

DRV-Booklet

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Income of Older People with, or without Immigrant Background.

Author: Dr. Thorsten Heien

Location: Munich

The text at hand deals with the major results of the study “Old Age Security in Germany 2011” on the topics of living and income situation of older people with or without immigrant background.

“Old Age Security in Germany” is a study on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which has collected data on the type and amount of income of elderly people as of 55 years of age. The data is collected from single, as well as joint, households (i.e. married couples). Confer TNS Infratest Sozialforschung 2012a.

The article begins with a depiction of the varied demographic structures in Germany, the resulting consequences for the old age security systems, as well as the difficulties that are encountered in the collection of empirical data of people with immigrant background. Furthermore, the separation of data according to foreigners, late repatriates, as well as naturalised German citizens (chapter one).

Subsequent to the introduction of the different data sources, which are used for the analysis (chapter two), the article outlines the demographic structures of the older population with or without immigrant background (chapter three).

This follows a detailed analysis of the income situation of the concerned persons, including the spread and the amount of old age income, the composition of the old age income according to income streams, as well as the importance of the different pillars of old age security. Furthermore, the dissemination and amount of the various old age security products is reviewed.

Lastly, the article comes to an end with a summarising discussion and conclusion about the topic of old age security, and its monitoring through the German legislature (chapter five).

Reforms of the Civil Service Pensions viewed from an Economic Perspective

Author: Dr. Steffen Walther

Location: Berlin

Civil service pensions have been at the center of several reforms in the last 20 years. These reforms have mostly been in a timely, as well as contentual connection, with reforms of the statutory pension systems. The majority of the reforms lead to cuts in the benefits, and was owed to the guiding principle of change to the same effect as within the statutory pension systems. It was seldom seen though that an accurate application of this principle was enforced. Also, the reforms did not reach the goal of minimizing financial hardships for future generations. An economic analysis has showed that the reforms further worsened the goal of stabilising civil service pensions for future times. The goal of making civil service pensions future proof has also not been reached.

At present there is a need for structural reforms to ensure contemporary, as well as transparent and sustainable, financing for the future.

Social Policies: Balances and Perspectives for Research and Science at German Universities – an Introduction:

Authors: Stephan Leibfried and Christina Stecker

Locations: Bremen and Berlin

In light of multifarious changes and altering challenges, the social welfare state is in constant motion. Owing to changes in politics, governance, and sometimes legislature itself, the social welfare state is constantly changing. Practical social policies are built on solid questioning and comprehensive social policy studies on a university level, as well as information from the general populace.

How though, are the topics of research and science on social policies in Germany being handled today? This question is discussed in the key subject "Development of Research and Science for Social Policies." This subject is one of seven contributions to this article next to the introduction. Focus is given especially to the five disciplines, namely sociology, economic sciences, law studies, political sciences and history.

The different contributions will highlight the fact that the necessary infrastructural requirements for the research on social policies, and social politics on a university level, have vanished. If a restructuring will not occur, then the quality of social politics and policies will decline. There might only be a ten-year window to rectify this problem and reconnect with the best of German scientific traditions.

If these processes are not stopped, one risks losing the general overview of social politics. Furthermore, the more general knowledge of the various security systems from within, and lastly the capability to correctly assess current as well as future challenges. Changing this development is a central scientific, as well as political, challenge for the federal government, states and universities, especially when viewed under the fact that Germany uses one third of its gross national product for its social welfare state, and continues to do so. This begs to ask the question: If this country has no interest in itself and its existence is it willing to watch the dissolution of its attained knowledge on social studies?

Further Articles on Research and Science in the Field of Social Studies:

Sociological Research on the Topic of Social Policies: History, Institutionalism, Challenges

Authors: Ursula Dallinger, Stephan Lessenich, Ilona Oster
Locations: Trier, Munich, Göttingen

The Institutional Embedding of Research and Science on Social Policies in Economic Sciences at German State Universities

Author: Richard Hauser
Location: Frankfurt am Main

Research on Social Policies in Economic Sciences: Balance and Perspectives

Author: Werner Sesselmeier
Location: Landau

Research on Social Law – Balance and Perspective as seen from Jurisprudence

Author: Ulrich Becker
Location: Munich

Political Science Research on Social Policies and Old Age Security

Authors: Frank Nullmeier and Magnus Brosig
Location: Bremen

The History of Social Policies as Part of Modern History

Author: Winfried Süß
Location: Potsdam

Outcomes of the Memorandum “Funding Initiative of the Endowed Chair for Social Policies”

Author: Stephan Leibfried
Location: Bremen