



## **Call for Papers**

for the first Annual Meeting of the Academy of Sociology:

### **Growing inequality – divided society? Current contributions of empirical-analytical sociology.**

April 4-6 2018, Munich

Both the scientific and public discourse on social inequalities has noted a substantial increase in inequality in Germany in recent decades. These discourses paint a picture of a society with a strong and rising divide between the poor and the rich, a shrinking middle class, a negligent degree of equality of opportunity, and a struggle for resources between different factions of society. This picture is framed by apocalyptic diagnoses of society that selectively emphasize different criticisms of modern capitalist societies, such as their unsustainability and their externalization of costs to other world regions, the dominant risk of downward mobility, and their dependency and fixation on economic growth.

It is undisputed that (income) inequality has indeed increased in Germany over the past few decades. Despite the availability of a plethora of interpretations and diagnoses, still little is known about the exact degree and the causes of (increasing) social inequalities. This stems from a dearth of rigorous empirical, analytical procedures and of solid data in many contributions. The task and the potential of an empirical analytical sociology is to fill this void and to contribute to a more objective discourse about social inequalities on the basis of solid empirical analyses. This is of paramount importance to disentangle different causes of trends in social inequalities and thereby allow for the design of effective policy recommendations.

The Inaugural Annual Meeting of the Academy of Sociology aims to contribute to this endeavor. We invite empirical and analytical contributions to research on social inequalities. This includes both widely researched dimensions of social inequalities like income, education, and wealth and less researched dimensions, for instance, exposure to environmental pollution, health, life expectancy, and well-being. Possible research foci are:

1. **Description of inequality:** How large is social inequality? Which trends do we see? Which social groups are particularly affected by (changes in) social inequality? Has social mobility declined? And if it has, to what degree?
2. **Measurement of inequality:** Are established methods, indices and data sufficient for precisely establishing the degree and change in social inequalities? Are trends and causes correctly interpreted? Which potential does “big data” offer for sociological inequality research?
3. **Explanation of inequality:** Which mechanisms drive the observed degree and changes in social inequality? Why did income inequality increase in the past decades? For instance, how are inequalities in the educational system and the labor market connected? Do we find an (accelerated) accumulation of inequality?
4. **Legitimacy of inequality:** Which principles (of social justice) are used to legitimate inequality? Which policy recommendations can be derived, for instance, to reduce social inequality? Which side effects and feedback mechanisms can be expected based on theoretical and empirical grounds?

In addition to original substantive and methodological research, we invited general conceptual contributions to empirical-analytical sociology. Contributions in English and German are welcome.

For paper presentations please submit a working paper of 10 to 15 pages that has not been previously published. For poster presentations a one-page abstract is sufficient. Also non-members of the academy are welcome to submit contributions.

**Submission deadline: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.**

Please submit to the following e-mail: [konferenz@akademie-soziologie.de](mailto:konferenz@akademie-soziologie.de)

Notification of acceptance: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Venue: Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung, Südliches Schloßrondel 23, 80638 München.

Begin: Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2pm. End: Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, followed by the general meeting of the members of the Academy of Sociology.

Local organizers: Katrin Auspurg and Josef Brüderl, Department of Sociology, Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich (LMU).