Call for Papers

STRENGTHENING WELFARE POLICIES AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCES: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

The PSG Welfare State Governance & Professionalism is dedicated to the analysis of welfare state transitions with a special attention to societal, political and professional changes that have an impact on welfare services. The PSG is specifically focused on the intersections between policy, service and individual level, so to support empirical knowledge that can have an impact on welfare responses. Following this, the 2024 topic is related to the use of evidence through the different stages of welfare policies, starting from policy design and ending in policy implementation by professionals and community actors. Specifically, in this year's PSG XX annual meeting we encourage to consider how an evidence-based and evaluation approach can influence welfare policies and services. We are interested in discussing if and how evidence is used, by whom, in which moments, on which topics and through which approaches. We are also interested in discussing new evaluation approaches in different fields of social and health policy, also considering the measurement of the wider social impact. We might expect different uses and different roles by politicians, professionals, experts, and other actors. In addition, measuring welfare implies adopting a definition of societal value that might differ from other public sector or evolve through time. Welfare professionals play a crucial role in this dynamic process, while they are coping with an increasing quest of data and evidence due to the digitalization of welfare. Different actors (such as researchers or experts in evaluation) are involved in evaluation and measurement interventions, introducing new governance models and different ways to interact between the public sector, third and private sector organizations and the community.

Possible topics to be covered are:

➢ New approaches to evidence-based welfare policies
➢ The role of researchers and academia in building welfare policies
➢ The role of society/the community in building welfare policies
➢ The evolution of professional competences / roles in the welfare sector
➢ Welfare professionals and evidence-based approaches
➢ Information use and politicians/politics when it comes to welfare policies
➢ Data driven welfare policies: the role of digital technology /AI
➢ New governance model to use and introduce data in welfare policies
➢ From policy design to policy evaluation: new governance paradigm and evaluation approaches

In our PSG, we welcome different types of papers that explore these themes in a conceptual, theoretical, empirical, analytical, explanatory or prescriptive way. However, prior attention will be given to papers discussing real cases and presenting evidence collected in innovative contexts within the welfare sector. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches are welcomed.
The deadline for paper proposals is May, the 15th . Please submit your paper proposal (of max. 400 words) via the EGPA Conference Management System. The deadline for the selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs is May the 30th . Full papers of the accepted proposals are due by August, 13th.