

# New Projects 2009 and 2010

Welfare, work and migration



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## Changing public opinion on welfare

Project Owner:

**Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)**

Project Manager:

**Pedersen, Axel West Senior Researcher**

Project No.: 194329/S20

Project Period:

**1.1.1900-1.1.1900**

### Objectives:

The main goal of this project is to describe and explain changes in the public's attitudes towards public welfare provision in light of the contemporary economic and demographic challenges to the developed welfare state. We intend to study how these challenges might influence public opinions towards more abstract principles as well as more concrete institutional parameters and reform issues. If policy makers are to be successful in their efforts to adapt welfare policies to contemporary economic and demographic realities, they need to pay attention to issues of legitimacy. This project is intended to fill this need by providing new knowledge about possible ways to combine concerns for economic and normative sustainability in the further development of the welfare state.

### Project Summary:

The project will study public opinion on the ends and means of welfare policy in light of contemporary challenges from economic globalisation, immigration and population aging. Different aspects of welfare opinion will be analysed: from more general values and principles to more specific attitudes towards the financing of public welfare and the organisation of income protection and service provision.

The project will be carried out in collaboration between NOVA and ISF. The most important data source is European Social Survey, which in the latest wave includes an extensive battery of questions on welfare attitudes. In addition we will utilize an even more comprehensive survey that has recently been applied in five Northern European countries – including Norway.

Although the project has a broad comparative perspective, we are particularly concerned with Norway and the other Nordic countries and possible changes in the public support for principles and systemic features that can be seen to characterize a particular Nordic model of welfare provision. The European welfare states face a set of common challenges, but cross-national differences in the institutional architecture might set in motion different political dynamics that in turn lead to different policy responses. Does the alleged “universalistic” character of the Nordic welfare states make more or less vulnerable to contemporary changes in economic and demographic conditions, and if so: what role does public opinion play?

The project is organised in three parts each dealing with an important structural challenge to contemporary welfare states:

1) Immigration and increasing ethnic heterogeneity, 2) economic globalisation and recessions, and 3) population aging.

# Industrial relations under global stress: fragmentation and the potential for representation of workers in the Norwegian hospitality sector

Project Owner:  
**Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)**

Project Manager:  
**Lier, David Christoffer Researcher**

Project No.: 194332/S20

Project Period:  
**1.9.2009-31.12.2012**

## Objectives:

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:

Examine processes of social exclusion in the hospitality sector in Norway through the lens of fragmentation, and analyse these in relation to international patterns of labour migration, corporate restructuring and union renewal.

### SECONDARY OBJECTIVES:

Map hospitality employment relations in the Oslo region, in order to analyse the relations between social indicators, union membership and employment status.

Analyse social fragmentation in selected hotel workplaces, and examine the strategies of employees to engage with employment issues and the ability of unions to represent a diverse workforce.

Analyse corporate strategies of flexibilisation in the sector, and examine how this affects the relations between hotel management, labour hire agencies and organised labour.

Contrast the Oslo case with fieldwork- and literature-based case studies from 4 Anglo-American city regions with regard to organising strategies, unionisation rate and social partnership arrangements.

## Project Summary:

The proposed research project seeks to understand social relations in the Norwegian hospitality sector. The relationships between employers and employees, and between different groups of employees and their representatives, are shaped by globalisation, economic restructuring and international labour migration. The research will address how these processes of social inclusion and exclusion affect workers ability to influence employment and other work issues. A key ambition behind this project is to examine how global stress affects the ability of organised labour to represent the diversity represented by the Norwegian hospitality sector? By focusing on a sector dominated by women and migrant workers - characterised by low wages, low unionisation rates and precarious forms of employment - this project will challenge our understanding of the "Nordic model" of industrial relations, both in terms of its normative sustainability and its ability to adapt to a globalising world.

At the centre of the theoretical framework are recent advances in human geography exploring the new geographies of work: both from the employer side, through flexibilisation, outsourcing and human resource management, and from the labour side, through the challenges of fragmentation, social partnership and multicultural integration in the sector. Moreover, the potential for representation of workers in this sector will be examined both at the level of the workplace and in industrial relations in the sector. Based on both quantitative and qualitative research methods, the project is designed as four independent, but mutually informative, work packages: a quantitative study of hotel workplaces in the Oslo region will be combined with 5 qualitative workplace studies in Oslo and a Norwegian mountain resort, and interviews with union officials and corporate management. Finally, 4 fieldwork- and literature-based cases will compare the Oslo case with innovative Anglo-American organising experiences.

## Evaluating the Performance of the Welfare State

Project Owner:  
**Statistics Norway, SSB**

Project Manager:  
**Aaberge, Rolf Senior Researcher**

Project No.: 194339/S20

Project Period:  
**1.9.2009-31.8.2013**

### Objectives:

The primary objective of this project is to provide an evaluation of the functioning of the welfare systems prevalent in some of the OECD countries, including Norway. We focus on (i) the performance of welfare states under the emerging economic crisis, (ii) the provision and allocation of public services, and their impact on the income distribution, social mobility, and labor market performance, and (iii) improving the methods for measuring deprivation and social exclusion, and applying these methods to assess empirically the redistributive functioning of the Norwegian welfare state.

### Project Summary:

The substantial rise in expenditures for welfare programs during the recent decade has created much concern; not least in the Nordic countries having a strong emphasis on egalitarian policies with a high level of public provision of services and a large share of public sector employment. However, due to the aging of the population, a crucial requirement for sustainability of the Nordic model is a proper design of the tax-benefit system as well as of public services. Designing a more effective policy requires an improved understanding of the consequences of present welfare policies. For example, one of the consequences of existing policy measures is a diminution of the incentives to work. For many people the difference between incomes when working and when receiving welfare support is rather small, leaving too little incentives to work. This concern sets the stage for this project, where the overarching objective is to evaluate performance of the Norwegian welfare state, and compare it to the welfare systems of other OECD countries. This project is lead by senior research fellow Rolf Aaberge and involves a core staff employed in Statistics Norway and researchers from leading universities in Europe and the U.S.

## **Exclusion and inclusion in the suburb: The centripetal and centrifugal forces of locality and place.**

Project Owner:  
**Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo**

Project Manager:  
**Eriksen, Thomas Hylland Professor**

Project No.: 194342/S20

Project Period:  
**1.9.2009-30.6.2013**

### Objectives:

- Identifying, mapping and analysing conditions for local (place-based) identity and social sustainability an Oslo suburb with an ethnically complex population, and identifying factors militating against local integration
- Identifying and analysing social and cultural fields of interaction where trust, participa belonging develop, are maintained and challenged. Showing the multiplicity of belonging including transnational ties
- Contributing to a description and analysis of the current transformations of European cities from national to transnational places
- Showing the necessity of interdisciplinary approaches in the study of sustainability and welfare
- Describing sources of conflict and other centripetal forces in complex urban environments
- Indicating the relative significance of the media, the residential environment, the field of education, sport and leisure, public spaces, labour, religion and social memory

### Project Summary:

Seven senior researchers, four postdoctors, two Ph. D. candidate and five MA students from six academic disciplines (social anthropology, media studies, education, theology, history and consumption research) collaborate in this interdisciplinary project, which aims to study a locality in Grorud Valley (eastern Oslo), using qualitative methods in order to identify and analyse conditions for cohesion and sustainability (and, by implication, non-local forms of identification). Methods include ethnographic fieldwork (participant observation), qualitative interviews and archival studies, plus some surveys. The theoretical framework is defined by network theory, mobility theory, urban studies and current theories of social identification. The component projects will focus on (i) the residential environment, (ii) mobility and immobility, (iii) public spaces and meeting-places, (iv) school mobility and school change, (v) the role of local media, (vi) electronic communication and transnational media, (vii) cultural hybridity and mixing, (viii) narratives of the past and social memory, (ix) religion. The sub-projects are complementary and relate to the overarching research questions, which are:

- Which are the social and cultural processes that contribute to integration and sustainability in the suburb, and how are they embedded institutionally?

