

AT A GLANCE

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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL PROTECTION
WORKING GROUP,

This is the **26th edition** of our Social Protection Brief. On the left-hand side you can find a short list of the sections included.

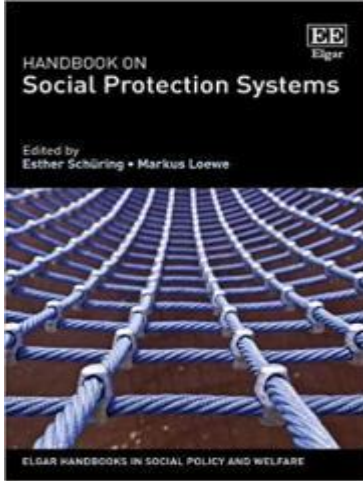
*Best Regards,
Callistus Agbaam*

PUBLICATIONS

[Development, governmentality and the sedentary state: the productive safety net programme in Ethiopia's Somali pastoral periphery](#) by Getu Demeke Alene, Jessica Duncan & Han van Dijk. In Journal of Peasant Studies (2021)

This paper explores how the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), as an example of contemporary bottom-up development practices in the global South, governs nomadic pastoralists in the peripheries. Based on fieldwork in Ethiopia's Somali region, we show that PSNP practices of client targeting, community-based public works and (international) financial resource flows, both for their own sake and because of their entanglement with the sedentary metaphysics of Ethiopian state, have advanced sedentary governmental order into pastoral peripheries more than top-down state sedentarization interventions had ever done. Finally, we argue that bottom-up development practice is an effective tool for state-building in the periphery.

[Handbook on Social Protection Systems](#) by Esther Schüring and Markus Loewe (Eds.) (2021).



Global Free Access e-book.

This exciting and innovative Handbook provides readers with a comprehensive and globally relevant overview of the instruments, actors and design features of social protection systems, as well as their application and impacts in practice. It is the first book that centres around system building globally, a theme that has gained political importance yet has received relatively little attention in academia. Combining academic discussion with cases from the Global South and North, this Handbook offers practical recommendations on how greater harmonization across social protection policies, programmes and delivery mechanisms can be achieved. It also highlights the importance of linkages to other policy fields and issues such as taxation, humanitarian aid and livelihood approaches. Overall, the chapters argue that a systems approach is needed to respond to the individual needs of different groups in society and to face future challenges from demographic change, globalization, automation, climate change and pandemics.

Targeting a broad audience, the Handbook on Social Protection Systems bridges the divide in academic debate around social protection in the Global South and North. It will be an invaluable resource for academics, students and practitioners.

[Crisis and Disaster Prevention through a Global Fund for Social Protection](#) by Markus Kalternborn and Nicola Wiebe. In World Risk Report 2021.

Pandemics, extreme natural events, violent conflicts, and economic upheavals lead to disasters wherever they encounter high vulnerability. Both in normal times as well as in crisis situations, social protection systems make it possible to guarantee basic human rights and to cope with the negative effects of crises. However, access to rights-based social protection systems has so far only been a reality for a minority of the world's population. This is particularly due to the considerable funding gaps in some countries of the Global South. A Global Fund for Social Protection can help to ensure basic protection in countries that are not yet able to provide this level of protection financially. Moreover, in crisis situations the fund could help countries that are dependent on international support due to short-term financial constraints. Social protection is a reasonable investment in many respects, not least with regard to global disaster prevention.

[Social protection and inequality in the global South: Politics, actors and institutions](#) by Katja Hujo. In Critical Social Policy (2021).

In this themed section, we explore the links between contemporary social protection approaches and inequality in developing countries, focusing on political economy drivers and the role of actors and institutions in recent reform and implementation processes. This introduction article establishes some common ground by introducing context, concepts and questions. Reducing inequality is identified as a key condition for achieving inclusive and sustainable development as aspired in the Sustainable Development Goals governments committed to in 2015. The introduction situates the three articles in this issue, two studies of pro-poor cash transfers in the Philippines and Kenya, and an analysis of the new national minimum wage policy in South Africa, in a context of contested globalisation, increasing inequality and the social turn, a come-back of social policy as a key development instrument. After identifying the limitations and opportunities of this social turn, the article discusses the three social protection reforms and their impact on equality and social change in the different country contexts through a lens of contestation, institutions and transformative change.

