

**Call for abstracts for a proposed special issue of the *Journal of European Social Policy*:**

**Inclusive inclusion: Promoting sustainable participation in a turbulent Europe**

To be edited by:

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Recent times have seen dramatic political, economic and social changes throughout Europe (the European commission, 2014). The convergence between growing social diversities, increasing social inequalities, widening divisive social discourses and the constant erosion of Welfare State mechanisms, has produced growing social margins and is consistently deepening what has long since been defined as the European "social crisis" (Castells et al., 2017; Kjaer & Olsen, 2016). Alongside these perturbing processes, and possibly as a reaction to them, there is growing evidence of civilian, professional and even institutionalized initiatives, aimed at resisting these trends, and actively promoting more inclusive ways of responding to the challenges European countries are facing, individually and in the international and global arenas (Beresford, 2016; Omeni, Barnes, MacDonald, Crawford & Rose, 2014; Sloam, 2014). However, not enough is known about ***the actual impact of such initiatives***, and ***the extent to which they themselves are carried out in a way that enables the participation of diverse and marginalized social groups***, especially in terms of interdisciplinary and strongly theorized knowledge.

The editorial team of the proposed special issue invites the submission of abstracts of papers that may take what is currently known about inclusive approaches a large step forward, in a way that can:

- Enhance the understating of ways to **broaden the scope of inclusion of marginalized social groups in participatory initiatives** (including government, professional or grassroots initiatives).

- Offer new, critical, theoretical and/or empirical insights regarding contemporary definitions and applications of inclusive participatory approaches, that **address the actual influence inclusive initiatives have on the formation and implementation of social policy.**

Note worthily, inclusive and participatory approaches can manifest themselves on several levels, and go by many names, including "shared decision-making", "service-user participation", "public involvement", "public engagement" and more; and may be found in diverse settings affected by social policy in its wider sense, including fields of welfare, health, education, management, environmentalism and more. Contributions concerning all these topics and fields are considered relevant for the proposed special issue. For the current project, "sustainable participation" is purposely treated as a broadly defined term, describing **participation of various sorts that is highly inclusive, and generates actual influence on issues at the core of the participative process.**

Contributions may be based on quantitative, qualitative or mixed research methods. They may also be the result of specific case studies, as long as a main focus of the paper offers generalizable conceptual conclusions that go beyond the case presented. Theoretical papers are also welcomed. Papers including inter- or cross-disciplinary perspectives, papers that present international comparisons, and/or papers that correspond with an explicit theoretical conceptualization of participation in policy making, implementation and intervention, challenge and expand it, will be considered especially relevant. *The editorial team particularly encourages the suggestion of papers that provide innovative knowledge that is co-produced with service-users, citizens, policymakers and/or practitioners.* All papers are expected to contextualize the insights they offer, and place the issues they address within the challenges currently facing Europe or European countries. Naturally, all submissions based on suggested abstracts will be expected to meet the high standard of research and writing required by the Journal of European Social Policy.

In accordance, submissions may include papers that deal with the following subjects, but are not necessarily limited to them;

- Up-to-date conceptualizations of participation in light of recent theoretical developments on power dynamics.
- Recent typologies and definitions of participation, on various levels.
- Creative approaches to research that challenge power dynamics, stem from an awareness of such dynamics within the research process, and progress a participatory, context-aware, research agenda.
- What constitutes "good" participation? How can "good" participation be identified and evaluated? What are the "best practices" in this area, and how can they be uncovered?
- Collaborations between academia, civil society, government and the public for promoting sustainable participation.
- The intricate relationship between state/law and civilian bottom-top processes voicing needs/demanding participation, in diverse political contexts.
- The role of emotions, personal and interpersonal processes affecting participation and its influences.
- Processes service provision in state agencies is going through in terms of participation, the motivations behind such processes, the outcomes they produce, their impact and the powers they reflect; as well as the disempowerment of staffs within/alongside the demand for increased participation in certain situations.
- The development of new ways for protest, and increasing people's ability to actually be heard and make an influence.

Abstracts of proposed papers should be submitted to the editorial team by e-mail to Dr. Lia Levin (levinlia@tauex.tau.ac.il) no later than **October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

Abstracts should be **300-400 words** long, and include: the title of the proposed paper, names and affiliations of the author(s) (not included in the word count), a short background and rationale/aims of the paper, the methodology it will be based on, initial results (if obtained) and its added contribution to what is currently known on the topic addressed in the paper.

Notice regarding acceptance of the proposal of the special issue and an invitation to submit full-length papers based on the suggested abstracts will be given by **December 20<sup>th</sup> 2019**. Full papers based on the suggested abstracts must be submitted to the Journal of European Social Policy before **May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**, be written in accordance with the journal's guidelines, and will undergo a process of peer-review.

### *References*

- Beresford, P. (2016). *All our welfare: Towards participatory social policy*. Bristol, UK: Policy press.
- Castells, M., Bouin, O., Caraça, J., Cardoso, G., Thompson, J., Wieviorka, M. (2017). *Europe's crises*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.
- Kjaer, P. F., & Olsen, N. (2016). *Critical theories of crises in Europe: From Weimar to the Euro*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Omeni, E., Barnes, M., MacDonald, D., Crawford, M., & Rose, D. (2014). Service user involvement: Impact and participation: a survey of service user and staff perspectives. *BMC Health Services Research*, 14(1), 491-504.
- Paugam, S., for the European Commission. (2014). *The crisis and its impact on unemployed people in Europe*. Brussels, Belgium: the European Commission.
- Sloam, J. (2014). 'The outraged young': Young Europeans, civic engagement and the new media in a time of crisis. *Information, Communication & Society*, 17(2), 217-231.