Which are the processes encouraging non-local forms of belonging (ranging from virtual communities to national/ethnic loyalties and transnational ties), and how do they articulate with locality-enhancing processes?

-How do different social arenas and fields of discourse (ranging from sport and school to consumption and kinship) relate to each other with respect to "the production of locality"?

-In what ways are local identifications confronted with nonlocal ones, through e.g. work mobility, transnational ties and commitments, ethnic or religious loyalties?

# Early Intervention and Social Mobility: Improving the Opportunities of Disadvantaged Children

Project Owner:

**Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stavanger**

Project Manager:

**Rege, Mari Professor**

Project No.: 194347/S20

Project Period:

**1.9.2009-1.9.2013**

## Objectives:

Primary objective: Empirically investigate how Norwegian public policies targeted towards early childhood can improve children's long-run outcomes and increase social mobility.

Secondary objectives: Utilize rich register data and instrumental variable and difference-in-difference approaches in order to answer the following questions:

1. What is the role of the universal childcare system in Norway for children's long-run development and social mobility? To what extent does childcare quality, such as staff-child ratio, matter for child development?
2. How important is family income in early childhood for children's long-run development in Norway? Will children benefit from public programs that increase early childhood family income? In particular, do such programs increase social mobility in Norway?
3. How important is the presence of two parents for children's long-run development? Will public policies restricting a parent's post divorce relocation be beneficial to the child?

## Project Summary:

Family is important for child development. Internationally it is well documented that family environments of young children are important predictors of outcomes later in life, such as education, labor market participation, earnings, health, and crime. In particular, children of families with low income and education, and children of broken families, have substantially lower prospects for success in life than other children. Norway is no exception.

This research project will investigate how Norwegian public policies targeted towards early childhood can improve children's long-run outcomes and increase social mobility. Recent research from a number of fields suggests that early childhood is a particularly promising time to intervene in the lives of children, especially those from disadvantaged families. Three different sub-projects will investigate the following questions:

1. What is the role of the universal childcare system in Norway for children's long-run development and social mobility? To what extent does childcare quality, such as staff-child ratio, matter for child development?
2. How important is family income in early childhood for children's long-run development in Norway? Will children benefit from public programs that increase early childhood family income? In particular, do such programs increase social mobility in Norway?
3. How important is the presence of two parents for children's long-run development? Will public policies restricting a parent's post divorce relocation be beneficial to the child?

The project will investigate these questions using individual level register data for the whole resident Norwegian population available every year back to the late 1960s. The empirical analyses will utilize a wide range of child outcomes measured far into the child's adulthood. Moreover, the analyses will focus on establishing causal inferences, using various instrumental variable and difference-in-difference approaches.

## **Nordic models facing crisis: Implications for labour market adjustment and inclusion.**

Project Owner:

**Fafo, Institute for Labour and Social Research**

Project Manager:

**Dølvik, Jon Erik Head of Research**

Project No.: 194372/S20

Project Period:

**15.9.2009-31.8.2013**

### Objectives:

The primary objective of this project is to study labour market adjustment at company level in Nordic models that are differently hit by the crisis. How do the social actors at company level respond, and what are the main principles and mechanisms shaping decision-making on workforce adjustment? To what extent does the interplay between income-security arrangements and job protection regulations work in accordance with the logic of flexicurity in different economic and institutional contexts? The secondary objective is to explore variations in perceptions of employment and job security across countries, sectors and occupational groups. To what extent do variations in risk perceptions reflect differences in human capital, level of unemployment, benefits, and public policy responses to the crisis, and how do such variations correspond with personal experience and labour market behavior?

### Project Summary:

This project aims to compare the implications of the global crisis for workforce adjustment at company level and for perceptions of employment security and risk in the Nordic labour forces. While the Nordic models won praise for their ability to adapt and recover after the homemade crises of the 1980-90s, the recent crisis has to varying degree faced the Nordic models with a severe test of their capacity to cope with a massive external demand shock. Our aim is to conduct comparative studies of the social actors' roles in company decision-making (in selected branches) when it comes to handling large scale adjustments in production and workforces. To what extent does the foreseen interplay between income security arrangements, labour market regulations and policies, and industrial relations actor strategies at company level contribute to maintaining high levels of mobility, participation, and inclusion in the labour market? How do economic considerations, power relations, and norms of justice, equity and seniority interact in shaping decisions concerning dismissals, work-sharing, cost-cutting, job-protection and training in company workforce adjustments? How do such selection processes affect vulnerable employee groups? Case studies of such issues will be combined with survey studies of variations in individual perceptions of employment risk and security across countries and groups. How do such variations correspond with personal experience and coping strategies, and how are they influenced by (national) variations in public institutions and policy responses to the crisis? By comparing how labour market institutions and actors react to the crisis, shape employment outcomes, and manage or not to prevent undesirable consequences in the Nordic countries the study can generate academically and politically useful insight.

## Public Policy and the Labour Market Attachment of Different Households

Project Owner:  
**Institute for Social Research (ISF)**

Project Manager:  
**Barth, Erling Research Director**

Project No.: 194379/S20

Project Period:  
**1.11.2009-31.12.2012**

### Objectives:

The primary objective of the project is to explain the pattern of labour market attachment for different types of households in Norway. One important objective is to combine different theoretical approaches.

The set secondary objectives include:

- 1) To study how public welfare and family policies reflect the increased complexity in types of households.
- 2) To study how labour market attachment of different types of households is affected by public family policy.
- 3) To study the relationship between within-household distribution of domestic work and gender differences in the labour market.
- 4) To study how different types of households adapt and react to changing labour market conditions measured by downsizing and plant closures.
- 5) To give special analytical attention to non-western immigrant households and study to what extent divergent household behaviour can be explained by differences in household composition, family values and qualifications required in the labour market.

### Project Summary:

Our main overall goal is to explain what triggers and hinders labour market attachment for different types of households. We will do this on different levels: Firstly; we will conduct a political processes analysis to shed light on how public goals related to welfare and family policies are formed. In which ways do new complex family units challenge the welfare policy based on two-income households and gender equality? Secondly, we will analyse the impacts of the realised policies, measured by two important examples of public family policies: subsidized child care costs and paid parental leave. Thirdly, to understand the variety in labour market attachment and the interplay between division of labour in the market and in the domestic sphere, we must go into the households: We do this in two ways; i) we will analyse the relationship between the relative distribution of household work and performance in the labour market, and ii) we will especially for immigrant household we will look more deeply into importance of household characteristics that we think are especially important to emphasise for this group. For example how important is health, the household composition, number and distribution of children for immigrant households? attachment to the labour market? This section will explicitly combine quantitative and qualitative research. Interviews with different types of households will deepen and broaden the understanding of mechanisms behind the pattern we observe in the quantitative studies. Lastly, to understand more of the diversity in labour market attachment between different groups and different types of households, we must look at other explanatory factors as well. Changing labour market conditions are one such factor. Reorganisations in the labour market, measured by plant downsizing, can be painful for those that are exposed to them. In this project we will analyse the effect of such events on both native and immigrant households.

## Centre for Economic Studies in Social Insurance

Project Owner:  
**Department of Economics, University of Bergen**

Project Manager:  
**Vaage, Kjell Professor**

Project nr: 199832/S20

Project Period:  
**1.1.2010-31.12.2015**

### Primary objective:

To offer research and education within the field of social insurance economics and neighbouring areas.

