

AT A GLANCE

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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL  
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **23<sup>rd</sup> edition** of our Social Protection Brief. On the left-hand side you can find a short list of the sections included.

Best Regards,  
Christian

## PUBLICATIONS

[A new pathway to universalism? Explaining the spread of 'social' pensions in the global South, 1967–2011](#) by Tobias Böger and Lutz Leisering

The assumption of social responsibility for all citizens is a hallmark of the welfare state, reflecting a notion of universalism. But in developing countries, old-age pensions only cover small sections of the population, mainly through contributory social insurance. However, over the last 25 years, old-age pension coverage across the global South has expanded unexpectedly, mostly accounted for by the adoption and reform of non-contributory, or 'social', pensions. In this way, developing countries have come closer to universal coverage, but not through social insurance as in Western and Northern Europe. The rise of social pensions was an unlikely event, since well into the 1990s the idea of 'just giving money to the poor' had been rejected by all major actors in the development community. The standard explanatory model of Northern welfare state research would not have predicted the rise

\* The content of this Brief lies within the responsibility of the working group members.

either. Using event history analysis (1967–2011), we find that key variables from the Northern standard explanatory model also operate in development contexts, but that three drivers peculiar to developing countries have to be added. The paper draws on a new data base, constructed by the authors, which covers all social pensions in all low- and middle-income countries.

### [The Calls for Universal Social Protection by International Organizations: Constructing a New Global Consensus](#) by Lutz Leisering

Universalism has become a lead idea of global social politics, and of global social security in particular, first voiced in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and renewed in recent calls for “Social Security for All” and “Universal Health Coverage,” and in the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals launched by the World Bank and the International Labour Organization in 2016. This article analyses the idea of a universal right to social protection, as recently articulated by international organizations. According to J. W. Meyer’s neo-institutionalist theory of world society (Krücken & Drori, 2009; Meyer, 2007), universalism is a world-cultural norm, and international organizations are proponents of world culture. This article is based on the assumption that the meaning of universalism is not fixed, but that international organizations construct the norm in changing ways to secure worldwide acceptance and applicability, considering that states have very diverse socio-economic conditions and socio-cultural backgrounds. Accordingly, the article analyses how international organizations construct the cultural idea of universalism as well as institutional models of universal social protection. The finding is that the recent calls for universalism represent a new interpretation of universalism that refers to individual entitlements to benefits rather than collective development, and that this global consensus was reached by constructing the norm in a way to leave room for interpretation and adaptation. However, the price of consensus is the attenuation of the norm, by allowing particularistic interpretations and by weakening the content of the right to social protection. The article also seeks to explain the rise of the new global consensus and identify its limitations.

### [A Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection](#) proposal of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors

A proposal for the decade of action on the Sustainable Development Goals 2020-2030 More than two thirds of the world’s population are still denied a life in dignity and social security: the GCSPF calls for action on social protection financing to deliver on the human right to social protection and the international commitment to guarantee social protection floors for all (SDG 1.3) at a time when the world is richer than ever before.

The central idea of this proposal is to create a solidarity based Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection to support countries design, implement and, in specific cases, finance national floors of social protection. Social Protection Floors (SPFs) are a direct and fast-acting mechanism to reduce poverty that can save millions of lives and alleviate misery in further millions of cases.

## BLOGS

New UNRISD Blog Series: Covid-19 Response

The impacts of both the Covid-19 pandemic itself and the crisis response are very unevenly distributed. This blog series, launched in the first throes of the pandemic, explores those patterns of distribution, drawing on UNRISD's vast body of social development research, and its network members, to provide evidence-based responses to the current crisis. Browse through the entries so far:

- [How Social Development Steps Up To The Plate in Times of Crisis: Learning from the Past, Surviving the Pandemic, Creating Sustainable Futures](#) – UNRISD (Launch post)
- [Creating Crisis-Resistant Policies and Institutions Post-Covid-19: Learning from UNRISD Research](#) – Ilcheong Yi

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- [Our Common Right to Health](#) – Gabriele Köhler
- [The Future of Work in the Post-Covid-19 Digital Era](#) – Maria Mexi
- [COVID-19 Sends the Care Economy Deeper into Crisis Mode](#) – Silke Staab

## SURVEY

[Evidence for Transformative Change: UNRISD Survey on Responses to Covid-19 and Vulnerable Communities](#)

In response to the unfolding Covid-19 pandemic, UNRISD launched a survey of its global network gathering data to analyse how well current government policies on Covid-19 in all countries and regions are responding to the needs of vulnerable people. The result will be evidence-based recommendations on how governments can make sure their Covid-19 response policies leave no one behind. While the first round of analysis is already underway, we are still accepting contributions in view of a possible second round of analysis to see how policies progress over time. The survey is available in English, French and Spanish.

## SCHOLARSHIP

### Call for Applications

For the first time the master's on Social Protection at the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences is offering a full scholarship for social protection practitioners as well as young professionals from relevant fields of study. This is possible through the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Foreign Office for the academic year 2021/2022.

Visit our website for more information about the scholarship and about the application process. Deadline for applications is **July 31, 2020**.

Link: <https://www.h-brs.de/en/sv/application-process-daad-scholarship-ma-socialprotection>

For further inquiries please email to: [info@ma-socialprotection.de](mailto:info@ma-socialprotection.de)

## SHORT COURSES

### Online Short Courses in Social Protection

Short on time, but interested in diving deeper into relevant topics in social protection such as Climate Change, Health, Inclusion or Vulnerability? The Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences invites you to a three-week online short course, in partnership with renowned social protection experts (ILO, UNICEF, UNFCCC, OPM, and more). Due to the corona crisis, the courses will be held completely online.

Applicants can choose a specialization among the following:

- Climate Change
- Health
- Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
- Vulnerability

Visit our website for more information about the courses and the application process. Due to the corona virus, the application deadline has been extended until **June 30, 2020**

Link: <https://www.h-brs.de/en/sv/adsp-s-short-courses>

For further inquiries please email to: [info@ma-socialprotection.de](mailto:info@ma-socialprotection.de)