



Call for Papers

12th Young Economists Conference 2023

Funding the Welfare State and Social Infrastructure

The past years have seen a revival of the public sector and broad welfare programs to alleviate the costs of the COVID-19 pandemic and the following inflationary episode. At the same time, recent academic research into monetary economics, public economics and wealth inequality evaluate questions of feasibility and justice in funding the welfare state. The coming years will determine the face of social infrastructure, and how to pay for them.

Heterodox and radical economics as well as social scientists, health experts and philosophers ponder the question of collective responsibility for broad well-being and the social stability. While the state is present in almost every economic interaction, its role is under-developed in economic mainstream theory. Decades of neo-classical and neo-liberal models have neglected the positive question of designing and funding the welfare state by exaggerating abstract categories of efficiency and effectiveness in public spending. Poverty and powerlessness are the lived reality of many but are treated as fringe phenomena in the majority of economic models.

Can a thorough and multi-disciplinary analysis of welfare, regulation, distribution and taxation shape a more realistic understanding of labor, growth and welfare? How about sustainable welfare state funding or a care economy under growth compatible with the 1.5 ° goal? What challenges in registering wealth and measuring poverty obstruct the path to more just funding and re-distribution? And what about welfare state innovations, like employers of last resort or universal inheritance? We are convinced that this is the time and place to discuss both challenges and opportunities ahead.

The **Chamber of Labor Vienna**, the **Chamber of Labor Upper Austria**, the **Austrian Society for Pluralist Economics** and the **INET Young Scholars Initiative** host the **Young Economists Conference on October 6th and 7th 2023 in Linz, Austria**. We invite researchers in the early stages of their career (Master, prae- or post-doc) from all professions, especially economics, political sciences and sociology, to submit their work. We especially encourage female and LGBTIQ* contributors as well as researchers of color to present at the conference.

Keynote speeches will be held by **Prof. Emma Dowling** of the University's of Vienna's institute of sociology as well as the Technical University of Vienna's Competence Center for Infrastructure Economics, Public Services and Social Provisioning and **Prof. Jakob Kapeller** of the University of Duisburg-Essen's Institute for Socio-Economics.

The **deadline for abstracts** (max. 1 page) is **July 10, 2023**. The conference language is English. Participants will be notified of acceptance by **August 2023**, the deadline for the submission of (working) papers is **September 1, 2022**.

The conference is free of charge. Presenting participants will be reimbursed for train travel cost within Austria, accommodations are paid for as well. A restricted number of travel stipends for selected researchers from the Global South will be generously offered by the **INET Young Scholars Initiative**. An outstanding contribution will be awarded the **Eduard März Prize** of €1,000. Submission of abstracts and further information: vec@akwien.at