

The Future of Research on Global Inequalities

Session Organizer

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Session in English

New empirical evidence as well as a variety of innovative perspectives have recently challenged classical research on social inequality, which is mostly focused on present inequalities between individuals and social classes exclusively within national societies.

On the one hand, findings coming from transnationalism research have shown how conventional research is insufficient to describe contemporary phenomena such as the emergence of a transnational middle class or new multi-local spaces created by migrants.

On the other hand, the world system approach has convincingly demonstrated that existing inequalities have been produced and reproduced through modern history across national borders.

Therefore, a global and transnational frame is needed in order to explain how, for instance, increasing social inequalities resulting in more meat consumption in China lead to higher land-ownership concentration in Latin America; or how the social mobility of migrants in Germany impacts life conditions in a Turkish town.

We invite the submission of papers addressing conceptual aspects as well empirical results related to the present and the future of research on global inequalities. Relevant questions include among others:

- How do global entanglements shape inequalities – from a historical and/or synchronic perspective?
- How productive are transnational/global units of analysis such as “global value chains”, “care chains”, “transnational regimes” to investigate inequalities?
- How can we reconcile developments observed in the field of global inequalities with classical research on inequalities?
- How can national states be integrated appropriately into research on global inequalities?
- Since data and methods to investigate inequalities mostly refer to national units, how best to gather quantitative evidence of global inequalities?