### SECONDARY OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH

- Publish our research in high-quality scientific journals
- Establish close contact to central users within ministries, agencies and administration that are crucial for the formation of policy within the fields of welfare and social security
- Extend our national and international network and initiate multi-disciplinary and comparative analysis
- Encourage researchers outside the Centre to include social insurance perspectives in their research

### SECONDARY OBJECTIVES, EDUCATION

- Offer courses in social insurance at all levels (bachelor, master, Ph.D.) integrated in the basic Economics education at the Department of Economics, UoB
- Recruit master students to write econometric thesis based on the rich Norwegian register data
- Produce at least to two Ph.D. candidates within the field of social insurance during the project period, and apply for financing inside and outside of UoB for at least one more Ph.D. stipend
- Employ at least one newly educated Ph.D. candidate in a post doc position with ambition of developing to a well established researcher in the field of Social Insurance during the project period
- Achieve full professorship for all tenured researchers at the Centre during the project period

### Project summary:

This project offers research and education within the field of social insurance economics and neighbouring areas.

As for research, we will initiate new empirically embedded research projects where problems related to social insurance will be analysed in light of the labour market, the demographic development, health, family, household and educational system, and in a global perspective. Research to explore how fiscal compensation and rules and regulations affect participation in the labour force and transitions between work and pension/benefits will be given high priority. On the one hand, we will narrow the focus by studying causal relationships in limited parts of the social insurance system. On the other hand, there are larger and broader problems where a multi-disciplinary approach is more appropriate. Here we will continue and extend our research cooperation with researchers within the fields of psychology, medicine and sociology to produce synthesising approaches as input in larger and broader policy-oriented questions. Furthermore, an important part of the project will be to establish close contact to central users within ministries, agencies and administration that are crucial for the formation of policy within the fields of welfare and social security. In addition, we extend our national and international network and initiate multi-disciplinary and comparative analysis, and encourage researchers outside the Centre to include social insurance perspectives in their research.

As for education, we will offer courses in social insurance at all levels (bachelor, master, Ph.D.) integrated in the basic Economics education at the Department of Economics, UoB. Furthermore, we will recruit master students to write econometric thesis based on the rich Norwegian register data. We will produce at least to two Ph.D. candidates within the field of social insurance during the project period, and apply for financing inside and outside of UoB for at least one more Ph.D. stipend. At least one newly educated Ph.D. candidate will be employed in a post doc position with ambition of developing to a well established researcher in the field of Social Insurance. Finally, our goal is to achieve full professorship for all tenured researchers at the Centre during the project period.

## **Social Security in Context. Fairness, Efficiency and Redistribution. (TREFF)**

Project Owner:  
**Institute for Social Research**

Project Manager:  
**Bay, Ann-Helén Director**

Project nr: 199836/S20

Project Period:  
**1.1.2010-31.12.2015**

### Objectives

This project has three main objectives:

- 1) We want to produce high-quality social security research and publish internationally.
- 2) We want to recruit new researchers to the field and develop the thematic, disciplinary and methodological competences of our cross-disciplinary research team
- 3) By disseminating results from empirical studies and theoretical and normative reflections, we want to contribute to a more informed debate on social security reform in Norway.

### Project Summary

The focal point of the project is the classic dilemma between justice and efficiency. Balancing considerations for equality and income security on the one hand and work incentives and economic efficiency on the other is a demanding challenge both for policy makers and practitioners. Social Security in Context will produce knowledge about the effects of current policies, but also engage in principled discussions that are relevant for the development of new policies and new measures. It is a central premise for the project that social security arrangements and their effects can only be understood in a broader societal perspective where they interact with other welfare policies, labour market structures, firm behaviour, social norms, individual preferences and limitations, and the complexities of actual implementation.

Social Security in Context is built up by three main modules: 1) Institutions, policy and redistribution in a comparative perspective. Starting from the thesis that “policy matters” we will study the politics, design and outcomes of different social security arrangements. 2) Local justice. This module starts from the assumption that gate keepers tend to promote passive income transfers rather than activation and self-sufficiency. 3) Employers and employees: When are incentives efficient? In this module we aim to explain adaptations and transitions for persons who are outside or on the margins of the labour market, taking account of conditions both on the demand side and the supply side.

Social Security in Context will constitute an arena for coordinated research and dialogue between researchers and institutions with expertise on different aspects of social security.

## **Buying and Selling (gender) Equality: Feminized Migration and Gender Equality in Contemporary Norway**

Project Owner:  
**Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture, NTNU**

Project Manager:  
**Annfelt, Trine Professor**

Project No.: 202409/S20

Project Period:  
**1.2.2011-31.12.2014**

### Objectives:

The main objective of the project is to contribute to better understanding of the significance of gender and ethnicity in the formulation of the equality politics of the Norwegian welfare state. This will be carried out by exploring whether gender mainstreaming as a policy discourse and practice depends on the production of inequality based on intersections of class, ethnicity and gender. We will investigate how gender equality today tangles itself into the majoritising and marginalising processes. One sub-objective of the project is to elucidate the relationship between feminized migration to Norway and work outside the regular labor market (au pairs and domestic cleaners). Another sub-objective is to synthesize knowledge from this project with the knowledge of similar processes in other European countries.

### Project Summary:

This project will study the relation between gender equality and global feminized migration. The project is justified by the need for a deeper understanding of the significance of gender and ethnicity in the formulation of the equality politics of the welfare state. Maternal participation in the labour market combined with the fathers' participation in the family is incorporated as gender mainstreaming. This way of organizing everyday life is particularly dominant in the middle class, but the ideal is of vital importance to the collective identity of all Norwegians.

On a global market women have become pioneers of migration. By offering services as domestic workers outside the regular labour market they contribute to resolving conflicts related to work-life balance. This project examines these solutions empirically. Do such solutions interfere with the goals of the welfare state concerning equality and social/economic equalization with respect to gender, ethnicity and class? Does gender mainstreaming minimise one social inequality by producing new ones?

The project will examine how gender, "race"/ethnicity, class and nation play together in the Norwegian employers attitudes towards employment of migrant domestic workers. The experience of migrant workers doing domestic services in Norwegian households is examined as well, together with public debates and policy documents about these phenomena. Based on feminist postcolonial theory, we ask whether and how the new every-day-life practices and social imaginaries contributes in the structuring of Norwegianness and otherness - and support boundaries between "us" and "them" territorially and culturally.

We will be involved in cooperation with other European researchers that investigate the rise of ethnic divisions in different welfare state systems. The project will also form part of the Nordic Center of Excellence in Welfare Research: The Nordic Welfare State - historical foundations and future challenges.

# Exclusion and inclusion in the transition to primary school. The role of behavior problems and social competence among boys and girls

Project Owner:

**The Norwegian Center for Child Behavioral Development, Unirand AS**

Project Manager:

**Ogden, Terje Forskningsdirektør**

Project No.: 202438/S20

Project Period:

**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

## Objectives:

The primary aim is to examine whether behavior problems and social competence influence girls' and boys' exclusion and inclusion (academic and with peers) throughout child care and in the transition to primary school.

Secondary aims are to examine whether (a) behavior problems predict exclusion, and social competence predict inclusion in child care and in the transition to primary school; and (b) distinct developmental trajectories of behavior problems and social competence from 6 months to 5 years have specific and different predictions for inclusion and exclusion in the transition to primary school

A particular focus regards the elucidation of developmental gender-specific mechanisms including possible interactions of behavior-problem and social-competence development with various child, family, child care, and school factors.

