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## REGULAR SESSION

Title of Session: Globalization and Life Course Patterns in Modern Societies -  
Towards Increasing Life Course Inequality?

Name of Session Convener(s): Blossfeld, Hans-Peter, Prof. Dr.; Buchholz, Sandra,  
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Comments:

Abstract (up to 250 words):

Globalization, Transnationalization and Europeanization have become central reference points for media, politicians, academics, and policy-makers to explain social change and understand social inequality in modern societies. As a consequence of Transnationalization, structural uncertainty about economic and social developments has risen significantly in European nations. However, modern societies appear to be impacted differently by these forces: Increasing uncertainty is filtered by nation-specific institutions such as employment relations, educational systems, welfare states, or the family. They act as 'intervening variables' between global macro forces and the individual micro level. Life courses in modern societies hence are affected differentially, and life chances and risks are channeled in nation-specific ways towards specific social groups, resulting in cross-nationally different patterns of social inequality across the life course.

Our session invites papers that deal with these differential ways in which globalization has impacted the life courses of individuals in different modern societies. Possible topics include:

How can the macro-level process of Globalization and Transnationalization be measured quantitatively? How can these measures be integrated into micro-level analyses?

How has Globalization impacted individuals in different phases of their life course?

Which social groups profit from Globalization forces and which groups are becoming marginalized?

How do Globalization and Transnationalization generally affect the structures of social inequality in modern societies? Is the importance of social class decreasing or do classical boundaries within society remain vital and strong?

The session will be organized in cooperation with the ESF Research Network "TransEurope-Transnationalization and Changing Life Course Inequality in Europe".