

The principles and practice of social protection

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of reductions in poverty & inequality

In the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the successors of the Millennium Development Goals, social protection is proposed as a powerful instrument for achieving both poverty eradication (SDG 1) and the reduction of gender and income inequality (SDGs 5 & 10). Such a strategic platform undoubtedly augurs well for the future expansion of social protection, and attests to social protection's remarkable contribution to poverty alleviation that has emerged from successes in the Global South.

The SDGs will represent a negotiated and pragmatic international consensus around a mandate for action. Yet such an agreement by its nature does not make explicit an ethical framework (from which principles flow) or a blueprint for action (practice). Different ethical frameworks can lead to very different social protection outcomes. Principles, founded in thoughts of fairness and moral obligations, need to be clearly articulated as such principles can direct social protection policies towards achieving a more just society. However, as social protection initiatives have expanded rapidly, practical issues related to legislation, targeting, financing, implementation, management and technology often take centre-stage, leaving ethical underpinnings understated or assumed.

This symposium will facilitate a critical examination of the continuities and discontinuities between the principles and practice of social protection. On the eve of a new era for social protection made possible by the SDGs, it is worth pausing to reflect on the competing ethical principles that (implicitly or explicitly) underlie different social protection policies, and their linkages to the practices of social protection. A robust ethical mandate can help to clarify the aims of social protection, and add precision to efforts to chart forward trajectories for social protection. The development of these ethical foundations in ways that are relevant for practice can be strengthened by debate between theorists and practitioners.

This symposium will consist of a series of constructive debates between theorists and practitioners around contested issues in social protection, in the belief that a cohesive framework of principles can help to steer a way through the challenges that face social protection. The symposium will aim to draw closer together the 'why' and the 'how' of social protection; to place philosophy and pragmatism in the same viewfinder.

The symposium will offer theorists an opportunity to reflect on how ideational frameworks can best interact with the realities faced by practitioners. It will also offer practitioners an opportunity to learn more about ethical foundations to social protection policies, which they may be able to apply to their work on social protection. Some academic papers (preferably including case specific inputs provided by practitioners) will be published in a special issue.

*CSDA-FES Symposium
The View, 19 Molesey Ave, Auckland Park, Johannesburg*

Programme

Sunday, 8 March 2015

17:00 – 18:30 Arrival of Participants

19:00 – 21:00 **Opening Dinner**

The View

Monday, 9 March 2015

I. SESSION: Opening

Chair: Marianne S. Ulriksen

8:00 – 8:30 Arrival and Registration

8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome Remarks**

Prof Leila Patel

CSDA, University of Johannesburg (UJ)

Helmut Elischer

FES-Zambia

8:45 – 9:15 **Principles and practice: A philosopher's perspective**

Prof Thad Metz

Dep of Philosophy, UJ

9:15 – 9:25 Questions and clarification

9.25 - 9.55 *Short Break*

II. SESSION: Linkages between principles and practice in social protection

Chair: Tessa Hochfeld

9:55 – 10:25 **Why social assistance should be grounded on social justice?**

Prof Armando Barrientos

University of Manchester

10:25 – 10:45 **Addressing both poverty and inequality: opportunities & challenges in theory & practice**

Dr Sophie Plagerson &

Dr Marianne S Ulriksen

CSDA, UJ

10:45 – 11:00 **Reflections on practice**

Ndangwa Nayoo

Dep. of Social Work, UJ

11:00 – 11:30 Discussion



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11:30 – 11:45 *Tea Break*

11:45 – 12:15 **On universality and targeting**

Dr Stephen Devereux
IDS, University of Sussex

12:15 – 12:30 **Practitioner's response**

Luis Frota
ILO, Pretoria

12:30 – 13:00 Discussion

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch*

III. SESSION: Practical applications

Chair: Taku Fundira

14:00 – 14:30 **The continuities and discontinuities between principles and practice: Case study of the CSG**

Pathamavathy Naicker
SASSA

14:30 – 14:45 **Black Sash's perspectives on the CSG**

Thandiwe Zulu
Black Sash Trust

14:45 – 15:15 Discussion

15:15 – 15:30 *Break*

15:30 – 16:15 **Social Protection and the SDGs: discussion**

Daniel Kumitz, FES-Zambia
& Sophie Plagerson, CSDA UJ

16:15 – 16:30 **Closing**

Leila Patel
CSDA, UJ