

Report



Early-Stage Researchers Conference

**Delivering integrated employment policies:
cross-sectoral policies in practice**

**12-13 May 2014
Bordeaux**

Conference
sponsored by:

université
de **BORDEAUX**

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



The Organisers



Margherita Bussi, Katharina Zimmermann, Clara Bourgeois, and Vanesa Fuertes

Margherita Bussi from European Trade Union Institute in Brussels, **Katharina Zimmermann** from University of Oldenburg, **Clara Bourgeois** from Centre Emile Durkheim in Bordeaux, and **Vanesa Fuertes** from Edinburgh

Napier University organised the conference, with the invaluable sponsorship of Edinburgh Napier University Business School and the University of Bordeaux. The idea to hold an early-stage researchers conference developed in Hamburg, during a PhD conference. The theme of the conference is related to LOCALISE, a Seventh Framework European project in which Vanesa, Katharina and Clara have worked together. At a time of major challenges to welfare systems and specifically to labour market policies, understanding of the most effective and efficient design and implementation of public policies, including employment policy, is paramount. Therefore the conference is extremely topical.

The Venue

The conference was held at the University of Bordeaux, situated in the city centre on the Place de la Victoire (see photo on last page). The hire-cost of the venue was funded by the University of Bordeaux.

Discussants



Deborah Rice, Paolo Graziano, Colin Lindsay, Vincent Dubois and Thierry Berthet

We had the privilege of having the presence of Deborah Rice, Paolo Graziano, Colin Lindsay, Vincent Dubois and Thierry Berthet as discussants. The attendance of discussants was possible as a result of Edinburgh Napier University sponsorship. Discussants commented

on a number of papers and presentations from early-stage researchers. Their comments and expertise made the conference an invaluable experience for all participants.

The discussants' current position and some of their interest are briefly mentioned next: **Deborah Rice** is a Research Associate at the CvO University Oldenburg and Project Manager of the LOCALISE project. She has a degree in Political Science from the University of Tübingen and recently completed her PhD trajectory at the VU University Amsterdam. For her dissertation research, Deborah conducted interviews in Dutch, Danish and British jobcentres, investigating how caseworkers' micro-level agency is shaped by macro-level activation policies and even wider welfare-state structures. Deborah's main research interests lie in the area of unemployment policy, multi-level governance, and institutionalist theory; **Paolo Graziano** is an Associate Professor at Bocconi University. He is coordinator and Professor of several courses at ISPI, the Italian Institute for Studies on International Politics. He has held Visiting positions in the following universities: Université Libre de Bruxelles (2013), Roskilde (2009), Amsterdam (2008), European University Institute (2008), UC Berkeley (2004), Visiting Professor and Fellow, Sciences-Po, Paris. He has also been Bocconi Campus Abroad Professor at Fudan University, Shanghai (2006, 2006, 2010); **Colin Lindsay** is a Senior Lecture at the University of Strathclyde. He serves on the Editorial Boards of four journals: 'Education & Training'; 'Journal of Social Policy'; 'Social Policy and Administration' and 'Work, Employment and Society'. He has co-edited special issues in a number of journals. He is Reviews Editor for 'Social Policy and Administration'. He is a member of the British Sociological Association and the Social Policy Association; **Vincent Dubois** is a sociologist and political scientist. Professor at the University of Strasbourg (Institute for Political Studies), Vincent belongs to the

SAGE research unit and is an associate member of the Centre de Sociologie Européenne in Paris. He is also co-editor of the multidisciplinary social sciences journal *Sociétés Contemporaines*; **Thierry Berthet** is a CNRS research director at the Centre Emile Durkheim, Sciences Po Bordeaux. His main research interests are vocational training, life-long learning and employment policies. He has been deeply involved in research on public employment services restructuring, school-based guidance, and vocational guidance of young people. His research agenda is closely intertwined with questions of territorialisation and Europeanisation of public policies. Thierry Berthet is head of the regional associated centre of Céreq in Bordeaux.

