

Abstracts

Balázs Kapitány: Intergenerational transmission of social disadvantages: Results from an Hungarian longitudinal survey

The central research question of our study is the intergenerational transmission of social disadvantages, based on a special parent-child longitudinal subsample from the Hungarian GGS survey. Using the data from the parental household from 2001/02, we examine the living conditions of young adults (who had grown up in the meantime) in 2008/9. The more concrete research question is: what factors of the parental household during adolescence help to explain the later acquisition or non-acquisition of certain educational degrees, early school leaving, or unsuccessful start of career. The results of the logistic regression models suggest that parents' financial situation plays an essential and independent role regardless of the educational level or cultural capital of parents. The choice between the types of secondary schools is key event, too. The models also indicate that if the parental household lived without any work-income, and if the parental household was a welfare participant, these factors had also an independent role on the intergenerational transmission of social disadvantages in today's Hungary.

Zsuzsa Széman: SKYPE in elderly care: observations of an intervention research

The hypothesis of the Skype Care intervention research was that if ill, old care recipients could communicate with Skype their quality of life would improve. The findings of the intervention research can be summed up as follows. In some cases the teaching process began from the most basic level. They learnt to use Skype very quickly. Although there were typical difficulties they showed a strong desire to learn and reached a similar level. New customs appeared in their lives. They needed helpers to learn and catch up. Their quality of life has changed and they could integrate themselves into society.

Bori Simonovits: The ethical dilemmas of the method of discrimination testing

In Hungary discrimination occurs regularly in the various spheres of everyday lives, such as the area of labour market, housing, police's stop and search practices and all sorts of services. Discrimination testing is an alternative way of measuring discrimination, combining the advantages of qualitative and quantitative methods. This method is based on a controlled field-experimental design. In this experimental setup pairs of testers are matched for all important characteristics relevant to the

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goals of the experiment except for one protected characteristic tested in the experiment. However this method has several methodological advantages (namely the controlled test situation enables us to observe the process in its real circumstances so that we gain valid answers) the application itself raises a fundamental ethical dilemma. The method of testing is based on the delusion of the perpetrator of the discrimination, since we cannot ask for the consent of the participants of the testing. The main aim of the paper is to discuss the pro- and contra arguments concerning the application of this innovative method in order to explore the discriminatory mechanisms endanger the every-day lives of the different minorities.

Ágnes Simonyi: Activation – coordination of employment and social policy means and institutions in developed European countries

The paper shows that since the mid-90-ies in Western Europe serious doubts were raised concerning the efficiency of the classical employment policy instruments and the strict separation between social and labour market supports and services. The activation policies launched in this period introduced reforms in two directions; in the relationship between poverty reducing social allowances and unemployment benefits on the one hand, and concerning the organizational and institutional framework of the cooperation between social and employment services. The paper describes the different country efforts taken in similar direction – though realized in different ways – to re-regulate the rights and responsibilities linked to social support. Attention is called to the common feature of these activation reforms that the obligation of the supported persons to participate in the different activating programs is accompanied with intensive quality services. This fundamental condition of activating policies motivated deep reforms in public policies and in the system of local authorities responsible for the system of services and for their coordinated functioning.