

# European & Asian Perspectives on Welfare Issues

18 October 2019 | 9.00 to 13.00  
EHESS, Room AS1\_08 (Basement)  
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## Programme

### 9.00 | Welcome Remarks

Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS, CCJ-FFJ)

### 9.10 | Ageing Society and Long-term Care

Joe Leung (Hong Kong University)

China is facing the demographic transition of rapid society ageing, largely due to the One-child policy implemented in 1980. Key features include its middle-income economy (ageing society without being rich), the large size of its ageing population, rapid ageing speed, and significant regional, gender and rural-urban differences. While the needs for long-term care have been escalating, social care services have largely remained under-developed. The service gaps have been aggravated by the rapid eroding informal family care. Recent policy reforms include the piloting of long-term insurance, facilitating privately-operated homes for the aged, and government purchase of services on community-based care. Besides building up a financially sustainable LTC system, a comprehensive regulatory framework is required to assure service quality (professional workforce, measurement of needs, standardization of service inputs, information management, outcome evaluation, and monitoring of service providers) and the integration of hospital-based health care and social care in the community.

### 9.50 | The 2023 French Pension Reform: The Last Reform?

Antoine Bozio (EHESS)

The current French government has presented the outlines of a vast structural reform of the French pension system. The main idea is to unify the various mandatory pension schemes into common rules aiming to achieve long-term financial balance. In the reform process strong debates emerged within government and within unions on the merits of the reform ambitioned. On one side, some in the government have argued for abandoning the reform plan in favour of an increase in statutory retirement ages in order to reduce public pension spending in the shorter term, while some unions have criticized the reform for leading to a strong increase in the retirement age. This paper confronts the terms of the public debate with the real trade-off that faces the French pension system in the decades to come.

### 10.30 | Immigration and Social Investment

Giuliano Bonoli (Université de Lausanne)

This paper offers an assessment of the suitability of the social investment strategy to Europe's increasingly multicultural societies and its ability to effectively promote immigrant integration in the labour market. It argues that the benefit of social investment interventions for immigrants may be lower than expected for two main reasons. First, there are access biases in most typical social investment policies (e.g. childcare, active labour market policies) that tend to limit participation by non-natives. Second, employer preferences in recruitment and labour market discrimination are also likely to limit the potential of social investment intervention for immigrants. These two factors help to account for the fact that the most social investment oriented welfare states that are found in the Nordic countries are not obtaining the best results in terms of immigrant integration.

### 11.10 | Coffee Break

## **11.30 | Different Policy Responses to Labor Market Dualization in Western Europe and East Asia**

Takuji Tanaka (Hitotsubashi University)

Over the past decade, labor market dualization has attracted growing interests among scholars in Western Europe and East Asia. However, there is no consensus on the definition and the causes of dualization, among European scholars. East Asian scholars tend to exaggerate regional and cultural homogeneity in East Asia. This paper proposes a theoretical framework to compare dualization and the politics dealing with dualization in Western Europe and East Asia, focusing on the timings of democratization and post-industrialization. In European countries and Japan, post-industrialization progressed after the establishment of the welfare state. These countries were faced with a trade-off between policies dealing with old and new social risks. In most East Asian countries, democratization took place almost at the same time as post-industrialization. These countries were not faced with serious trade-off and introduced easily policies dealing with new social risks. This paper compares political responses dealing with dualization in France, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, and verifies these hypotheses.

## **12.10 | Public Hospitals in Crisis: Governance Reforms in Norway and France in Comparative Perspective**

Yohann Aucante (EHESS)

The discourse about hospital crisis is an old theme. The current strike movement in the emergency sector gives a new illustration of this. Public hospitals have been exposed to a constant flow of administrative reforms in order to change their governance and make these heavy machineries more effective. In spite of the similar doctrines underlying these reforms, we can find very different forms of implementation, response and results. Drawing from the cases of two high-spending countries, the paper will seek to make sense of these reforms in their contexts, but also point to their inner contradictions when it comes to democratic governance, efficiency and the quality of care in the core health-providing institutions.

## **12.50 | Concluding Remarks**