

## Call for Papers

# Social Policy in Occupied European Countries 1939–1945

14 – 16 May 2015  
Prague



**mua** MASARYKŮV ÚSTAV  
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Masaryk Institute and Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, in cooperation with John Amos Comenius University, Prague

World War II initiated a radical shift in most European countries' social policies. On the one hand, the experience from the previous 1930s economic crisis had its effect, showing the limits of existing social protection systems. On the other hand, the 1939–1945 war mobilization on both sides of the conflict requested new social engineering methods within the total war conditions. Surprisingly enough, the postwar social policy in continental Europe largely continued in methods introduced and implemented by the occupation powers during the war. Viewed from the perspective of historians, neither these social policy strategies, to a great extent apparently autonomous in relation to the ideological legitimization of the 1930s and 1940s political regimes (liberal democracy, Fascism / National Socialism, Bolshevik Socialism), nor geographical regions and their populations, exploited via these strategies for the goals of National Socialist expansion, should not remain unnoticed.

The conference aims at comprehending social policy as a tool of the National Socialist rule in a comparative perspective and at depicting its basic functioning frameworks in the occupied European countries. Comparing western and eastern occupied regions shall enable not only to characterize significant traits within everyday social policy practice but also to explain various occupation strategies in greater depth.

Original papers on the conference topics related to the employment, family and health policies, focusing on various aspects of social administration, rule structures and communication forms are welcome.

Consequently, the following areas of interest within the social policy in the occupied countries may be defined:

- The social security project in the perspective of Fascist / National Socialist and Communist regimes;
- Regulating employment as a social policy? – in particular labour law, administration bodies' employment-related activities, work rationalization programmes;
- Work, performance, adaptation: in particular the issues of work team functioning, wages, trade union activities, staff welfare, organization of leisure;
- Public healthcare as a healthy population project? – Social inclusion and exclusion via health policy, forms and scope of care, healthcare availability;
- Family in the whirl of nationalist needs – in particular the organization of family care, interconnection of private and public spheres, social work, care for mother, household functioning rationalization;
- Social assistance in the total war conditions;
- Comparative study on social policy;
- Social policy in expert discourse.



Conference languages: English, German

Please send in your abstracts of 500 words maximum by **15th December 2014** to: [socialpolicysince1939@gmail.com](mailto:socialpolicysince1939@gmail.com)

Other conference-related queries shall be gladly addressed by:

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