## Project Summary:

The project aims at studying the role of behavior problems and social competence in girls' and boys' exclusion and inclusion throughout child care and in the transition to primary school. A particular focus regards the elucidation of developmental mechanisms. The main hypotheses to be studied are: (a) behavior problems predict exclusion, and social competence predict inclusion in child care and in the transition to primary school; and (b) distinct developmental trajectories of behavior problems and social competence have specific predictions for inclusion and exclusion. The project will utilize an extant rich data set from an ongoing longitudinal study of 1159 children, which includes multi-informant, multi-method measures of behavior problems and social competence, exclusion and inclusion, family and child background, and child care and school factors. In addition, we will collect new data central to the project's objectives children's age 5 and after school entry. Multiple regression, structural equation modeling, latent growth curve analyses, and growth mixture modeling will be employed to address the research issues. Findings will inform policy on early prevention, and intervention as well as child care, child welfare and primary education. The project is of particular relevance for the research program on Welfare, Work and Migration (VAM). Persistent behavior problems and concomitant learning difficulties are an important source of failure in early education, which puts children at risk for exclusion and marginalization. The project applies in particular to the thematic areas of family and society, children's developmental conditions, and the mechanisms of marginalization. We pay special attention to behavior problems in girls, their concomitants and consequences, incorporating the gender perspective of the program plan.

## Family dynamics, fertility choices and family policy

Project Owner:

**Statistics Norway, SSB**

Project Manager:

**Lappegård, Trude Researcher**

Project No.: 202442/S20

Project Period:

**1.10.2010-31.8.2015**

### Objectives:

The main objective of the present proposal is to fill gaps in scientific and policy-oriented knowledge of the factors that drive the fertility development in modern, western societies, and thus to give more insights into the family formation and life situation of women and men, and the society's capacity to reproduce its population. The main objective is decomposed into three sub-goals: (i) improve our knowledge about the role of family dynamics in fertility intentions and fertility behaviour, (ii) understand the relationship between gender roles and fertility intentions and behaviour, and (iii) acquire better insights into the impact of family policies on fertility. The three sub-goals will be organised in separate, but closely related, work-packages that are well integrated theoretically and empirically, as well as methodologically. We will undertake more in-depth analyses of Norway, but also carry out several comparative analyses of other European countries and the US.

### Project Summary:

Since the 1960s there has been a dramatic drop in birth rates across Europe. Low fertility puts more pressure on the welfare state by increasing the age-dependency-ratio, thus also creating a larger burden for future generations. Debates on low birth-rates have inspired policy reforms in several countries, but the common features of demographic developments across Europe have prompted efforts to join forces in the search for policy responses. Our project will have both a national and a cross-national perspective and open up for theoretical reflections on the mechanisms behind the shift in family dynamics, the role of gender equality in fertility theories, and the impact of family policy on fertility. The comparative analyses in the present proposal will mainly be built on national surveys that are part of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP). GGP is a European research infrastructure where Norway is one of the participating countries. The more in-depth studies of Norway will be based on national administrative registers. Our conceptual framework will draw on fertility theories from both the fields of economics and sociology, and will include theoretical approaches that incorporate the complexity of new family dynamics and the various roles men and women play within the families. The project consists of three work-packages: (i) analyses of fertility intentions and behaviour in relation to other family formation events such as cohabitation and formal marriage, as well as to union dissolution and divorce, (ii) studies of the relationship between gender equality and fertility intentions and behaviour, focusing on both gender equality practices within the families and gender equality in the society, (iii) analyses of the effect of family policies on fertility behaviour, evaluating both the impact of specific policies and the total incentives of the present tax and benefit system.

## Globalization, innovation and the Norwegian labour market

Project Owner:

**Institute for Research in Economics and Business Administration AS (SNF)**

Project Manager:

**Salvenes, Kjell Gunnar Professor**

Project No.: 202445/S20

Project Period:

**1.10.2010-31.12.2014**

### Objectives:

The main objective of this research project is to understand how various shocks to the economy affect firms and workers, and how the restructuring in firms affect worker outcomes. In doing so, we aim to analyze several cutting-edge research questions which will generate interest beyond the Norwegian context.

Secondary goals are

- 1) Understand the effect of globalization on firms' adjustment in terms of demand for workers, location decisions, and how to organize production.
- 2) Analyze the effect of short- and long-term shocks to firms and regional labour markets, and in particular focus on the mobility of new jobs into regions hit by a shock.
- 3) Shocks to firms and industries hit regional labour markets differently. As the third goal, we aim to understand better the process of labour mobility across regions following a shock.
- 4) The fourth goal is to introduce register data in addition to the data base we already have established.

### Project Summary:

One of the main pillars of the welfare state in an open economy such as Norway - in addition to the institutions that secure fairness in the income distribution - is that firms are able to reap productivity gains, and therefore welfare gains to society at large - by adapting to structural changes. Over the last few decades the big challenges have been increased technological change and increased globalization. These shocks lead to profit opportunities for some firms, while others lose their competitive edge and close down. Different regions are typically affected differently by shocks depending on their resource base and industrial structure. This has direct effects on the labour market by inducing reallocation of workers and jobs both within and across industries, firms, and regions.

In the project we will use register data from the 1960s onwards to understand the effect of these types of shock on the regional mobility of firms and workers, and thus on labour market outcomes.

In a broader sense, the project aims at understanding the larger picture of how the Norwegian economy and labour market are transforming from a dominance of blue collar manufacturing jobs to knowledge based firms within the service sector, and how to sustain the regional balance in Norway through the creation of these new jobs.

# Hooks for change? Family and employment as pathways to social inclusion among crime-prone individuals

Project Owner:

**Statistics Norway, SSB**

Project Manager:

**Skardhamar, Torbjørn Researcher**

Project No.: 202453/S20

Project Period:

**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

## Objectives:

Primary objective:

Empirically investigate how labour market involvement and family events interact in promoting social integration and reduce crime among crime-prone individuals at the fringes of society.

Secondary objectives:

1. Describe how involvement in crime develops around the time of events such as employment, job displacement, family formation and family dissolution
2. Study interactions between work, family and crime simultaneously in a unified framework which accounts for unobserved heterogeneity
3. Utilize sources of exogenous variation to estimate causal effects of labour market programs and peer effects on crime
4. Describe and estimate how criminal charges and punishment during adolescence affect adult outcomes like labour force participation and family structure
5. Do comparative analyses using detailed register data from the Nordic countries and surveys from the United States
6. Provide explicit analyses by gender and immigrant background throughout the studies

## Project Summary:

Our research proposal relates directly to the VAM Work Programme which asks whether the most effective crime prevention measures are based on a high degree of inclusion in social arenas. The project studies the interactions between criminal activity, family events and labour market outcomes, focusing on how employment, partnerships and parenthood represent pathways to social inclusion among crime-prone individuals.

There is limited knowledge regarding how family and work affect - and are affected by - criminal activities, and the processes and mechanisms that can facilitate exits from a marginal position are far from clear. Employment represents a possible turning point for deviant individuals. It provides access to legal income, imposes structure through routines and schedules, and strengthens self-esteem. Family formation and parenthood may offer an opportunity to rewrite one's 'life script' with a new social role and identity, and with increased motivation and support for legal employment. Thus, employment and family may be important resources in crime reducing policies and rehabilitative initiatives.

Data limitations largely explain why knowledge on the dynamics between work, family and crime is so limited. The rich longitudinal data required for such studies are hard to collect in surveys. The Norwegian register data at our disposal, however, contains information that is particularly suited, and they open new avenues for research on the dynamics of work, family and crime. In addition to addressing new research questions, the richness of the data also allows use of sophisticated statistical methods, like complex life-course transition models accounting for unobserved heterogeneity as well as methods suited to identify causal mechanisms. The proposed project will therefore advance existing approaches and provide new and important contributions to the international research literature and to national policymakers.

## Judicialisation and social citizenship

Project Owner:  
**Faculty of Law, University of Bergen**

Project Manager:  
**Sinding Aasen, Henriette Professor**

Project No.: 202466/S20

Project Period:  
**1.1.2011-31.12.2013**

### Objectives:

The primary objectives of this study are 1) to contribute to a multidisciplinary and empirically grounded analysis of the nature, extent and consequences of judicialisation and de-judicialisation processes as it pertains to welfare, labour and migration, and 2) to explore how new forms of (de)judicialisation change the terms of social citizenship for vulnerable groups (young prisoners; temporarily unemployed; agency workers; immigrants).

