

Transnational Social Protection: Countries' Policies and Migrants' Practices

Panel Chairs:

- Angeliki Konstantinidou (SciencesPo Paris)
angeliki.konstantinidou@sciencespo.fr
- Roberta Perna (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid – Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos del CSIC) roberta.perna@csic.es

Abstract

In recent years the politicisation of migration and social protection has gained significant political and societal attention across EU member states. Following the EU enlargements to Central and Eastern Europe and in the aftermath of the financial and refugee crises, many states implemented policies aiming to curb migrants' entitlements to social protection, while very few countries opted for more inclusive measures. Yet, this increasingly hostile environment set the scene for the emergence of new dynamics on how mobile individuals plan their social protection strategies. For instance, both civil society actors and mobile individuals have shifted their focus to alternative schemes to safeguard and access social protection. In this context, the role of home countries as a provider of social protection has also (re)emerged, thus structuring transnational networks of social protection. While plenty of literature has addressed how transnational social protection networks function, the connection between the social protection strategies from the homelands as a response to welfare policy making of the host country has received little attention so far. This panel aims to contribute to the understanding of the circulation of social protection strategies devised both at the state level and at the individual level from a comparative perspective. It particularly welcomes (but it is not limited to) contributions that further develop the role of home countries as complementary social protection providers, as well as papers that shed light to individuals' formal and informal practices that circulate between home and host countries.

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