

The Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS cordially invites you to its seventy-second *Jour fixe* event:

Dorottya Szikra – Christina Rat:

Welfare for the wealthy?

Family policy change since the global crisis in Central and Eastern Europe

Academic symposium

Presenters:

Christina Rat (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj) and **Dorottya Szikra** (Institute for Sociology, CSS HAS)

Discussants: **Ákos Huszár** (Institute for Sociology, CSS HAS) and **András Gábos** (TÁRKI)

Abstract

In our earlier studies on family policy change in Poland, Hungary and Romania, three post-communist countries with different historical welfare trajectories, we detected a gradual but pronounced shift of focus towards the middle class, dating back to the years of European integration. In the present paper we examine recent family policy reforms in these three countries in more detail and ask if pre- and post-crisis family policies provided “welfare for the wealthy” or rather offered vertical redistribution towards low-income families and those facing unemployment. Concentrating on policy outcomes, we compare the situation of model families with different socio-economic and demographic profiles right before the global crisis (2008) and ten years later, in 2018, via the method of microsimulation. Our study shows that despite their ideological similarities Poland and Hungary moved in opposite directions with the former directing cash transfers to all social strata especially since 2016. Meanwhile Romania and Hungary provided increasingly flexible and generous transfers for parents with stable employment leaving the benefits of poor families more or less untouched.

Keywords: CEE welfare states; crisis; family policy; microsimulation



Venue:

Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest 9., Tóth Kálmán u. 4. B.1.15.

Time: 15 November, 2018 (Thursday), 1p.m.