

The Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS
cordially invites you to its twenty-ninth *Jour fixe* event:

Achim Kemmerling:

What Pariahs can Teach Us:

The Political Economy of Adopting and Abolishing Private Pensions

Academic Symposium

Presenter: Achim Kemmerling (Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and European Studies, and the School of Public Policy, Central European University Budapest)

Opponents: András Simonovits (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, HAS) and Attila Bartha (Institute for Political Science, CSS HAS)

Organised by the **Research group on sustainable well-being in ageing societies**



Abstract:

This paper argues that the recent reversals in pension privatization hold important lessons for the political economy of pension reform. While international policy diffusion accelerated the adoption of private systems, pushing diffusion in some cases even too far, domestic factors were crucial in explaining the reversals. In particular, the interaction between problem pressure in the form of high public debt, weak financial markets, and politically unconstrained governments can explain when and why countries renationalize their pension systems. The article uses a mixed methods design: a pooled cross-section analysis shows the role of the domestic political economy for the long-run stability of privatization and serves as a tool for case selection; a qualitative controlled comparison between four countries gives evidence when and why governments re-nationalize pension systems.

Keywords: welfare reform, private pensions, political economy

The venue of the lecture:

Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS,
Hegedüs room, Budapest I. Úri u. 49.

Date: 11 December, 2014 (Thursday), 1p.m.