Course Outline for Public Policy:

Citizens and Governance for a Sustainable Welfare Society

- EU and Asia Perspectives in Comparison -

Main Objectives of the Course:

Lectures and research seminars in this Course are intended to mobilise in a coherent effort, in all their wealth and diversity, Public Policy Studies that are necessary to develop an understanding of, and to address issues related to, the development of a sustainable welfare society and new forms of relationships between its citizens, on the one hand and between its citizens and institutions, on the other.

Main Themes:

Part 1: Sustainable Welfare Society and Social Cohesion
1. Public Policy, Economic and Social Development for a Sustainable Welfare Society
2. Options and Choices for the Development of a Sustainable Welfare Society
3. The Variety of Paths towards a Sustainable Welfare Society

Part 2: Citizenship, Democracy and New Forms of Governance
4. The Implications of FTA Expansion in Asia and EU Enlargement for Governance and the Citizen
5. Articulation of Areas of Responsibility and New Forms of Governance
6. Issues connected with the Resolution and Conflicts and Restoration of Peace and Justice
7. New forms of Citizenship and Cultural Identities: Implications for Asia

Part 3: Research Actions and Evaluations
8. Research Actions to Promote the Asian Welfare Network and its Contribution to a Sustainable Welfare Society in Asia, the EU and the World
9. Understanding and Measuring Public Policy Studies and the Impact in Asia and the EU
Part 1: Sustainable Welfare Society and Social Cohesion

Theme 1: Public Policy, Economic and Social Development
For a Sustainable Welfare Society and Environment

The objective of this theme is to improve understanding of the characteristics of policy as a public good, and to provide bases for policy formulation and decision making to attain a sustainable welfare society and environment.

1. Public policy and the sustainability of welfare society: policy learning and sources of policy

   Knowledge acquisition about policy in a different context is increasingly important for policy decisions, policy design and policy implementation. The objective is to understand the ways in which policy-making organisations learn and to assess the role of welfare in the formulation and implementation of policies, with a view to promote policy learning and public policies. This lecture will address the processes involved in policy learning, and their consequences for the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of different policies; the channels whereby policy “taps-into” different welfare regimes (scientific, professional, political, etc.); how policy learning functions within democratic policy-making processes; how power and politicisation of welfare production influence policy learning – including different ways of resorting to ‘welfare as power’; how controversies and uncertainties in a welfare society are tackled in the selection and use of welfare itself for policy choice; how the different welfare policies can be improved to facilitate more effective policy learning; how effective are good-practice spreading initiatives in generating policy learning, and what are the factors that determine their effectiveness. The role of data and indicators, as well as established professional techniques (e.g. foresight, evaluation, impact analysis, use of scientific expertise) in policy-learning processes should be included. Proposals for innovative research and/or networking efforts should also address how issues such as transparency, evidence, integrity, objectivity and bias are dealt with in different policy learning contexts.

2. Growth, employment and competitiveness in a sustainable welfare society

   Reconciling growth, employment and competitiveness objectives requires sound knowledge
about the dynamics of welfare society. The objective is to develop improved concepts and
theories on the sustainable development in a welfare society, and provide a comprehensive
understanding of its characteristics and of the determinants of competitiveness, economic
growth, aggregate demand and conditions for full employment. This lecture will examine the
specificities of the growth regimes (industrial specialisation, productivity growth, aggregate
demand, role of intangible investment, demand for labour) of a sustainable welfare economy,
including the relationship between different welfare investments and growth as well as what
sources/types of financing of the additional investment are most appropriate. This should
address the implications of a sustainable welfare society and environment on economic growth
and whether it is possible to have different types of sustainable welfare economies, for example
with respect to different levels of technology. It also addresses the role of competitiveness in its
different main senses and of different degrees of competition in growth. This also explores the
extent to which market economies may be more volatile, more risky and have more market and
systemic failures and how Public Policy (Integrated Social Policy, OECD, 1973) should address
such issues. The relationship between micro and macro policies and potential conflicts or
synergies between them may be identified as well as what types of policies are needed to
support the moves towards a sustainable welfare society. The implications for social cohesion
and equal opportunities policies should be taken into account. Account should be also taken of
recent progress at micro economic and industry levels on welfare, diffusion, learning, networks
and globalisation of innovation activities and link them to economic growth.

