

## Call for Papers

Karolina Lendák-Kabók and Hanna Lindberg (eds.), “Social welfare and minority rights in Europe, 1850s-present.”

As nation-states formed and systems of welfare developed throughout Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, principles of heterogeneity and equality often prevailed. Through social welfare, socially and economically disadvantaged groups were aided, however, as several scholars of the humanities and social sciences have demonstrated the distribution of welfare also created social exclusion on the basis of class, gender, ethnicity, and dis/ability, favouring certain segments of society or human characteristics.<sup>1</sup> In some countries ethnicity and language was the foundation for the structure of social welfare, with different welfare providers for different ethno-linguistics groups.<sup>2</sup> In this proposal we study the development of social welfare in Europe by focusing on sub-state ethnic minorities, who due to change of borders and political systems in the past, become minorities, resulting in multifaceted changes to those communities. Even though research has demonstrated that ethnicity has immense political implications, resulting in solidarity but also in division,<sup>3</sup> it is taken to be irreducible to the political and should be addressed continually in academic discourse.

We see an importance to focus on ethnic minorities in studies of both the past and the present. The protection and promotion of the richness and diversity of Europe's cultural heritage are today among the fundamental objectives of the Council of Europe. Although the European Commission, through documents such as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, advocates the preservation of identity differences, little attention is paid to the social integration of minorities to a larger, relatively harmonious social whole, while preserving the identity characteristics of minority groups. Although preserving ethno-cultural diversity remains entrenched as one of the key values of the European project, the EU has relatively limited competence to manage this issue<sup>4</sup>. In this sense, it is left to the EU countries to autonomously deal with the issue of the protection of ethnic minority communities in different levels and with the introduction of various social welfare policies. Nonetheless the effectiveness and the fairness of those measurements are often left unmonitored or there is no sanction for non-compliance.

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<sup>1</sup> See e.g. Szikra, D. (2009) Social Policy and Anti-Semitic Exclusion before and during World War II in Hungary. The Case of the Productive Social Policy. In Hauss, G. & Schulte D (eds.). *Amid Social Contradictions: Towards a History of Social Work in Europe*. Opladen: Verlag Barbara Budrich, 112–131; Broberg, G. & Roll-Hansen, N. (eds.) (1996). *Eugenics and the Welfare State. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press.

<sup>2</sup> For the Finnish case see e.g. Bergenheim, S. (2018) Cherishing the health of the people: Finnish non-governmental expert organisations as constructors of public health and the ‘people’. In Kananen, J., Bergenheim, S., & Wessel, M. (eds.). *Conceptualising Public Health. Historical and Contemporary Struggles over Key Concepts*. Abingdon- on-Thames: Routledge, 101-118.

<sup>3</sup> May, S. (2012). *Language and minority rights: ethnicity, nationalism, and the politics of language*. Routledge.

<sup>4</sup> Kraus, P. and Kazlauskaitė-Gürbüz, R. (2014) Addressing linguistic diversity in the European Union: Strategies and dilemmas. *Ethnicities*, 14(4), 517–538. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796814528693>

We invite members of the Cost Action and beyond to discuss the possibility of a special issue on social welfare and ethnic minorities from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The questions we pose are the following: How have different systems of social welfare addressed issues of ethnic heterogeneity? In which ways have the different providers of social welfare contributed to the social inclusion and exclusion of ethnic minorities? How has the recognition of minority rights affected the distribution and organization of social welfare? Although our focus is on systems of social welfare and their interconnection with ethnic minorities, we are at this point also open to contributions on other aspects of welfare in relation to ethnic minorities. Here, we understand the concept of welfare broadly, ranging from social insurance and services to health care and education, which together provide a foundation for social security and social mobility.

If you wish to participate in the planning of the special issue during a session at the Cost Action-meeting in Florence December 14 to 16, please send a short description of your idea for an article to Hanna Lindberg ([hanna.lindberg@tuni.fi](mailto:hanna.lindberg@tuni.fi)) and Karolina Lendák-Kabók ([karolina.lendak@uns.ac.rs](mailto:karolina.lendak@uns.ac.rs)) by December 7.