The secondary objectives are to study

- \*different kinds of (de)judicialisation processes
- \*use of individual rights and duties in order to achieve socio-political objectives
- \*influence of international regulations and bodies on domestic (de)judicialisation processes
- \*relationship between (de)judicialisation and democracy
- \*consequences of (de)judicialisation for the power and discretion of professions
- \*challenges of multiculturalism and anti-discrimination and how religious and cultural diversity are accounted for in national law and policies

### Project Summary:

Far-reaching processes of judicialisation are perceived to be at work in Norwegian society and beyond, with increasing legal regulation and authority shifting from political bodies to courts and other judicial and quasi-judicial bodies. This study uses multidisciplinary and empirically grounded analyses of judicialisation processes pertaining to welfare, labour and migration, focusing particularly on how new forms of judicialisation (and de-judicialisation) change the terms of social citizenship for vulnerable groups such as young prisoners, individuals with an unstable/insecure relation to the labour market, temporary agency workers and immigrants. These are groups facing special and different challenges with regard to social inclusion. The study identifies four sets of common cross-cutting research questions, addressing core aspects of judicialisation: the relationship between judicialisation and democracy; the consequences of (de)judicialisation processes for the power and discretion of professions, the influence of international law on domestic (de)judicialisation processes and the challenges of multiculturalism and anti-discrimination and how religious and cultural diversity are accounted for in national law and policies. The consortium and partners represent a broad range of expertise and disciplines (law and human rights, political science and sociology, Arabic culture and language, philosophy and economy) and will facilitate a truly multidisciplinary and integrated approach to the research questions. Methodology from both law and social sciences will be utilized, and the project will benefit from empirical as well as normative approaches and frameworks.

# Marginalization in children. Evaluating a multilevel and transactional developmental model

Project Owner:  
**NTNU Social Research A/S**

Project Manager:  
**Wichstrøm, Lars Professor**

Project No.: 202478/S20

Project Period:  
**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

## Objectives:

The primary objective is to evaluate empirically a general model of the emergence of marginalization in children. The model is based on the interplay of neighborhood, family, peer and child factors. We will follow a community sample of 1000 children from ages 4 to 8, with information coming from the children themselves, parents, teachers, day care personnel, health nurses, school and official registers.

The secondary objective is to illuminate the important elements and causal mechanisms in the development of two interrelated forms of marginalization in children; social exclusion (isolation, victimization) and conduct problems. Special emphasis will be placed upon gender issues, social class, social context and mechanisms in the reproduction of marginalization over generations.

## Project Summary:

We propose a general model of the emergence of childhood marginalization stipulating that contextual factors (e.g. neighborhood) affect the development of marginalization in children by means of altered interpersonal interactions with parents, teachers and peers and involving the child's own contributions to the process. Moreover, such marginalization processes may differ according to social categories (e.g. gender and social class).

The development of two types (of marginalization) will be examined in three different sub-projects: 1) Social exclusion and (2) conduct problems. In addition we will address (3) the importance of the family and its context in the development and reproduction of marginalization.

Data collection began in 2007 - on a biennial basis on a probability sample of 1000 children (initially 4 years of age) and their families. Children are interviewed concerning relationships with parents, peers and teachers. Formal testing is conducted on vocabulary, intelligence, cognitive functioning, and attachment to parents. Parent-child interaction is directly observed. Parents provide information on children's conduct problems, temperament, social competence, and participation in leisure activities. Parents are also queried about their own mental health. Day-care personnel and school teachers provide information on their relationship to the child, and children's social competence and conduct problems. These data will be coupled with routinely collected data on language, reading, math as well as with official registers.

# Measuring and Explaining Discrimination in the Labour Market: New Understandings and Political Solutions

Project Owner:

**Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo**

Project Manager:

**Birkelund, Gunn Elisabeth Professor**

Project No.: 202479/S20

Project Period:

**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

## Objectives:

The primary objective of this project:

To measure and explain discrimination in the labour market.

Secondary objectives:

- \* to measure if men and women with foreign names experience disadvantage in the hiring process.
- \* to explore why employers choose as they do in a specific hiring-situation.
- \* to analyze male and female second generation immigrants' access to jobs, occupational status and wages in the first couple of years after leaving the educational system.
- \* to analyse whether Norwegian employers exercise monopsonistic discrimination against immigrants.

## Project Summary:

Discrimination in the labour market occurs when people with similar qualifications and merits are treated unequally. Our project will measure if immigrants are discriminated in the labour market, and if so, in what segments. By combining a new methodological research design (correspondence testing) with solid empirical research using register data, this project will increase our knowledge about the prevalence and causes of discrimination. We will pay special attention to gender differences among immigrants and compare them with gender differences in the majority population. Our main dependent variables are access to jobs, employment careers and wage differentials.

Using register data including the whole population we will provide solid empirical analyses of the Norwegian labour market, with a specific focus on labour market outcomes for immigrants and their children (second generation) with so-called non-western origin (non-OECD countries, plus Turkey) as compared with the majority population. Empirically we will investigate discrimination in two ways: first by performing a field experiment to test employers behaviour (correspondence testing, with follow-up interviews). Second, we will, using register data, estimate how important employers power in the labor market is for explaining access to employment and wage differentials. Thus, by switching our focus to the demand side of the labor market, where, given access to labor supply, the decision power is located, we will get a better understanding of discrimination, its prevalence and explanation.

Our project will increase our knowledge about the prevalence and causes of discrimination in the labour market, thereby contributing with policy relevant knowledge for implementing more targeted measures against discrimination.

## **Mediation of Migration: Media impacts on Norwegian immigration policy, public administration and public opinion.**

Project Owner:  
**Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo**

Project Manager:  
**Ytreberg, Espen Professor**

Project No.: 202480/S20

Project Period:  
**1.2.2011-31.1.2014**

### Objectives:

Our primary objective is to provide knowledge on how the logics of the media affect Norwegian immigration policy, administrative practices and public opinion.

Secondary objectives: Through the analysis of the role of journalists and institutional strategic sources, the project offers knowledge about the largely hidden mechanisms shaping the news on migration. A comparative content analysis provides knowledge on how news accounts about migration is framed, in Norway and in countries with contrasting media systems and immigration histories. Reception analysis gives insights into how people's attitudes in general are affected by the news on migration and how minority groups in Norway and migrants in Pakistan and Iraq perceive and act upon these news stories.

### Project Summary:

The media fundamentally affect how people perceive themselves and the surrounding world, how key societal institutions function and how democracy works. The present project investigates the dominant form and content of news stories on migration. We investigate all main phases related to the mediation of migration: The information strategies and production processes behind the news; news form and content; as well as the effect of media coverage on public opinion in general and on perceptions among minority groups in particular. The project also compares Norwegian news accounts of migration with news discourses in other western countries marked by contrasting immigration histories. Finally it examines the role of the news media in loops of information between immigrant groups in Norway and networks in sending countries of migrants, adding to the knowledge of migration flows and the globalisation of information. The project aims to uncover hitherto largely closed-off processes, revealing who the dominant actors and stories in the media are, but also what kind of perspectives and what types of actors that are overlooked or even silenced. The investigation of the media's impact on public opinion on migration offers vital insights into how the media work to encourage democratic participation and inclusion on the one hand, exclusion, fear and alienation on the other. Of special interest to public governance is the project's exploration of whether the logics of the mass media modify the priorities and practices of Government and public administration, and the subsequent allocation of resources in the welfare state. The role of the media in these processes is significantly under-researched. The project will contribute to a knowledge-based debate about the implications of an expanding media logic in society, through an ambitious research design that combines interdisciplinarity, a range of methodological approaches, and that foregrounds international cooperation.

