



Cohesive Societies? Analytical-empirical Perspectives

Call for Papers

Contemporary societies face challenges that require a high degree of social cohesion in terms of effectively addressing them. Some argue that societies are characterized by declining social cohesion, while others dispute this diagnosis. Here, sociology, based on rigorous theoretical considerations and empirical analysis, can help to clarify the theoretical mechanisms at work and develop methods to enable a better understanding of the social dynamics that hinder or promote social cohesion or division. Under what conditions is there more or less social cooperation? How do these conditions relate to ingroup-/outgroup distinctions, to different social identities, or to the costs of cooperation? What impact do attitudes, perceptions, information and knowledge have? How to analyze dynamics, e.g. caused by social media, that only pass on selective information to selective groups, possibly triggered by algorithms that even promote self-enforcing mechanisms? How can we model and analyze social cohesion on different socio-spatial levels, e.g. among different nations or groups within countries and communities? How to explain social solidarity and (compliance with) emerging social norms, e.g. under what conditions can group solidarity in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic lead to unintended side effects of deepening social divisions? What are the effects of being embedded in certain social networks? What 'ties' oblige individuals to comply with norms or identify with political groups such as radical right or left-wing populist parties?

These and other questions about social cohesion require well-founded analytical theories and empirical methods to understand the underlying social mechanisms and to find possible solutions for coping with the diverse challenges that trigger societal crises. The **3rd Academy of Sociology conference** will offer scientists a platform on which they can present their theoretical, empirical and methodological work on one or more of these topics. We particularly welcome contributions dealing with the main theme of the congress, and addressing one of the following topics from the point of view of social cohesion:

- Covid-19 pandemic
- Economy and labor
- Educational inequalities
- Environment and climate change
- Gender and diversity
- Media and opinion polarization
- Methodology of cohesion research
- Migration and integration
- Politics, social movements, and societal cleavages
- Social Inequality and mobility
- Social networks and social capital

Open category: We also warmly welcome research contributions on all other topics of analytical-empirical research that do not deal with the main topic of the congress. We will host numerous open panels and poster sessions inviting scholars to present their new research.

We kindly ask all authors **to choose one or two of the above topics** (including the open category) during the submission process.

In addition to sociology, we also invite scholars from other disciplines to present their research on social cohesion, for instance from the field of economics, political science, social psychology, communication science, computational social science or human geography.

The conference language is English. We therefore expressively encourage international scholars to participate in our conference.

Scholars are asked to submit a complete paper or an extended abstract (2-3 pages) to cohesivesocieties2021@uni-leipzig.de. **Closing date for submissions is 31st of May 2021.** Acceptance decisions will be communicated by end of June 2021. The presentations are limited to 20 minutes (including discussion). All (presenting) authors must register as participants.

Please note: Due to the unpredictable development of the Covid-19 pandemic, the congress will be held online (organized by Leipzig University).

For further information, we will have a conference website which will be online soon.