International Conference

Half a Century of Political Controversies Relating to Social Security Reforms for the Elderly in Europe

19 & 20 APRIL 2018
An international and multidisciplinary approach to social security

This conference focuses on a specific part of the social security system: the (financial) provisions for the elderly which include poverty policies and State Pension arrangements. We will discuss developments during the last five decades in Europe. Over the past fifty years, demographic developments have come to challenge old age benefit arrangements in all European countries, especially since the claims on the limited budgets involved are rapidly increasing. Thus, modifications were suggested and sometimes implemented.

In the decision making process underlying the various arrangements and their alterations, parliamentary debates form a crucial factor. These debates bring forward important questions, such as those concerning the desired balance between provisions to be made and guaranteed by the government, by employers and by individuals, and those concerning the overall affordability of the pension schemes. Other questions relate to the electoral influence of certain age groups with a specific interest in the maintenance and future of the social security system. Also, how do national governments deal with EU legislation on the subject, for instance regulations in the field of equal treatment of men and women?

These questions and topics will be discussed by our speakers in a comparative, transnational and multidisciplinary way. After each presentation, approximately 20 minutes will be reserved for questions and debate.
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<td>16.00—16.30 hrs</td>
<td>Start of the conference with coffee and tea</td>
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<td>16.30—16.40 hrs</td>
<td>Opening of the conference by prof. dr. Carla van Baalen, director of the Centre for Parliamentary History</td>
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| 16.40—17.15 hrs | Prof. dr. Pat Thane                                                    
|               | Key note speech                                                        |
|               | Social Security for Older People in the UK since 1945: Why are UK Pensions Poorer than in other European countries? |
| 17.15—17.50 hrs | Prof. dr. Lex Heerma van Voss                                          
|               | Key note speech                                                        |
|               | Pension Policies in the Netherlands since 1945 in Comparative Contrast  |
| 17.50—18.00 hrs | Prof. dr. Han van Krieken, Rector                                      
|               | Magnificus of Radboud University Nijmegen                              |

At the end of the first day of the conference, the Rector Magnificus of the Radboud University, prof. dr. Han van Krieken will address you all in a brief welcome speech.
9.15—9.40 hrs  
Prof. dr. Jef Van Langendonck

*Social Pensions Reform in Belgium*

Prof. dr. Jef Van Langendonck is professor emeritus in the field of Social Security Law at the KU Leuven. He has studied law, philosophy (LLB, BA) and economics (MSC). He has been the director of the Institute of Social Law at the KU Leuven for almost forty years. Furthermore, he taught multiple courses on Social Security over the years.

10.00—10.25 hrs  
Dr. Matti Hannikainen

*Tensions and Compromises between Agrarian and Wage-Work Interest in the Finnish Pension Policy in the 20th Century*

Dr. Matti Hannikainen is currently a senior researcher at Varma Mutual Pension Insurance Company where he writes the company’s history. He has previously worked at the universities of Helsinki, Tampere, and Reykjavik. His publications include the history of Finnish earnings-related pensions in the private sector.

10.45—11.15 hrs  
**Short intermission**

11.15—11.40 hrs  
Dr. Karen Anderson

*The Political Economy of the Public-Private Pension Mix in Europe*

Dr. Karen Anderson is an associate professor of Social Policy within the department of Social Sciences at the University of Southampton. Her research focuses on comparative social policy development, the interaction of labor market policy.

12.00—12.25 hrs  
Dr. Karl Hinrichs

*Contents and Controversies of Pension Reforms from the 1990s until Today: A Comparison of European Countries*

Prof. dr. Karl Hinrichs is a professor at the ‘Forschungzentrum Ungleichheit und Sozialpolitik’ at the University of Bremen. He has published about Pension Reforms in Europe, and the influence of social reforms on the pension system in Germany.
20 April 2018: 12.45—13.45 hrs

12.45u-13.45u  Lunch break

13.45—14.10 hrs  Leon van Damme MA

*Sixty-five Years of Political Controversies about the Dutch Basic State Pension (AOW), 1947-2012*

Leon van Damme is a PhD candidate attached to the Centre of Parliamentary History in Nijmegen. He studied History and International Relations. Currently, he is researching the parliamentary history of social security reform in the Netherlands since the 1980s.

14.30—14.55 hrs  Dr. Nicole Kramer

*Welfare Policies for Older People and the Parliamentary Practice of Tabling Questions in Germany*

Dr. Nicole Kramer studied History and Political Sciences at the University of Munich. As of October 2012 she is a research assistant at the Department of Contemporary History at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. Her research interests include social political history and the position of the elderly.

15.15—15.30 hrs  Short intermission

15.30—15.55 hrs  Prof. dr. Maria Petmesidou

*Gender Equality: how far has Greece come?*

Prof. dr. Maria Petmesidou (PhD Oxford University) is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Democritus University (Greece), and Fellow of CROP/ISSC (Comparative Research on Poverty/International Social Science Council under the auspices of UNESCO). She has published extensively on social policy and welfare reform in Greece and Southern Europe.

**Chairman:** prof. dr. Teun Jaspers
Professor International and European Law
Utrecht University
Centre for Parliamentary History

The Centre for Parliamentary History (CPG) is a research institute focusing on the post-war parliamentary history of the Netherlands and the consecutive governments. The CPG publishes a series of monographs on Parliamentary History of the Netherlands since 1945, biographies on several Dutch ministers and researches topics such as coalition building in the Netherlands.

EuParl.net

The European Information and Research Network on Parliamentary History is a cluster of European research institutions and experts in parliamentary history. The network facilitates the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and promotes comparative studies on the development of parliamentary culture in Europe.

Instituut GAK

The Instituut GAK supports different research projects concerning social security and the job market, to improve knowledge of the social security system in the Netherlands and its development.
Prof. dr. Pat Thane
King’s College London
United Kingdom

Prof dr. Lex Heerma van Voss
Utrecht University and the Huygens Institute for History of the Netherlands
The Netherlands

Prof dr. Jef van Langendonck
KU Leuven
Belgium

Dr. Matti Hannikainen
Centre of Excellence in the History of Society Tampere University, Finland
Finland

Dr. Karen Anderson
University of Southampton
United Kingdom

Prof. dr. Karl Hinrichs
University Bremen
Germany

Leon van Damme (MA)
Centre for Parliamentary History, Radboud University
The Netherlands

Dr. Nicole Kramer
Goethe Universität
Germany

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Democritus University of Thrace
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Research group and organization

Prof. dr. Carla van Baalen: Project leader
Mr. dr. Johan van Merriënboer: Vice project leader
Dr. Anne Bos: Researcher
Leon van Damme MA: Researcher, PhD Candidate
Jan Ramakers MA: Researcher
Annebel Spanjersberg MA: Coordinator

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