3. Emerging dynamic growth regions and their role in welfare
development in a global economy

A number of world regions are playing an increasingly significant role in the world
economy, with important implications for Asia and Europe. The objective is to analyse emerging
growth regions in terms of the factors underlying their growth performances as well as shifting
comparative advantages and changing roles in welfare regimes in the world economy, with
special attention to the role of welfare policy development and the implications for Asia and the
EU. This lecture will examine in a comparative perspective the specific development strategies
of such growth regions (possibly, e.g., China, India, South-East Asia, Brazil, South Africa,
Russia) in relation to the role of research, innovation, education, access to welfare, social and
competitiveness policies, labour markets, financial markets, governments’ role), institutional
reforms and historical background and in the context of a global economy and related welfare
issues. This needs also to address the possible risks of these development strategies, for example
in terms of volatility, sustainability, inequalities. It should also assess the impact of the new
growth regions on the world economy as competitors to and partners with (i.e. new supply and demand for products, new types of cooperation) developing countries as well as industrialised countries -in particular the countries of the enlarged EU- both up to present and in the future. This could also examine the possibilities of convergence or divergence between the new growth regions, less developed countries and advanced economies, as well as what international reforms (e.g. the debt issue of the developing countries, differential access to welfare, IPRs, labour standards), and national adjustment strategies could be effective for promoting a growing and more sustainable (in economic, social and environmental terms) world economy in the 21st century.

Theme 2:
Options and Choices for the Development of
A Sustainable Welfare Society

“Knowledge”, as the foundation of a sustainable welfare society, is becoming a core issue and challenge for an increasing spectrum of state-stakeholders; many of those state-stakeholders consider knowledge as key in achieving social and economic objectives such as wealth, innovation, social cohesion and quality of life. The objective here is to examine the public and private good characteristics of welfare and to better understand its functions in Asian economies and societies as well as in the EU. This could address the public and private good properties of welfare and the sources of those properties, whether linked to specific content or types (codified, narrative, tacit, etc.) of welfare, to particular institutional arrangements (e.g. scientific institutions, universities, communities of practice, corporate laboratories) in the public sphere. Of particular interest is the relationship between the institutional and organisational conditions that promote welfare creation and policy learning (e.g. scientific infrastructures, Research & Development, investment, IPR regimes, learning by doing, flexible organisation), and shape important aspects of the welfare itself (validity, reliability, credibility, truth, context dependence, scientific excellence, etc.). Concepts such as information, belief, norms, values, rationality, culture, etc. could be particularly relevant to such an analysis. This could also address different aspects and conditions of welfare creation and use from cognitive aspects of individual learning, through education and training, to organisational norms and values. Implications for policies regarding welfare production and infrastructures, research activities, as well as for regulatory processes and institutions, should be drawn out. The objective of this theme is to develop an integrated understanding of how the idea of a sustainable welfare society can promote the societal objectives set by their national governments in Asia, sustainable development in the millennium goals set by the UN, social and territorial cohesion and improved quality of life,
with due consideration to the variety of welfare regimes in Asia and social models in the EU, and taking into account aspects relating to the ageing of the population.

