

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE JOS BERGHMAN WELFARE STUDIES STIPEND, KU LEUVEN

A RESEARCH TERM FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS IN SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK

The Jos Berghman Welfare Studies Stipend offers young scholars the opportunity of spending a research term with the Team Social Policy and Social Work at KU Leuven (Belgium), one of the oldest universities of Europe.

Twice a year, the Social Policy and Social Work research team welcomes a young scholar for 2-3 months for mutual inspiration and learning. The stipend covers accommodation in one of the university's guesthouses, travel expenses, a working space with computer and internet connection, as well as access to KU Leuven libraries.

Candidates are international PhD-students, post-docs, or early career researchers whose research is situated in the broad fields of social policy and social work. Projects can be quantitative or qualitative in nature, preferably (but not exclusively) from a sociological perspective. The research term should result in a paper, which will acknowledge the stipend when it is publicly presented and published.

THE TEAM SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK

The research of the Social Policy and Social Work team of the Centre for Sociological Research of KU Leuven broadly focuses on the development of European welfare states, as regards their social policy design, their implementation through institutions and social interventions by social workers, their outcomes in terms of inequality, poverty, well-being and empowerment, as well as their social legitimacy. These developments are preferably studied in relation to changing social, economic, political and cultural contexts.

Although the main expertise of its team members is in sociology, in many of their projects they cooperate with national and international colleagues and institutions from other disciplines, like economics, political science, law, history, social work and public administration. The team is well connected to leading multi-disciplinary European networks in the field, as for instance, the Network for European Social Policy Analysis (ESPAnet) and the European Institute for Social Security (EISS).

PROFESSOR JOS BERGHMAN (1949-2014)

The stipend is organized in commemoration of Jos Berghman, who was one of Europe's leading scholars in comparative welfare state research. Until his untimely death in 2014 he was professor of social policy at KU Leuven and held a personal chair in pension policy. He was director of the International master programme in social policy analysis (Impalla), and president of the European Institute of Social Security. He chaired the tripartite Supervisory Board of the Belgian Social Security System and was a member of the Expert Commission on Belgian Pension Policy. His main research interests were comparative and European welfare state and social security policies, social exclusion and social cohesion policies and social security administration.

APPLICATION

Candidates can apply once a year (deadline 1 September) for a stay in the ensuing calendar year. They send in an application letter with an explanation of how they think the research term will be helpful for their work, a description of their research project and the part they plan to work on during their stay, cv information, and their preference for either the spring or autumn term. Selection criteria will be academic excellence, and the broader fit of the candidate's planned work within the research of the team.

Applications can be sent via e-mail to prof. Wim van Oorschot, head of the research team (w.v.oorschot@gmail.com).

For further information, see: <http://soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/spsw>