## Moral preferences, labor markets and welfare policy

Project Owner:

**Institute for Research in Economics and Business Administration AS (SNF)**

Project Manager:

**Cappelen, Alexander Wright Professor**

Project No.: 202484/S20

Project Period:

**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

### Objectives:

The aim of the research project "Moral preference, labor markets and welfare policies" is to analyze how moral preferences affect the support and effectiveness of welfare policies and redistributive mechanisms in the labor markets, and how these institutions in turn shape moral preferences.

The ambition of the research project is to be innovative both theoretically and empirically. Theoretically, the research project aims to contribute to the recent development in behavioral economics, which has studied the role of moral preferences in economic situations.

Empirically, the project will to a large extent rely on data generated by economic experiments in the lab. A novel feature of the research project is, however, that it combines experimental data and register data at the individual level in a study of moral preferences. Another important feature of the empirical strategy is that we will make comparative studies of the distributive behavior of individuals in US and Scandinavia.

### Project Summary:

The research project has three main themes that all relate to central parts of the research program, VAM. The first part of the research project, "The welfare state and heterogeneity in moral preferences" takes as the point of departure the increasing social and moral heterogeneity in modern societies, and studies how increased heterogeneity challenges the support of welfare policies and employer-employee relationships. In particular we study the tension between an egalitarian ideology and the increased prevalence of moral ideals justifying some economic inequalities, resulting for example from individual choice and risk.

The second part of the research project, "The moral psychology of the welfare state", studies how the framing and contextualization of welfare policies may fundamentally affect their support and sustainability. Recent research in psychology and economics has shown that small changes in the way the choice situation is presented might dramatically affect individual behavior. This literature, however, has not studied the importance of these insights for redistributive policies, and the aim of this part of the research project is to show how these psychological mechanisms fundamentally affect people's willingness to finance welfare policies.

The third part of the research project, "The moral dynamics of the welfare state", studies how welfare policies shape moral preferences in society, which in turn determines the long term support and sustainability of the welfare state. Importantly, it has been argued that the egalitarian ideology underlying the Nordic model is a result of a long history of social welfare policies which shaped the moral preferences of a homogeneous population. This part of the project aims at studying this mechanism in more detail. In order to do so, the research project will study how exposure to different redistributive policies, labor market experiences and socio-economic characteristics shape people's moral preferences

# Out of work. Life adversities and health behaviour in 15-year-olds as predictors of marginalisation from the labour market ten years later.

Project Owner:  
**Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo**

Project Manager:  
**Lien, Lars Professor**

Project No.: 202492/S20

Project Period:  
**1.8.2010-31.7.2014**

## Objectives:

### Primary objective

The aim of this study is to investigate predictors in adolescence for marginalisation from the labour market in early adulthood, with a special focus on life adversities, mental health, and health behaviour. In addition to individual characteristics, this study will examine the potential impact of school factors on later exclusion from education or occupation. Gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background will be given special attention aiming at identifying subgroups with special needs.

### Secondary objectives

1. Identify factors in high-risk adolescents associated with successful inclusion in education and work ten years later.
2. Investigate stability and change from 10th to 13th grade in factors associated with work marginalisation, and identify potentially protective mechanisms associated with the change of school that occurs between these two time points.

## Project Summary:

### Background

Marginalisation from work is a burden both to the individual and to society. A considerable proportion of young adults in Norway are marginalised from the labour market. This may in the future represent a large number of years potentially lost to work. Young peoples process of integration into work is considered multifactorial, and may best be studied with a prospective and comprehensive approach. Empirical knowledge about such processes will aid the facilitation of interventions that may enhance integration at an early age.

### Objective

The present study aims to investigate life conditions and school climate during the formative years of adolescence for subsequent marginalisation from work in a long-term perspective. The study will have a special focus on the role of mental health, violence and other life adversities and health/risk behaviour. In interplay with these individual factors, we hypothesize that push and pull-mechanisms at school may have long-term consequences for academic achievement and work ability.

### Methods

A unique opportunity for a prospective investigation of early integration processes is offered by the existence of large youth health surveys combined with high-quality Norwegian registries. The study will link questionnaire data from 1999 - 2004 on 16000 15-year-olds in 400 schools to registry data, and follow each person's work and education process up to the age of 25. Multilevel analyses will be used to identify how individual and school factors interact in the development of marginalisation.

### Scientific importance

The study will address scientific gaps in our knowledge about how living conditions, health and health behavior, and school climate in adolescence affect long-term marginalisation from education and work. The study will add to current knowledge and support policy formulation regarding work integration and adolescents living conditions, which will be useful for decision-makers and relevant for the public debate.

# Possibilities and realities of return migration: perspectives on integration, exclusion and withdrawal

Project Owner:

**The Peace Research Institute Oslo, PRIO**

Project Manager:

**Carling, Jørgen Koren Senior Researcher**

Project No.: 202499/S20

Project Period:

**1.2.2011-1.5.2014**

## Objectives:

Primary objective: To generate new knowledge about return migration from Norway and its significance in broader processes of integration, exclusion and withdrawal from Norwegian society, and make this knowledge relevant and accessible to a broad academic and non-academic audience.

## Secondary objectives:

- 1) Analyse the LKI 2005/06 data set with respect to return migration intentions
- 2) Analyse data from the Central Population Register 1994-2009 with respect to emigration/return migration of immigrants
- 3) Conduct and analyse 90 semi-structured interviews and 24 focus group sessions with immigrants in Norway
- 4) Conduct and analyse 75 semi-structured interviews and 20 focus group sessions with immigrants in the United Kingdom
- 5) Conduct and analyse a total of 75 semi-structured interviews and 20 focus group sessions with immigrants in five countries of return
- 6) Publish 10 policy briefs with findings from the project
- 7) Submit 15 articles to international peer-reviewed journals

## Project Summary:

Six out of ten non-Western immigrants in Norway are considering returning to their country of origin. Return is usually a future option rather than a short-term plan, but the possibility of return is a significant factor in people's lives: experiences of marginalization in Norway can stimulate plans for return, or the prospect of return can lessen commitment to integration in Norway. Actual return migration is also considerable: half of immigrants re-emigrate within a decade. In addition, large numbers of rejected asylum seekers leave Norway involuntarily or under pressure. This project deliberately takes a broad approach to return migration and seeks to use it as a lens for understanding broader processes of integration, exclusion and withdrawal from Norwegian society. Four research questions guide the project: 1) How do immigrants in various situations reflect upon and decide about return migration? 2) How does the possibility of return interact with A) integration in Norway and B) transnational relationships? 3) How can we understand and explain the patterns of actual return among immigrants in Norway? and 4) How is return migration experienced by return migrants and the communities to which they return? We address these questions with an integrated multi-method approach, comprising survey data, register data, semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Comparative data collection in Norway and the UK will facilitate an understanding of the processes at work. Data collection in five countries of return provides understanding of the return experience and its consequences. The core consortium consists of PRIO, Statistics Norway, the University of Bristol and SOAS. The IOM and partners in countries of return take part in data collection. Plans for continuous, reciprocal engagement with users are integrated in the project schedule. Fifteen articles submitted to international peer-reviewed journals will ensure dissemination and scientific integrity of the results.

## Reforming the Welfare State. Accountability, democracy and management

Project Owner:  
**Uni Research AS, Rokkan Centre**

Project Manager:  
**Lægneid, Per Professor**

Project No.: 202504/S20

Project Period:  
**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

### Objectives:

The aim is to explore whether the long term sustainability of welfare states is threatened by recent welfare reforms. In most welfare states there has been a trend towards favouring managerial accountability. The question is to what extent such reforms have been introduced at the expense of maintaining political support for welfare systems, and whether the balance between political and managerial accountability has been affected. A main objective is to examine in what ways and under what conditions such a balance is obtained. In order to explore variations in accountability relationships we will conduct a comparison of welfare reforms in the fields of healthcare, welfare administration and the administration of immigration affairs in Norway, Denmark and Germany. A secondary objective is to identify if there are more important differences across sectors than across countries. In order to do this we will explore whether the Scandinavian model of welfare administration is breaking up.

