

Project “Social cash transfers. The global construction and diffusion of the right to a monetary minimum” (FLOOR-B)

www.floorcash.org

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Project Summary:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) proclaimed the equality of all human beings in dignity and rights. The right to social security, however, has been taken more seriously only since the 2000s, through calls for ‘Social Security for All’ and ‘Leaving no-one behind’. The project investigates a major response, social cash transfers to the poor. The idea of simply giving money to the poor had been rejected by all major development organizations, but since the early 2000s, social cash transfers have mushroomed in the global South and on agendas of international organizations. How come? What programmes have emerged in which countries? How inclusive are the programmes? What models have international organizations devised? Based on unique quantitative and qualitative data and on newly created concepts and indicators, the project takes stock of all identifiable cash transfers in all Southern countries and of the views of all major international organizations.

The project found that cash transfers reflect broader changes: new understandings of development, of human rights, of global risks, of the social responsibility of governments, and of universalism. The summary book of the project (Leisering 2019) also contributes to a general theory of social policy in development contexts, through a constructivist sociological approach that complements the dominant approaches from welfare economics and political economy and includes a theory of social assistance.

In short, the project ...

- provides a unique database, covering all countries in the global South, with in-depth variables
- combines quantitative and qualitative methods
- develops a sociological theory of social policy in developing contexts
- develops concepts and indicators of social assistance and social cash transfers

Outcomes of the project (publications, data base)

Summary book (2019; xxii+453 pp):



<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-global-rise-of-social-cash-transfers-9780198754336?cc=de&lang=en&>

The book seeks to advance research on social cash transfers:

- by going beyond case studies of flagship programmes to mapping all programmes in all countries of the South, based on a unique self-constructed data base and on new indicators
- by going from describing to theorizing and explaining cash transfers
- by going from administrative issues of finance, implementation, and effects to normative foundations
- by going from single cash transfer programmes to national cash transfer regimes (systemic approach)
- by complementing studies of domestic programmes by an analysis of concepts of international organizations since the 1990s
- by using both quantitative and qualitative methods
- by embedding social cash transfers in a general theory of social assistance and basic security in North and South
- by developing an institutionalist sociological theory of social policy that covers both the global North and South and focuses on processes of recognition, complementing approaches from political economy and development economics.

Data base and background information: www.floorcash.org

A unique set of data bases, with data on all identifiable cash transfer programmes in all countries of the global South, and on the cash transfer concepts of all major international organizations since the 1990s. The data bases have in-depth variables on entitlements that allow to construct refined indicators of the inclusiveness/exclusiveness of cash transfer programmes, as done in the FLOOR-B project.

Further publications:

a) Book

Moritz von Gliszczynski (2015) *Cash Transfers and Basic Social Protection*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Even if the title does not say so: this is the only in-depth analysis of how international organizations conceive of social cash transfers, why they switched from rejection to acceptance since the 1990s, what broader changes in global discourses framed this change, what models of transfers international organizations proposed, and how they eventually reached a global consensus. The book applies a multi-level approach to ideational analysis, based on the Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse Analysis (SKAD).

b) Articles

Tobias Böger & Lutz Leisering (2018/2019) A new pathway to universalism? Explaining the spread of 'social' pensions in the global South, 1967–2011. *Journal of International Relations and Development* (preview available)

Tobias Böger & Kerem Öktem (2018/2019) Levels or worlds of welfare? Assessing social rights and social stratification in Northern and Southern countries. *Social Policy and Administration* (preview available)

Tobias Böger & Lutz Leisering (2017) Social citizenship for older persons? Measuring the social quality of social pensions in the global south and explaining their spread. Social Protection & Labor Discussion Papers no. 1703. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group

Lutz Leisering, Tao Liu & Tobias ten Brink (2017) Synthesizing Disparate Ideas: How a Chinese Model of Social Assistance was Forged. *Global Social Policy* 17(3): 307–327

John Berten & Lutz Leisering (2017) Social policy by numbers. How international organisations construct global policy proposals. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 26: 151–167.

Berten, John (2017) Evaluation and simulation: Producing evidence in the global politics of social cash transfers. In: Annabelle Littoz-Monnet (ed.), *The politics of expertise in international organizations*. How international bureaucracies produce and mobilize knowledge. New York: Routledge: 148-166.

Moritz von Gliszczynski (2017) 'Social Protection and Basic Income in Global Policy', *Global Social Policy*, 17(1), 98–100.

Katrin Weible (2016) What Social Cash Transfer Programmes Do Not Do in Middle Income Countries: Identifying Entitlement Gaps in Basic Social Protection, in: United Nations System Staff College & Hertie School of Governance (eds.) *UN Reflection Series 2016: Development Cooperation, Policy Advice and Middle Income Countries*, Berlin. 173-192.

Moritz von Gliszczynski & Lutz Leisering (2016) Constructing new global models of social security: How international organizations defined the field of social cash transfers in the 2000s. *Journal of Social Policy*, 45(2): 325-343.

Tao Liu & Li Sun (2016) Pension Reform in China. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, 28(1): 15-28.

Tao Liu & Li Sun (2016) Urban Social Assistance in China: Transnational Diffusion and National Interpretation. *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, 45(2): 29-51.

Lutz Leisering, Ulrike Davy & Benjamin Davy (2015) The politics of recognition: Changing understandings of human rights, social development and land rights as normative foundation of global social policy. *Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law*, 18: 565-600.

Lutz Leisering & Armando Barrientos (2013) Social citizenship for the global poor? The worldwide spread of social assistance. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 22(S1): S50-S67.

Katrin Weible & Lutz Leisering (2012) South Africa's System of Social Cash Transfers. Assessing its Social Quality, in: Hans-Jürgen Burchardt, Anne Tittor & Nico Weinmann (eds.) *Sozialpolitik in globaler Perspektive. Asien, Afrika und Lateinamerika*, Frankfurt am Main: Campus, 247-270.

c) Forthcoming articles

Lutz Leisering (2019/2020) Social cash transfers in the global South: a new instrument for alleviating poverty (commissioned for the Handbook of Poverty, ed. by Bent Greve)

Lutz Leisering (2020) The quest for universalism in global social security – concepts, predicaments, strategies (forthcoming in a special issue on universalism)

d) Unpublished PhD theses

Michael Leutelt (2017) Perspectives on Policy Transfer: “Dropping Stones, Making Waves”. How International Organizations Promote “Social Cash Transfer Programs” in the Global South. PhD thesis, University of Bielefeld

Katrin Weible (2019) Differential Social Citizenship of the Poor: Social Cash Transfers Across the Global South (working title). PhD thesis, University of Bielefeld (forthcoming)