1. **Relations between the labour market, employment and welfare regimes (Employment Policy)**

   Major changes in the labour market and employment and their interactions with welfare regimes give rise to important issues including (in)security, career development, the smooth functioning of the labour market as well as the ability of welfare regimes to cope. The objective of this is to significantly improve understanding of these relations, how they operate within different social models, the roles played by welfare, and how policies might better take account of these relations. This lecture will address the key relationships between the labour market, employment and welfare regimes (state, family, market, associations). These include the effect(s) of labour market and welfare developments on people’s capabilities and underlying resources (e.g. human, social, cultural capital); whether welfare itself is a productive factor; crucial labour market transitions by people; whether protected flexibility or “flexicurity” is possible outside countries where it currently exists; the longer-term effects of activation measures; empirical assessments of the incentive/disincentive effects of welfare; the role of the quality of employment (e.g. effect on welfare requirements, on retirement choices by older people); the possibilities for good quality jobs for the low-skilled; the relation between social and personal risks, the extent to which responsibility is being placed on the individual and its consequences; whether there are changes in values relevant to welfare (e.g. solidarity, individualism) in the population at large; the role of welfare; challenges for the newly developing welfare societies. This could also address issues such as the extent to which external pressures (e.g. globalisation or Single Market) leave room for manoeuvre by different firms to choose “high road” employment approaches; the politics of employment and welfare policy. Gender should be considered as an important aspect of the analysis; at the same time policy perspectives are essential throughout.

2. **Educational strategies for social inclusion and social cohesion and their relation to other policies (Education Policy)**

   Education and learning build the critical foundation for developing a sustainable welfare society for combating social exclusion; links between education and other areas of policy are crucial to achieving both aims. The objective is to assess the role of education and training, in interaction with other areas of social policy in addressing social inequalities, vulnerability, marginalisation,
disengagement and as a means of fostering social cohesion. This lecture will address: assessment of trends in education and learning, including lifelong learning, their interactions with other social policies and practices, and their implications for individuals and social groups; the role of education and training as a key factor in conceptualising social inequality and social cohesion and in building social capital; the impacts of specific and mixed interventions at different stages of the life-cycle; the impact of educational reform on social inequalities and exclusion and the possibilities and limits of formal education and training for individual, community and organisational learning; mapping of conditions to maximise the impact of educational measures in developing a sustainable welfare society; identification of strategies for related educational and social interventions that can prevent or reduce inequalities, combat social exclusion, foster social integration and promote social justice and empowerment; ways of involving communities in learning to minimise disadvantage or the risk of disadvantage; the economic benefits of integrated strategies over the short, medium and longer term.

3. Societal trends, quality of life and public policies

Societal trends and public policies interact strongly with individuals’ quality of life. Public policies also carry strong impacts on the ways in which people try to pursue their aims and personal goals, and their possibilities of achieving them. The objective is to expand the ideas of the public perceptions and public policy concerning the relations between, on the one hand, current societal and policy trends, and on the other, the quality of life (or well-being) of individual citizens, as well as the implications of these relations for public policies. This lecture will address the effects of societal trends and of policies on quality of life. Such trends may include: changes in demographic trends related to population ageing and low fertility rates; in gender roles; in social or family relations; in the organisation of care for children, the sick or the growing demand for older people in need of care; in work and use of time (e.g. “24 hour society”); in division of labour and income. Another important aspect of the concepts in public policy includes the relation between public policies (e.g. social care, employment, education, environment and health policy) and people’s coping strategies throughout their lifespan. This could also address the relationships between traditional economic indicators of welfare, such as GDP, and innovative measures of the quality of life including subjective and objective indicators of the quality of life advocated by the WHO. Gender aspects of these issues should be examined and a comparative approach is also highly appropriate.

4. Inequalities in society and their consequences

Social inequalities present major challenges to many Asian, European and other societies
and may affect their cohesion as well as their social and economic development. The objective is to understand how inequalities in society change, are reproduced, and their economic and social consequences. This lecture will address the effects of production and reproduction of social inequalities and their rise or fall; how such inequalities and their consequences vary between different Asian and European societies, as well as in other regions of the world, including differences in social mobility. Other aspects which may be addressed include: the relations between social inequalities and economic and social performance (e.g. growth, productivity, quality of life, crime, social cohesion and the “quality of society, Social Quality advocated by the EC”); cultural issues of inequality including the impact of inequalities on attitudes to others. The changing role of knowledge-related factors in inequalities - e.g. of knowledge aspects of cultural and social capital acquired by individuals, of qualifications of particular kinds, of access to knowledge-producing institutions, to training, acquisition of capabilities in seeking out relevant information - may be explored. Inequalities of various kinds and their interrelations should be considered. The actual and potential role of policies in relation to the above issues must be assessed, and gender perspectives should also be included. Improvements of measures of inequality, including how changes in the use of public services and of public facilities which are “free” or heavily subsidised could be included in the assessment of trends in inequality.

