



VIU
Graduate
Seminar
SUSTAINABLE
SOCIAL
SECURITY

Sustainable Social Security

October 8 – 12, 2018

Venice International University
Isola di San Servolo, Venice

VIU Graduate Seminar

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Scientific coordinator:
Prof. Paul Schoukens,
KU Leuven (Belgium)

Program

During an intensive one-week program, young researchers starting on their PhD or researchers who are at the start of their project will convene to present and discuss their research in the field of social security. At the same time they will be able to attend several lectures on research methodology and on comparative research in the field of social security.

The principle of sustainability will be the central theme around which the one-week program will be built. Taking into account the growing attention that is given to this principle in national social policy discussions, as well as in European and international (legal) monitoring processes, the researchers will be invited to reflect on the significance sustainability may have for social security. The guiding question during the seminar is whether there is something like a common understanding of the principle of sustainability in the field of social security, valid across various disciplines and in a cross-national setting.

The Graduate Seminar is divided into a **three-day training session** followed by participation in a **two-day conference** which is open to a broader audience of experts.

This Graduate Seminar will be led by:

- KU Leuven, Belgium
- Università degli Studi Roma Tor Vergata, Italy
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Germany

In partnership with:

- Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italy
- Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy
- Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
- Waseda University, Japan

Methodology

During the first part of the Graduate Seminar, the participants will attend short lectures aimed at helping their research. Next to this, there will be two Working Groups. In the first, participants will get the opportunity to **present their research** (proposals) and discuss it with the group. In the second, the group will be divided into three subgroups, each focusing on a different way to address the topic of sustainability. During the conference the findings of these groups will be the starting point for the discussions on sustainability and work, residence, and income.

Topics

During the first days of the seminar, the focus will be on:

- Research methodology and comparative research in social security;
- Discussions of the own research among peers;
- Focus-groups on the three key-drivers in current social security: work, residence, and income.

During the conference, the focus will be on ideas of sustainability. This can be deconstructed into three strands:

- The meaning of the concept ‘sustainability’ (in the field of social security): what does it mean from the various disciplines and can we come to an integrated conceptual approach?
- The possible impact of sustainability on (the traditional design of) social security (as an income replacement and cost compensation system, focusing mainly on the aspect of compensation): in which fields of social security can the principle of sustainability have an impact, and how can it affect the organization of social security (more prevention; more rules on monitoring changing social security, etc.) ?
- Sustainability as a guiding principle in monitoring social security: to what extent can the principle play a role in the development of a future social model monitoring our systems, and how can it affect modern standard setting in the field of social security? How can it be promoted and monitored by legal and para-legal instruments? What kind of sustainability criteria are to be developed and monitored at which level(s) (international, regional)?

Learning outcomes for participants:

After attending this graduate seminar, participants will have:

- received ample feedback and new directions for their research through lectures and discussions;
- gained new insights on the idea of ‘sustainability’ in social security law;

- actively participated in a conference with experts in their field.

Level of students and suitable fields of study

This Graduate seminar is offered to young researchers early in their PhD (one year progress) open to reflecting upon the future of social security in our society and in what manner ‘sustainability’ can play a guiding role in this future development.

Open to candidates from all the VIU Member Institutions.

Excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered and evaluated, although these candidates will pay fees and are not eligible for financial support .

Fees & Grant Support

Students from the **VIU member universities** will pay **no participation fees**. Grant support is also available to support, partially or fully, the costs of international travel and accommodation.

The participation fee for students of non-member universities is: **€ 700 for EISS-members; € 1,200 for others**. The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes. Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support.

Credits

Participation in the Graduate Seminar is considered equivalent to 4 ECTS.

The final program will be available on the VIU website

Applications

April 6 – June 1, 2018 only via the VIU website.

Students who are admitted to the Graduate Seminar will take part in the 5-day program, including the conference. It will not be necessary to register separately for the conference.

Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of motivation – which should include a brief description of the candidate’s research project, a curriculum vitae and a photo.

PhD Students in EU universities may be eligible for **Erasmus+ funding**. Refer to international offices in home universities or contact VIU Erasmus office: **erasmus@univiu.org**.

Location

The campus of Venice International University is located on the island of San Servolo, in Venice.



www.eiss.be



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