Can social policies be both effective at reducing social problems and inequalities, and politically popular? For a long time, scholars have thought that universal social policies were more effective and more popular than policies targeted at the disadvantaged. Scholars have also documented tremendous variation in the extent to which social policies are broadly supported by public opinion, constituencies of beneficiaries, and vested stakeholders. However, some of the most effective policies have little political support, and some of the most popular policies do not really make a difference to social problems and inequalities. Indeed, there could be many variations in the complementarities and contradictions between effectiveness and popularity.

Our conference on Twitter:
#WZBIPPR

The Conference is hosted by the Inequality and Social Policy (USP) Research Unit of the WZB, and by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) in the UK.

Please register by Sunday, May 10, 2015
to buero.brady-usp@wzb.eu
phone: +49 (0)30 25491-301/-371

The WZB provides childcare during the conference. If you are interested, please respond by May 8, 2015, indicating the number of children and their age to Silke Rieth: silke.rieth@wzb.eu.
Monday, May 18, 2015

8:30 am
Registration and Coffee

8:45 am
Opening Remarks
David Brady, WZB

9:00 am
Practical Left Policies: UK Options?
Peter Taylor-Gooby, University of Kent
Discussant: Irene Böckmann, WZB

9:50 am
Parents Against Policy? A Race between Social Investment and Social Closure
Jane Gingrich, University of Oxford
Discussant: Michael Kenny, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

10:40 am
Coffee Break

10:55 am
Public Support of Mothers’ Employment and Work–Family Policy Change in European Welfare States, 1990–2008
Agnes Blome, WZB
Discussant: Jane Gingrich, University of Oxford

11:45 am
Lunch

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

9:00 am
The Political Consequences of the Increasing Inequality in Labor Market Risks
Hanna Schwander, University of Bremen
Discussant: Agnes Blome, WZB

9:50 am
In It Despite the Money: Welfare Benefits, Labor Market Context, and Employment Performance
Thomas Biegert, WZB
Discussant: David Howell, The New School, New York

10:40 am Coffee Break