This phenomenon can be expected to have far-reaching social and political and public policy consequences. Population aging poses new challenges and opportunities for policy-makers and it may alter the basic templates of distributional politics in these societies. The key question of this workshop is therefore: To what extent are generational politics, politics and policies with generational implications, different in ageing societies than in other contexts? Papers are invited on all major conceptual and empirical aspects of the political and/or public policy implications of ageing societies. We strongly encourage papers that address the issue from an internationally comparative viewpoint and that pay careful attention to spelling out the causal mechanisms at work in the politics-policy nexus, as well as the mediating effects of institutions. We are interested especially in the following themes:

1. Policy constraints, institutions and advanced welfare states e.g. what are feasible policy reforms in ageing welfare states?
2. Comparative analysis of the political consequences of ageing in “young” and “old” societies e.g. to what extent are the consequences of ageing in relatively young societies different from those present in relatively old societies?
3. Aging and intergenerational relationships e.g. what set of policies are desirable and feasible to generate intergenerational justice?
4. Emergence and adaptation strategies of political actors: e.g. how does population aging affect the logic of political conflict and the behavior and strategies of political actors on the supply and on the demand sides?