to a colloquium with

Jane Lewis, University of Oxford

on

"Towards the Adult Worker Model Family.
Problems of Care and Gender Equality"

Monday, June 14th, 17.00 hrs, Room B004/005

In the adult worker model family it is usually assumed that the work of care will increasingly move to the formal, paid sector, which helps to account for the secondary place accorded to care on the policy agenda. But in fact the balance between paid and unpaid work that is achieved by the individual varies enormously between men and women and impacts on their welfare throughout the life course. The extent to which different parts of the 'package of issues' related to the adult worker model family are recognised by different countries and by different policy documents within the same level of government (particularly at EU level) is striking. Jane Lewis will review the nature of the policy discourse at EU level, together with the kind of policy logics that exist at the level of the nation state in order to illustrate the shift in thinking about the contribution that women in particular should make to families, and go on to suggest that there are real limits to the pursuit of a full adult worker model based on the commodification of care.

Jane Lewis is Barnett Professor of Social Policy at the University of Oxford. Prior to this, she spent seventeen years in the Department of Social Policy and Social Administration at the LSE, where she was Professor of Social Policy. Her research interests are focused mainly on gender and social policy, on family policy, the voluntary sector, community care and health policy, and the history of social policy. Selected recent publications:

"Gender and Welfare State Change", European Societies 4 (4) 2002, 331-357

This is an invitation of the research area "Employment, Social Structure, and Welfare State" related to its seminar series "The European Social Model".