

The Fourth European Social Survey Conference:

Turbulent Times in Europe: Instability, Insecurity and Inequality

24th to 26th of April 2019

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences and the University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany

Call for session proposals now open

Europe is going through turbulent times. There is increasing diversity within and between European societies in ethno-cultural, linguistic, and religious terms, or, more simply, in ways of life and prevailing values. Such diversity is arguably fostering cultural insecurity among large segments of the population, with backlashes manifesting themselves in different modes of political mobilization. For many Europeans, stagnating incomes, the perception of increasing social inequalities, transformed labor relations, and the uncertainty about life prospects have created profound economic insecurities. The Great Recession and the financial crisis have affected all European societies to different extents. Resulting concerns about the ability of existing political institutions to manage risk and provide good governance, or about the ability to hold existing loci of power accountable, have shaken previous allegiances to the political status quo, whether to mainstream parties, the European Union, or even liberal democracy itself. Previously trusted sources of information — science, expertise, the mainstream media, and all sorts of secondary organizations — are now constantly questioned on the basis of their aloofness, irrelevance, or bias.

The fourth International ESS Conference will showcase research that uses data from the European Social Survey (exclusively or in conjuncture with other data) to address the issues mentioned above. The conference aims to show the depth and breadth of scientifically rigorous research made possible as a result of the high quality comparative data provided by the ESS.

The conference committee invites leading researchers in their field who are using ESS Data to submit proposals to organize a conference session. The sessions will shape the call for papers. We seek high-quality comparative research on substantive topics related to general theme of the conference or on methodological topics emerging from the use of ESS data to address these topics. We welcome proposals including but not limited to the following topics: Immigration, integration and diversity; Social inequality and stratification; Health; and Political engagement. We also welcome sessions on Social attitudes, norms and values, and in particular: Family, work, and well-being; Personal and social well-being; Welfare attitudes; and Public attitudes towards climate change.

For your session to be considered, please submit an abstract of no more than 400 words (plus 3-5 keywords) outlining the focus of your session. Abstracts should be emailed to essconference2019@gesis.org by 31.5.2018. Upon acceptance, your session will be advertised in an open call for papers that will be issued in July 2018 (closing in September 2018).

As Session organizers, you will be expected to encourage paper submissions to your session, review paper proposals, liaise with presenters and the conference organizers, and chair your session during the conference. The conference committee recommends that the sessions will include no more than 4 presentations. For more Information about the conference please see the ESS webpage (www.europeansocialsurvey.org) or email essconference2019@gesis.org