5. The dynamics of youth in the context of inter-generational relations in European and Asian societies

Europe’s demographic outlook includes the tendency of ‘postponed adulthood’ and also the growing ageing population. The related changes in intergenerational relations have important implications for the whole social fabric as well as for policy formulation. The objective is to examine and provide a better understanding of the social, economic and cultural issues that affect intergenerational relations with particular focus on the attitudes, lifestyles and forms of participation adopted by the youth and on their consequences for Asian and European society and the economy. This lecture will examine the factors leading to solidarity or tensions in intergenerational relations -for example, concerning social safeguards, gender roles, family structures, lifestyles and transmission of knowledge between generations. This lecture will highlight the criteria, indicators and/or processes used in defining age groups (e.g. in terms of distinct values, behaviour, demographic aspects), particularly in defining youth across different countries and policy contexts; the ways youth identity is (re)constructed along social and cultural patterns should be considered in this regard. Comparative studies should also address the economic and societal consequences of young people entrance into the labour market and its impacts, especially on family formation and fertility rates. The changing forms of social capital
and political, social and economic participation of young people by means of voluntary activities, civic engagement, formal/non-formal learning and employment as well as their impact should be examined, taking into consideration class, gender and ethnicity. A comparison of different youth policies and of policies targeted to the management of intergenerational relations at national and supranational levels should be undertaken and good practices identified.

**Theme 3:**

**The Variety of Paths towards A Sustainable Welfare Society**

The objective of this theme is to provide comparative perspectives across Europe and thus provide an improved basis for the formulation and implementation of transition strategies towards a sustainable welfare society at the national and regional levels.

1. **New civil society: new compositions of social actors (volunteers and social entrepreneurs) and organisations (voluntary organisation, NGOs, NPO and INGOs)**

The enlarged FTA zones in Asia as well as the expansion of the EU may be characterised with considerable international population mobility and an emergence of new social actors and organisations in the regions. This is also a key component of broader cultural diversity. The diversity and the emergence of new civil society may carry important implications for policies in Asia and Europe, and options and choices towards a sustainable welfare society. The objective is to examine the role and implications of cultural diversity and new emergences of social actors (volunteers and social entrepreneurs) and organisations (voluntary organisations, NGOs, NPOs and INGOs) in the EU and Asia, specifically in view of the efforts to create a sustainable welfare society which respects cultural diversities and cross-cultural understanding. This lecture addresses the historical, political and cultural developments which have shaped the new compositions of ‘social and public’ actors and organisations in the civil society in the EU and Asia, and which are important for its development in the future. Important factors, promoting an emergence of these actors and organisations in the EU, Asia and the rest of the world, and likely developments should be identified and analysed. The role of new social actors in a civil society, economy and culture needs to be considered. Special attention should be paid to the reasons for, and consequences of the advent of these new actors and organisations in economic, political, scientific, cultural and other contexts. The importance of this aspect in a
sustainable welfare society will be examined. In a wider context of the globalisation, the role of voluntary organisations, e.g. NGOs, NPO and INGOs, as a carrier of social and civil movement, should also be assessed.