### Project Summary:

Political legitimacy is a precondition for the sustainability of the welfare state, and it is for this reason that the project aims to address how recent welfare state reforms have affected political governance and the relationship between the state and its citizens. Such reforms have often focused on the establishment of managerial accountability, neglecting the critical issue of how to maintain and develop mechanisms for political accountability. Converging trends towards New Public Management have affected the balance between managerial autonomy and political accountability across welfare sectors and countries. To what extent has it been possible to combine the various modes of accountability? In what way, for what and to whom are public managers in the various welfare services held accountable? Our main focus will be on administrative reforms and to what extent they have affected accountability relations in specific sectors ? hospitals, welfare administration and immigration ? and in specific countries ? Norway, Denmark and Germany.

A main argument for comparing reforms in these welfare state sectors is that they cover major areas of welfare provision. The sectors display important variations in bureaucratic capacity, specialization and representation of users and citizens. It is of interest to establish whether differences among sectors are more important than among countries. There has been a discussion about the Scandinavian model of welfare state administration, specifically about whether it still exists or whether it is breaking up. By comparing two Scandinavian countries with Germany we are able to address this question. The analysis will provide policy-makers as well as scholars studying welfare reforms with important insights into how reforms may be designed and introduced in a way that does not undermine the political sustainability of welfare state institutions.

## Social Insurance and Labor Market Inclusion in Norway

Project Owner:  
**The Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research**

Project Manager:  
**Røed, Knut Senior Researcher**

Project No.: 202513/S20

Project Period:  
**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

### Objectives:

The primary objective of the project is to evaluate strategies to simultaneously achieve the goals of poverty prevention and high labor force participation.

The secondary objectives are:

- i) To examine the empirical relevance of different types of moral hazard problems in Norwegian social insurance schemes.
- ii) To evaluate strategies aimed at minimizing the efficiency-equity tradeoff, such as activation requirements, gate-keeping practices, and monitoring.
- iii) To contribute to a further improvement in statistical evaluation methodology based on large-scale non-experimental data.
- iv) To initiate the application of randomized controlled trials in Norwegian welfare policies, particularly with respect to the timing of checkpoints and caseworker interventions.

### Project Summary:

The project aims at evaluating the empirical relevance of various disincentive effects generated by the Norwegian social insurance system, and to examine strategies for minimizing these effects by means of institutional design (e.g., activation schemes, check-points, monitoring, and gate-keeping). The key empirical strategy is to exploit random-assignment-like variation in non-experimental administrative data to identify the causal effects of interest. The project description identifies a number of policy-relevant research topics where we argue that this empirical approach is viable. For each research topic, we explain our basic identification strategy. The project also aims at initiating randomized controlled experiments to evaluate the impacts of alternative social insurance regimes, particularly with respect to the timing of check-points and interventions. We emphasize that this approach requires consent and support from the appropriate authorities.

While focusing on policy-relevant applications, the project has a strong methodological focus. Our ambition is to contribute significantly to methodological improvements in evaluation techniques built on non-experimental data. If randomized controlled trials are implemented, they will serve as a benchmark towards which the success of non-experimental evaluation techniques can be measured.

The Research team comprises Professor Knut Røed, Professor Bernt Bratsberg, Professor Oddbjørn Raaum, and Simen Gaure, all experienced senior researchers at the Frisch Centre who regularly publish in scientific journals. It also comprises Professor Trond Petersen at the University of California, Berkeley. While the Frisch Centre researchers have their expertise in economics and mathematics, Petersen has his primary expertise in Sociology. The project will finance one Doctoral Student.

The project also involves significant network activities, particularly with colleagues in Sweden and the United States.

# The financialisation of social welfare. The role of credit and financial counselling for social inclusion and exclusion.

Project Owner:  
**National Institute for Consumer Research (SIFO)**

Project Manager:  
**Poppe, Christian, Researcher**

Project No.: 202522/S20

Project Period:  
**1.1.2011-31.12.2013**

## Objectives:

Primary: examine the extent to which the households are sufficiently protected against financial risks in the contemporary Norwegian welfare state. This is done by studying financial counselling as a typical tool to achieve the welfare goals of responsible lending and borrowing.

Secondary:

- assess whether or not the modern welfare state only represents a change of means by which risk is regulated, or also implies a shift in goals and values
- identify the legal differences between public and private counselling
- identify the major mechanisms leading people to take on financial risks
- assess whether financial risks are sufficiently addressed by public counsellors within existing regulations
- assess whether private counsellors balance commercial interests with responsible lending
- suggest improvements in education of financial counsellors
- develop a model for a cost-benefit analysis of public counselling
- inform policy-makers and administrators about possible improvements.

## Project Summary:

This project is based on the idea that the liberalisation of people's access to credit fundamentally changed the way social welfare and risks are produced and distributed. The overall research question is how well individual households are protected against financial risks within the frameworks of the contemporary Norwegian welfare state. The analysis is carried out in three steps. Firstly, the institutionalisation of financial counselling is addressed. The main focus is on social inclusion and exclusion mechanisms, including the emergence of market-based welfare regimes, the formal regulation of financial counselling within such frameworks and individual-level self-governance for taking on risks. Secondly, the financial counselling service itself is studied in detail. Here, the main focus is on financial advice before loans are taken out and money advice after payment problems have occurred, and the interrelationship between the two types of counselling. Thirdly, the project looks at implications and potentials for improving existing practices.

This is a comparative study of financial counselling in Norway, Denmark and UK. The main focus of the study is the case of Norway. The comparative design implies to compare existing types of services within this case. It further implies to compare the Norwegian service provision with those of Denmark and the UK in order to learn from the differences and generate new knowledge about the workings of the Norwegian context. This raises the need for a multi-methodological approach using qualitative and quantitative techniques based on a variety of data sources, partly found in existing registries, including historical data; political debates; existing research; registry data provided by debt collectors and The Norwegian State Housing Bank; interviews with key informants in the political and administrative system; surveys among advisors in banks, local NAV directors and users of financial counselling in the municipalities.

# The impact of a child's special health care needs on maternal sickness and work participation

Project Owner:

**The Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Division of Mental Health**

Project Manager:

**Vollrath, Margarete E. Professor**

Project No.: 202538/S20

Project Period:

**1.1.2011-31.12.2013**

## Objectives:

Primary goal: to examine the influence of caring for a child with special needs on maternal sickness absence and work participation during the early years of motherhood.

Secondary goals: 1.Examine whether the type, severity, and duration of the child's special needs influences maternal mental health, sickness absences, and work participation differentially.

2.Examine whether the child's special needs affect maternal sickness absences/work participation directly or indirectly,as a consequence of maternal mental disorders. 3.Contrast work/sickness careers of mothers of a child with special needs with a) work/sickness careers of mothers of healthy children, and b) work/sickness careers of fathers of a child with special needs.

4. Examine specifically the role of maternal personality for maternal mental health, sickness absences, and work participation, including interactions between personality and socio-demographic and health related risk factors.