Participants



14 early-stage researchers participated in the conference. Most of the presentation revolved around participants' current PhD theses:

Bernard Conter from the Walloon Institute for Evaluation (Belgium), presented on *'The Activation Turn in Wallonia: Towards a paradigm shift of the childcare policy?'*; **Clara Bourgeois** from Centre Emile Durkheim (France) presented a paper on *'Multidimensional labour market integration policies into perspective: a street level bureaucracy approach'*; **François Laporte** from University of Saint-Louis (Belgium), talked about *'How street-level bureaucrats make conflicting objectives coexist: the role of 'social dossiers''*; **Juliette Wilson** from University of Salford (UK) presented the paper *'A timely intervention? Time banks as a solution to social exclusion'*; **Katharina Zimmermann** from University of Oldenburg (Germany) presented a paper on *'Social and employment services for the long-term unemployed in Germany: Under which conditions are activation policies "social investment"'*; **Manasi Sinha** from Jawaharlal Nehru University (India) talked about the *'Rhetoric and reality of EU gender policy'*; **Margherita Bussi** from European Trade Union Institute (Belgium) presented a paper on *'What employability? Using the Capability Approach to unpack the idea of employability'*; **Marjolijn de Wilde** from University of Antwerp (Belgium) presented a paper on *'The use of street-level discretion in social assistance cases concerning work conditionality. A Factorial Survey Approach.'*; **Merita Xhumari** and **Sidita Dibra** from University of Tirana (Albania) presented a paper on *'Integrated employment policy making for Albanian young people'*; **Norbert Petzold** from the University of Oldenburg (Germany) presented a paper on *'Long-term receipt of German UBII benefits. A Qualitative analysis of long-term beneficiaries, experiences of anti-poverty policies and their consequences for benefit dependency'*; **Sophie Danneris Jensen** from Aalborg University (Denmark) focused on *'A methodological approach to study the consequences of active labor market interventions'*; **Sue Bond** from Heriot-Watt University (UK) talked about *'Value conflicts in public policy: understanding the context within which street-level bureaucrats in the third sector put policy into practice'*; **Vanesa Fuertes** from Edinburgh Napier University (UK) presented a paper on *'The urban and national governance of active labour market policies in the UK'*.

A number of participants received bursaries in order to attend the conference otherwise it would have been impossible for them to participate. The existence of bursaries was possible through Edinburgh Napier University sponsorship.

University of Bordeaux
Edinburgh Napier University

Young-Researchers Conference on
Delivering integrated employment policies
Cross-sectorial policies in practice

Location: Bordeaux – University of Bordeaux Segalen - Date: 12th and 13th May 2014

Draft programme:

Monday, 12.05.2014	Tuesday, 13.05.2014
09:00 Welcome	
09:30 Europeanisation through elective affinities: Active social policy model and national control policies of the Unemployed / The end of social Europe - Vincent Dubois / Paolo Graziano	09:00 <i>Net-working Jobcenters: An institutional work perspective on local employment policies in the Netherlands and Denmark / Integrating health and employability – lessons for policy and governance from the UK - Deborah Rice / Colin Lindsay</i>
11:00 Coffee break	10:30 Coffee break
11:30 STREAM 1 - Session 1 Papers: M. Bussi and J. Wilson Discussants: T. Berthet and D. Rice	11:00 STREAM 4 - Session 1 Papers: B. Conter and S. Dibra/M. Xhumari Discussants: P. Graziano and C. Lindsay
13:00 Lunch	13:15 Lunch
14:30 STREAM 1 - Session 2 Papers: C. Bourgeois and M. De Wilde Discussants: V. Dubois and D. Rice	14:45 STREAM 4 - Session 2 Paper: M. Sinha Discussants: T. Berthet and P. Graziano
16:00 Coffee break	15:30 Coffee break
16:30 - 17:15 From Activation Friendly Integration to Activation from the activated: a research perspective - Thierry Berthet	15:45 <i>How to publish? workshop - Paolo Graziano lead (and V. Dubois, D. Rice, T. Berthet, and C. Lindsay) and Discussion</i>
20:00 Dinner	16:45 Farewell

The First Day – Monday 12 May 2014



Margherita Bussi

The first day opened with the **first keynote speech** delivered by Vincent Dubois (*Europeanisation through elective affinities: Active social policy model and national control policies of the Unemployed*) and Paolo Graziano (*The End of Social Europe*). Dubois argued that there is a convergence in EU policy regarding stricter control and harder sanctions for those that are the target of labour market policies, although the EU does not explicitly or directly steer policy in that direction. Rather, countries use the EU as a legitimisation tool for policy orientation by presenting this control and sanctions as an inevitable option. Graziano presented an analytical framework to understand the reduction of a Social Europe. He explained the indicators used to measure the demand and supply of a social Europe, and used Easton's Political System approach to explain what happens in the 'black-box' of policy making. Both speeches and the answer and question session afterwards were truly interesting, with much food for thought.

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Paolo Graziano, Vincent Dubois and Katharina Zimmermann



Norbert Petzold

This was followed by **session one of Stream 1 and 2**: two papers were presented in each of the sessions. After lunch, **session two of Stream 1 and session one of Stream 3** took place, with two papers presented in each session. Each presentation lasted for 15 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of comments by the two discussants and 15 minutes for questions and answers.