2. Development models to meet combined societal and economic objectives

Each European society has historically attempted to combine a number of objectives, and these are reflected to a significant degree in their socio-economic development models; at the present time there are particular challenges to these aims. The objective is to assess the past achievements and future potential of various development models in terms of combining the political objectives of quality of life, growth, employment, social and territorial cohesion, and sustainable development. This lecture may include a comparison of Asia, USA and other relevant regions of the world, as well as of the variety of socio-economic models within Europe. Historical and institutional assessments of the models will be accessed; this might include their historical origins, their basis in the public and social spheres, for example, culture, values, law, implicit or explicit social contracts, development of a welfare state, industrial relations systems, financial regulation, corporate governance in the wider sense, and gender relations. The relevance of these historically-developed characteristics to current conditions and those of the foreseeable future, in terms of meeting the combined objectives, and the usefulness of traditional indicators of (economic and other) performance will be addressed in this context. Attempts to research on change or path-dependency of models are also addressed, including an understanding of the conditions for and processes of institutional change, and the role of the societies in this.
Part 2: Citizenship, Democracy and New Forms of Governance

Theme 4: The Implications of FTA Expansion in Asia and EU Enlargement For Governance and the Citizen

The objective of this theme is to clarify the key interactions between the FTA expansion and economic integration, and issues of democracy, institutional arrangements and citizens' well-being.

1. Democracy in a supranational context – The Case of the European Union -

Issues related to the ‘democratic deficit’ and on how the European Union can be ‘democratised’ are at the core of analytical, political and media debate. At the same time the workings of democracy within countries is also experiencing important changes. The objective is to provide policy relevant perspectives of the pressures on and challenges to democracy in Europe as well as to some extent in Asia and beyond, and to help identify options for strengthening democracy at various levels as well as for engaging citizens. This lecture will examine the interplay between local, national and European democratic developments, in particular the transition to and consolidation of democracy during the current wave of EU enlargement, and the challenges to both ‘older’ and ‘newer’ democracies. The assessment of different forms, changes in, and impacts of systems of balance of powers could be undertaken in this regard, and instruments and indicators to monitor and evaluate the state of democracy at various levels will be addressed. The democratisation of the EU as connected to, but distinct from, developments in national contexts should be analysed, including the implications of the ‘constitutionalisation’ process and its outcomes for the development of a supranational democracy. Attempts to research should also inquire into the factors that lead to citizens’ engagement and trust in, or disaffection from, political participation and ways of addressing them; the relations between representative institutions, citizens and civil society organisations, use of participatory procedures, impact of interest organisations and lobbying, different approaches to the mediation of different interests and values; gendered approaches to democracy and decision making. The relations between democracy and democratisation processes in Europe and in other parts of the world could be explored, as well as the relations between democracy and globalisation processes.
2. New development of the EU boarders and new visions of neighbourhood – implications and lessons for Asia -

Following 1 May 2004, the European Union’s external borders have moved beyond the historical ‘east/west’ divide; at the same time, debate on future enlargement challenges straightforward geographical notions of Europe. The objective is to identify the challenges and prospects related to the management and perceptions of the EU new external borders and of policies and visions of proximity and neighbourhood. This lecture examines the use of concepts of ‘neighbourhood’ and ‘proximity’ versus ‘fortress’ in the debate accompanying and following EU enlargement; the interplay between geopolitical, cultural, linguistic, economic and mental ‘maps’; the relations between the new borders and European identities; the processes of re/de-bordering. Research should highlight the potential and problems related to different approaches and policies in selected fields of cross-border cooperation such as –for instance- economic development and trade, social policy, migration and asylum, border management, fight against organised crime, civil society empowerment, and/or state capacity and institution building. The identification of incentives and barriers to the acceptance and implementation of cross-border cooperation would be especially useful. While specific geopolitical, economic, cultural or functional borders between current EU Member States and other countries (e.g. Russia and other former USSR countries, and/or South Mediterranean countries) can be selected for in-depth analysis, an analytical justification for selection and a comparative perspective are part of the research task. Finally, we will explore implications and lessons for Asian countries.