[The politics of implementation: The role of traditional authorities in delivering social policies to poor people in Kenya](#) by Barbara Rohregger, Katja Bender, Bethuel Kinyanjui Kinuthia, Esther Schüring, Grace Ikua, Nicky Pouw . In Critical Social Policy (2021).

The article contributes to understanding the political economy of implementation of social protection programmes at local level. Current debates are dominated by technocratic arguments, emphasizing the lack of financial resources, technology or skills as major barriers for effective implementation. Describing how chiefs, assistant-chiefs and community elders are routinely at the centre stage of core implementation processes, including targeting, enrolment, delivery, monitoring, awareness and information, data collection or grievance and redress, this study on Kenya argues for the need to look more closely into the local political economy as an important mediating arena for implementing social policies. Implementation is heavily contingent upon the local social, political and institutional context that influences and shapes its outcomes. These processes are ambivalent involving multiple forms of interactions between ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ institutional structures, which may support initial policy objectives or induce policy outcomes substantially diverging from intended policy objectives.

[Social protection in the ASEAN-10: challenges in a diverse region](#). Expert note on social protection by Gabriele Koehler, prepared for the ASEAN Development Outlook 2020.

In this expert note, Gabriele Koehler argues that the highly diverse nature of countries in the ASEAN region is relevant to contextualise the region’s social protection commitment, effort and performance, and assess prospects for progress on an agenda regarding social protection that is conceptualised as a right, situated in and delivered by a democratically-agreed social contract.

[“Those who eat from one pot”: Constructing household as a social category in a cash transfer programme in Ghana](#) by Puorideme, Denis., & Christensen, Ivan Lind. In *Journal of International Development* (2021).

Social categorisation is situated at the core of any modern attempt to govern or intervene in the social world. This paper investigates the construction of the concept of household in Ghana's official social statistics and its implications when implemented in the internationally co-organised cash transfer programme, the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme. The study is based on various literature, conceptual analysis and interviews with key stakeholders, including the LEAP programme authorities and focal persons in a local community. The findings indicate discrepancies between the category of household and the cultural setting it is meant to represent in the Ghanaian context.

[Targeting versus social protection in cash transfers in the Philippines: Reassessing a celebrated case of social protection](#) by Emma Lynn Dadap-Cantal, Andrew M. Fischer, Charmaine G. Ramos. In *Critical Social Policy* (2021).

This article provides a corrective to the dominant celebratory narrative about the conditional cash transfer programme in the Philippines, the Pantawid, and its associated social registry, the Listahanan. Based on extensive documentary analysis and fieldwork in the Philippines in 2017 and 2018, we argue that the targeting system has in fact been unable to function according to its primary purpose of identifying the poor and providing them social protection, despite being celebrated precisely for this purpose. This has been partly – but not only – due to the increasingly obsolescent data of the registry, which the political system has been incapable of correcting, leading to stasis at a fairly low level of coverage, at a peak of about 19 percent of national households in 2014 and since subsiding to about 17 percent by 2020, with transfer amounts at a fraction of the food poverty line. This dysfunction has resulted in a quasi-permanent group of cash payment recipients, with little or no reflection of evolving poverty profiles. This revised reading of the Pantawid and Listahanan, in what might be considered as a strong case to examine social protection performance, brings us back to the perennial problems associated with poverty targeting in even best-case social protection programmes promoted by international donors and organisations.

[Inequality in the South African labour market: the political economy of the national minimum wage](#) by David Francis and Imraan Valodia. In *Critical Social Policy* (2021).

