



Welcome to the open workshop:

Welfare, Inequality and the Social Dimension in Europe

On 17 November 2017, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will be hosting the *Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth in Gothenburg*. In order to contribute to an informed and vigorous public debate on these issues, an open workshop on *Welfare, Inequality and the Social Dimension in Europe* involving leading international researchers has been organized by CERGU (Centre for European Research at the University of Gothenburg) and SOCAV (Department of Sociology and Work Science), with support as co-organizers from Brännpunkt Europa and CES (Centre for European Studies, Department of Political Science). Professor John D. Stephens (Chapel Hill, USA) will give the keynote speech, which will be followed by research presentations on key issues such as the dualization of labour markets in Europe; inequality and the rise of the Swedish Democrats; work-family reconciliation practices; and trade unions and the social dimension in Europe. The workshop takes place over two days and is open to all.

Keynote Speech by Professor John D. Stephens, Centre for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA: *‘Top Income Shares: Political and Economic Determinants’*

The rise of the super-rich has attracted much political and academic attention in recent years. However, there have been few attempts to explain the cross-national along with the temporal variation in the rise of top incomes. Drawing on the World Wealth and Income Database, we study the income share of the top 1% in almost all current postindustrial democracies from 1960 to 2012. We find that extreme income concentration at the top is a predominantly political phenomenon, not the result of increasing marginal productivity of top managers in markets of increasing size. Top income shares are largely unrelated to economic growth, increased knowledge-intensive production, export competitiveness, and wealth accumulation, though they are related to stock market capitalization and some measures of financialization. Instead, they are closely associated with political and policy changes some of which reflect a decline in the relative power of labor, such as union density and centralization, secular-right governments, top marginal tax rates, and investment in public tertiary education.

Contributors:

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John D Stephens, Centre for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Erik Vestin, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg



Workshop Programme:

Thursday 16 November, 2017

Venue: SEB-salen, School of Business, Economics and Law, Vasagatan 1

12.00 – 14.00 Keynote speech:

'Top Income Shares: Political and Economic Determinants',

John D. Stephens, Centre for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

Chair: Brännpunkt Europa

14.00 - 14.30 Coffee break at "Hyllan", Café Handelsrätten second floor

14.30 – 17.30 Research Presentations

'Framing Belonging and Nostalgia: The Resurgence of Ethno-Nationalism in Sweden'
Gabriella Elgenius, Dept. of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg

'Geographical Inequality and the Rise of the Sweden Democrats'
Erik Vestin, Dept. of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

'Social dumping and transnational trade union cooperation'
Bengt Furåker Dept. of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg

Friday – 17 November, 2017

Venue: D32, School of Business, Economics and Law, Vasagatan 1

09.00 – 10.30 Research Presentations

'Implementing EU Work-Family Reconciliation Policies in Western Balkans: The Case of Child Care'
Andrea Spehar, Dept. of Political Science, and Centre for Global Migration (CGM), University of Gothenburg

'Transnational interest coordination to battle inequality'
Barbara Bechter, Durham University Business School, UK

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee, "Hyllan", Handelsrätten second floor

11.00 – 13.00 Research Presentations

'Dualization and Polarization Processes in European Labour Markets'
Tomas Berglund, Dept. of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg

'Trade unions and the social dimension in Europe'
Bengt Larsson, Dept. of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg

All research presentations seminars will be chaired by Adrian Hyde-Pryce adrian.hyde-price@gu.se, and Urban Strandberg urban.strandberg@gu.se.

For further information please visit www.cergu.gu.se