The conference's first day closed with the **second keynote speech** by Thierry Berthet entitled *From Activation Friendly Integration to Activation from the activated: a research perspective*. Thierry spoke about how the Capability Approach can be applied to social policy and about the methodological tools to researching it. He described the theoretical and methodological approach of an EU Seventh Framework project he is currently conducting (SocLEtY).

The day ended with the conference dinner in Restaurant l'Ombrière. Refreshments, lunches and dinners throughout the conference were possible as a result of sponsorship from the University of Bordeaux.



Thierry, Merita, Sidita, Vincent, Margherita, Clara, Manasi, Marjolijn, Bernard, Katharina, Colin, Norbert

Second Day – Tuesday 13 May 2014

The second day opened with the **third keynote speech** of the conference delivered by Deborah Rice (*Net-working Jobcenters: An institutional work perspective on local employment policies in the Netherlands and Denmark*) and Colin Lindsay (*Integrating health and employability – lessons for policy and governance from the UK*). Rice presented findings from her research in which she used the institutional approach together with network analysis to understand the space for institutional agency of street-level bureaucrats. Rice compared the Netherlands and Denmark and concluded that in the latter there was limited space for agency while some space could be found in the Netherlands. Lindsay provided an overview of the historical and current labour market policy context in the UK focussing especially on governance and activation approaches. He argued that in order to tackle unemployment linked to ill health, it is necessary to understand the reasons that influence health, including both structural and geographical labour market and macro-economic reasons. Otherwise, policies would not be able to achieve the intended effect.



Colin Lindsay and Deborah Rice

This was followed by **session one of Stream 4 and session two of Stream 2**. Two papers were presented in each of the sessions. After lunch, **session two of Stream 4** took place. Each presentation lasted for 15 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of comments by the two discussants and 15 minutes for questions and answers.



Thierry Berthet and Sophie Danneris Jensen

The last day closed with a **workshop on 'how to publish'**. The speaker panel was composed of all discussants who took turns to discuss the mysteries and practicalities of submitting to, and having a paper accepted by, a peer-reviewed journal. They also covered the practicalities of producing books or co-authored books, edited volumes and reports. Participants were able to

get a glimpse of the process of reviewing papers from an insider's perspective, as most discussants have been editors of peer-reviewed journals and have had a vast number of articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

The event was perceived as exceptionally fruitful, interesting and valuable by all participants and discussants. As one of the participants framed it:

"This conference was really great! I have never before received such valuable comments – and the networking opportunities were fantastic. I appreciated especially the "how-to-publish"- workshop with a lot of insights into the publication business! Thanks a lot to all commentators and the organisers!"

What next?

After the successful event, the organisers are now in close contact to proceed quickly with the meeting follow-up and to make the most out of the meeting. The most relevant topics are network-building and publication plans. As a first step, photos and all power-point-slides have been uploaded on the conference website, where participants can access them with a password (http://www.localise-research.eu/?page_id=1160). Furthermore, email addresses and the report will be distributed among all participants and discussants, in order to encourage further **network-building** and **bilateral cooperation**.

In addition to these efforts, the organisers are currently reviewing the papers with the aim to publish a number of them. The organisers, together with the discussants, have already explored a common theme that would provide a coherent framework for a collective publication. Several publication formats have been taken into consideration, including a special issue in an English-language and peer-reviewed journal or a collective volume. A possible common thread for many papers is the delivery of cross-sectorial policies, however other related topics – such as street-level bureaucrat's perspective on policy delivery – could also function as an interesting common framework. During the two-day conference, the organisers also met with the discussants in order to discuss concrete steps for the publication of the conference-papers, taking advantage of their advice as experienced editors or peer-reviewers in several international journals.

Further, all discussant agreed on supporting the publication plans with their knowledge and probably also with a contribution to the special issue.

Hence, as a next step in the coming weeks, the organisers will draft a proposal and a timeline for the collective publication, which will then be sent to the participants in order to inform them on the explicit topic of the special issue, individual contribution opportunities, requirements for the submission of re-written abstracts and time schedules. Once the common framework has been decided, the conference papers will be revised in order to meet the format requirements of the selected publication.





University of Bordeaux, Place de la Victoire

For more information on the conference please contact:

Vanesa Fuertes – v.fuertes@napier.ac.uk

Margherita Bussi – mbussi@etui.org

Katharina Zimmermann – k.zimmermann@uni-oldenburg.de

Clara Bourgeois – bourgeoisclara@hotmail.com

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