In 2019, South Africa implemented a national minimum wage (NMW) for the first time. This is an important intervention, given that the South African labour market continues to generate some of the highest levels of income and wealth inequality in the world. The minimum wage is intended as a structural intervention to transform the labour market by setting a wage floor, while highlighting larger issues that continue to reproduce inequality in the labour market. The process raises interesting questions about the role of social dialogue in the policy making process, especially at a time when the roles of experts and evidence are contested in political economy. This article reviews the national minimum wage process from two angles: assessing the economic evidence and examining the political economy of minimum wages in South Africa. We take this approach in order to better understand the roles of evidence and politics in the policy making process. While both processes were contested, important differences emerge from the analysis: the economic lens highlights the intersection of evidence and ideology, while a political economy review identifies important lines of contestation in the policy making process itself. The national minimum wage process shows that institutionalised social dialogue continues to be a central part of the policy making process, but that it cannot be taken for granted: the particular configuration of the social dialogue process and the roles assigned to each player matter.

[Social Policy Development and Its Obstacles: An Analysis of the South Asian Welfare Geography During and After the 'Social Turn'](#) by Gabriele Koehler, Stefan Kühner, Daniel Neff. In [Handbook of Development Policy](#), H. Zafarullah and A. S. Huque (Eds.) (2021).

This chapter provides an overview of social policy developments in five South Asian countries, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, from a comparative policy perspective. It sets out by briefly summarising innovations in the key areas of social policy during the regional 'social turn' after the year 2005. A subsequent summary of social policy inputs and related human development outcomes suggests that although the region has experienced considerable policy diffusion, differences within the emerging welfare geography and critical gaps in social provision persist. We close with a discussion of the current social politics roughly since the mid-2010s, which has resulted in a rolling back of the previous social rights discourse. Given regional disparities and increasing inequality as well as South Asia's susceptibility to the consequences of man-made and natural disasters, more rather than less fiscal space will be needed to nurture a trajectory towards more promotive and transformative welfare futures across South Asia. Most crucially, it requires civil liberties to tackle the existing power relations.

BLOGS/PODCAST

- Podcast episode with UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Olivier de Schutter, discussing need for social protection, including Global Fund for Social Protection and basic income for young people: <https://poverty-unpacked.org/2021/11/14/episode-21-a-fair-chance-in-life-for-everyone-un-special-rapporteur-olivier-de-schutter/>
- Blog post about social protection intervention in Bangladesh and its innovative relational 'plus' component to tackle causes of worst forms of child labour: <https://clarissa.global/how-can-we-tackle-the-causes-not-the-symptoms-of-harmful-child-labour/>
- Blog post on social assistance for climate resilience: <https://www.ids.ac.uk/opinions/cop26-lets-talk-about-social-assistance-in-protracted-crises/>

OTHER NEWS

- [Global Research and Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract](#)

UNRISD, in partnership with the Green Economy Coalition (GEC), launched this major new activity on 10 November in Bonn, Germany, for which an [Issue Brief](#) summarizes the main conceptual background. The Network will explore the promise of a new eco-social contract as a way of responding to pressing social and ecological challenges. It is a space for dialogue, debate, co-construction and action around the meaning of a new eco-social contract; good practices for its design; and mechanisms for its application.

Research, practice, advocacy and policy decision-making communities working for social, climate and environmental justice are invited to join in this endeavour. See the [Project Brief](#), and the link to the [Network webpage](#) for more details on how to join. Feel free to share this information with other colleagues who may be interested in joining.

- [The People's Global Summit](#). Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind

Taking place on 29 June to 2 July 2022, the [People's Global Summit](#) is for everyone. It provides a space for individuals, groups, experts to advance their ideas in a conversation on the creation of globally shared values for a new eco-social world. All contributions will shape the Global Values Declaration for a new eco-social world that will be delivered to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in July 2022 and will create a catalyst for further global action.

[Find out more about how to contribute](#) (a research paper, or a panel, but also something different like an interview, a pechakucha presentation or a Ted Talk style presentation). The deadline for contributions is 15 February 2022. Do share this information with other colleagues or members of your community who may be interested in contributing.

[Tobias Böger](#) has been awarded a PhD in sociology in the Faculty of Sociology at Bielefeld University Germany. His PhD thesis is entitled "[*The quest for universalism in global social protection. Contributions to the political economy of social assistance.*](#)" Tobias now works as a researcher at the Collaborative Research Centre "Global dynamics of social policy" at Bremen University, Germany. Congratulations Dr. Tobias Böger!

*****The End*****