

**Panel/Stream Proposal for IIPPE Conference,
International Institute for Social Studies,
The Hague, The Netherlands, July 9-11th, 2013**

Title: *Pro-social Strategies for Public Welfare: The Role of Social Capital and Trust*

Organisers:

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Description:

In the past decades, state and market institutions have failed to deliver redistribution and welfare in both developing and high-income geopolitical contexts, particularly after the global economic crisis broke out. This induced agents to engage in short-term, self-oriented strategies either to consolidate their power or salvage a subsistence level of living, which impedes collective action for social reform and the promotion of long-term public benefits. Nonetheless, and in response to deeper recession, social upheaval and political instability, there are collective efforts for social awareness and mobilisation to confront immediate problems of destitution and to reclaim people's right to a quality of life.

In this sense, this panel aims to open a constructive discussion on the role of social capital and trust in building pro-social strategies for public welfare. We ask how norms and networks of cooperation, reciprocity and trust could facilitate – or hinder – a wider range of pro-social strategies, which could include, but are not limited to:

- active social and political participation to deal with the democratic deficit of both the developed and developing world;
- assessing events of corruption associated not only with the effects and motives of rent-seeking behaviour and tax evasion, but also with the imperspicuous transactions of powerful economic and political groups;
- advocacy and redistributive functions of non-governmental organisations and voluntary associations that represent disadvantaged groups and fight for their needs and rights;
- activities of social enterprises and cooperatives that provide alternative ways of production, based on general-interest objectives and innovative forms of democratic participation of stakeholders, workers and investors.

We welcome works that derive from various social science disciplines and use different units of analysis (individual, regional, country or cross-country level), methodologies and techniques (theoretical, empirical, qualitative and quantitative).

PROVISIONAL PANEL ORGANIZATION

Session I

1) Giuseppina Guagnano, Elisabetta Santarelli and Isabella Santini

The Determinants of Subjective Poverty in Europe: The Role of Household Socioeconomic Characteristics and of Social Capital and the Implications in Public Policy

2) Maria Lissowska

Social Trust in Times of Crisis: How Does Poverty Modify Convergence?

3) Federica Roccisano

Generational Mainstreaming and Participation: Are its Good Tools Against Young Poverty?

4) Carolin Gomulia

Social Capital in Practice: Application of Social Capital Towards Socio-economic Development of the Poorest Communities in the Western Cape Province (South Africa)