## Project Summary:

In Norway, mothers of children aged 0-15 years have twice the rate of sick leaves and half the number of weekly working hours compared to fathers. We claim that mothers' longer sickness absences and restricted working hours in part results from care for own children with special health care needs. Around 15% of mothers have a child with a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral/emotional condition requiring health and related services beyond that required by healthy children. In Norway, this translates to ca. 300 000 afflicted women. These women have a higher risk of mental disorders, sick leaves, and reduced work participation. However, studies on this issue in Norway are lacking. Our study will capitalize from the unique possibility to link the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study (MoBa), which provides psychological information to Norwegian registries providing objective information on maternal sickness absences, child care leaves, and maternal work participation. From the MoBa study, we will include 33000 to 90000 mothers followed with repeated questionnaires from pregnancy to child age 5 years. Child diagnoses will comprise congenital conditions, respiratory disorders, dermatological disorders, digestive disorders, and emotional/behavioral problems. Mothers report on their child's illness and their own personality. Registry information on these mothers' sick leaves and work participation will be available from before pregnancy to child age 5 years. Questionnaire and registry information on the fathers of these children will also be included. We will compare careers of sickness absences and work participation in mothers of a child with special needs with those of the child's father and those of mothers with healthy children. Specifically, we will examine whether maternal mental disorder functions a mediator of the sick child-sick mother relationship, and whether maternal personality constitutes an additional risk factor

## Work Life Challenges - workforce management and worker involvement solutions

Project Owner:

**Institute for Social Research (ISF)**

Project Manager:

**Dale-Olsen, Harald Senior Researcher**

Project No.: 202647/S20

Project Period:

**1.1.2011-31.12.2014**

### Objectives:

The primary goal of our project is to providing an understanding of the role the firm and the workplace have for exclusion and inclusion of workers. Through analyses of workforce management, reallocation of jobs, and other labour demand considerations - and the interplay between these factors and worker involvement, especially targeting inclusion and exclusion issues - the project will contribute to our understanding of, and provide solutions for, work life challenges. The firm and workplace dimensions are described by sub-projects 2.3.1-2.3.6. Our secondary objectives of the project is i) to provide a timely status on the Norwegian work life 2011 and the important trends, and ii) to generate a questionnaire data set on workplaces 2011 available to the research community from Norwegian Social Science Services (NSD).

### Project Summary:

Sub-project 1 analyses bargaining regime and worker involvement changes affecting employers' job creation and demand for labour, contributing to inclusion and exclusion of workers. Sub-project 2 analyses whether the superior performance of workplaces implementing incentive pay schemes may reflect sorting (e.g., more able and healthy workers), but also be associated with external effects by possibly acting as an exclusion mechanism. Sub-project 3 analyses how different employer strategies ensuring functional flexibility facilitates inclusion and exclusions of workers. Sub-project 4 analyses how employer strategies ensuring numerical flexibility such as outsourcing and sub-contracting may be a way of creating new divisions in the labour market, or if this actually provide valuable work opportunities for marginalised workers. Sub-project 5 analyses how and why employers' recruitment strategies for specific worker groups and strategies to retain these, such as elderly, disabled workers and other marginal workers, vary for different employer groups. Sub-project 6 analyses organisational change, down- and upsizing, their frequency, how they are conducted, and finally how worker involvement influences the outcomes. Sub-project 7 provides a timely and needed description of the Norwegian work life 2011, of the major trends and the major challenges, for policy makers, employers and trade unions, general audience and for the research community. The project bears evidence on institutional differences (UK vs. Norway) in how manpower strategies and worker involvement adapt to changing business cycles and legislations. As background for our analyses, we conducts a new detailed questionnaire survey; the Norwegian Workplace Employment Relations Survey 2011 (NWERS2011), which when linked with the previous two employer surveys(1997,2003) and added register data on individuals and organisations will give us panel information on establishments and workers over 16 years.

## Provision of welfare to 'irregular migrants'

Project Owner:

**Uni Research AS, Rokkan Centre**

Project Manager:

**Jacobsen, Christine M. Senior Researcher**

Project No.: 207201/H20

Project Period:

**1.3.2011-31.7.2014**

### Objectives:

Primary objective: Investigate the complex relationship between law, institutional practice, and migrants' experiences by providing a combined judicial and social science approach to the provision of welfare to irregular migrants.

Secondary objective: Utilize national and international laws and empirical material in order to answer:

- 1) How are welfare provisions to irregular migrants regulated within the Norwegian legal system? How do various regimes of international law interplay with, constrain, or contradict national regulations?
- 2) What are the institutional practices and attitudes towards this population? How do institutional employees maintain the accountability towards human rights?
- 3) How are legal and actual practices forming the migrant's (gendered) experiences, agency and bodily expressions? What roles do ethnic and religious communities play in offering alternative health care? How are children affected by legal and social conditions?

### Project Summary:

An increasing number of 'irregular migrants' poses major challenges for welfare states. While they are defined as outside of society, human rights ideologies still require that certain measures be taken by authorities to secure a minimum standard of living. The project will investigate the Norwegian welfare system's assessment of irregular migrant's rights and their actual social and health situation from a combined legal and social science approach, examining the complex relationship between law, institutional practice, and migrants' lived experience. Senior researchers and research recruits from law, sociology, social anthropology and political science, will collaborate in this interdisciplinary project. Methods include law analysis, ethnographic fieldwork and qualitative interviews (Oslo and Bergen). The theoretical framework is defined by traditional and critical legal perspectives and by anthropological theories of law and of the body.

The project consists of two separate, yet interwoven parts: 1) A legal study of national and international rules applying to welfare provisions to irregular migrants 2) A social scientific study of irregular migrant's access to, use and trust of social welfare institutions and how they experience being in an irregular situation. Focus will be on welfare provisions in the areas of health and school/education and on how irregularity affects the lives of children.

The component projects relate to the overarching research questions as stated in the primary and secondary objectives, working on a) international and national legal norms b) institutional practices and attitudes c) informal social networks d) migrants' experiences, agency and embodiment e) children's particular situation. Overall, the project's investigation of how 'irregularity' is legally, institutionally, socially, and culturally constructed and experienced will offer much needed research-based knowledge of the consequences of present welfare policies and practices.

## Migration to Norway - Flows and Regulations

Project Owner:

**Institute for Social Research (ISF)**

Project Manager:

**Brekke, Jan Paul Senior Researcher**

Project No.: 207262/H20

Project Period:

**1.2.2011-31.12.2014**

### Objectives:

The main objective is to increase the scientifically based knowledge about the interaction between migration flows and migration regimes, particularly in the case of Norway. That is, we will explore how changes in migration to Norway and neighboring countries, as well as the EU region, have affected changes in the sets of regulation, laws and practices which together constitute the policy on immigration and integration in Norway. And the other around; we will explore the impact of changes in the characteristics of the migration regime on the level and composition of immigration flows. The focus is on immigration from third countries, i.e. mainly from Africa, South America, Asia and European countries outside the EEA. To grasp the complexity of these processes, an interdisciplinary approach is employed, matching a sociological, political scientific and juridical interpretation of the evolvement in regimes with an econometric analysis of the effects on flows.

### Project Summary:

The overarching research questions of this study are: what is the interrelation between migration flows and regulation? To what extent can the migration to Norway be explained as a function of the national migration regime, the emerging European regime and the regimes in relevant neighbouring countries? What are the impacts of changing migration trends on the characteristics of the Norwegian migration regimes? The project consists of four interlinked modules: (1) a broad, interdisciplinary, empirical study of the Norwegian regime and immigration flows within the European context. The module is divided into two interlinked parts. First, a qualitative study of the main changes in the Norwegian migration regime and those of Northern European countries in recent decades. Second, a quantitative study of the effect of regulations on migration flows to these countries. In this part, economists will undertake the main analysis. (2) an in-depth analysis of the direct and indirect relationship between international law, EU-law and Norwegian immigration law and policies, especially in regard to presumed 'safe return' of asylum seekers with real protection claims. (3) a qualitative examination of asylum seekers' journeys to Norway. By interviewing Eritrean asylum seekers in transit we will investigate the dynamics of destination choices. What sort of decision process makes Norway the ultimate destination of asylum seekers? One key factor in answering this question is revealing when the decision is taken, and by whom. (4) a comparative, qualitative and quantitative, and in-depth study of the impact of regulation on family/marriage migration. A comparison of the marriage patterns of non-western immigrants in the presumably similar cases of Norway and Denmark offers opportunities to identify the effect of variation in the regulatory framework on marriage patterns and the associated migration flows.