3. Governance for sustainable development

The EU is committed both to improve its governance and to foster sustainable development. While ‘good governance’ and ‘sustainable development’ are broad concepts with broad political and public support they also involve possible tensions and conflicts. The objective is to explore the interactions between governance modes and sustainable development objectives in view of identifying what governance processes and institutions can best foster sustainable development within a European and Asian society. This lecture examines the relations between local, national, European (including implications of EU enlargement), and global governance in the management of environmental resources and in implementing sustainability; environmental security and options to deal with vulnerability of social groups and economic sectors to global environmental change. Research could also analyse how current policy ‘sectoralisation’ provides obstacles to, or can accommodate, an integrated approach to sustainable development (that is the pursuit of environmental, economic and social
sustainability); the relations between different cycles - e.g. political, administrative and investment cycles - of short/medium term and the long-term perspective required by sustainable development approaches. Sustainable development also raises specific research issues in relation to democracy and the sustainable welfare society, e.g. citizens participation in setting sustainable development objectives and related policies, the role of knowledge in fostering sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, the tackling of distributive aspects across generations and social groups as well as between wealthy and poor countries (e.g. governance implications of concepts of inter- and intra-generational justice, and international fairness).

**Theme 5:**
**Articulation of areas of responsibility and New forms of governance**

The objective of this theme is to support the development of forms of multi-level governance, which are accountable, legitimate, and sufficiently robust and flexible to address societal change including integration and enlargement, and to assure the effectiveness and legitimacy of policy making.

**1. Privatisation and public policy in different contexts**

Considerable experience has been gained of the implication of privatisation policies and of various forms of ownership and control. The objective is to examine and assess the functioning and impacts of various forms of privatisation and liberalisation of public services (or “services of general interest”) in different economic, political and institutional contexts. This lecture will analyse why, how and by whom privatisation policies were/are initiated; the impact of various forms of privatisation and liberalisation, including a comparison before and after the main changes were introduced; the impacts on the various stakeholders, including on the needs of different sections of the population. This lecture will address the functioning of different forms of ownership and control in different national contexts (and sub-national where relevant); differences in, for example, the economic performance of the service to be privatised, the public administration system, the political system and political culture (transparency, patronage, etc.), public finance approach, history of public and private law, corporate governance and regulation – with a view to understanding their implications for effectiveness, efficiency and democratic oversight of the services. The links between privatisation policies and other aspects of liberalisation in the context of the completion of the EU internal market and of global trade.
agreements should be examined; a range of experience from relevant countries, both inside the EU (including new Member States) as well as other -developed and developing- countries could be considered. A range of services should be included, with some coverage of the major kinds of services (e.g. network, social services). Lessons for policy should be drawn, research on methodologies for assessing the impacts is welcomed, and multi-disciplinarity is required.

2. Regulatory processes and the use of impact assessment

Law making and policy making are undergoing important changes in Europe and worldwide; various approaches for improving regulatory environment (better regulation) are being developed and strong justification –in terms of economic, social and/or other costs, risks and benefits- is often required to initiate regulatory measures. The objective is to explore the political, economic, legal and other factors involved in current trends in regulation and to examine the role of impact assessment in regulatory processes and outcomes. This lecture will inquire the processes of regulation, de-regulation and re-regulation which are taking place in Europe within and across different sectors and levels of governance; this could also include alternatives to regulation like co-regulation and self-regulation; where relevant, a comparison with countries outside Europe could be considered. The changing roles of the private and public sectors in regulatory policy making – including shared responsibility and/or regulatory capture should be examined, as well as the role of regulatory authorities and information requirements for effective regulation. The increasing use of impact assessment techniques and processes (e.g. regulatory impact assessment, extended impact assessment, sustainability impact assessment) in the policy process, with focus on the planning and initiation stage should be assessed; for example, arguments and actors involved in the provision of impact assessment and in advocacy (e.g. for or against initiating or not legislative and policy proposals) could be examined. Important dimensions such as accountability, legitimacy, efficiency and effectiveness should be incorporated in the analysis of regulatory approaches and use of impact assessment; the relative ‘weight’ of such dimensions, and of possible trade-offs between them, should be highlighted.

2. Economic governance, articulation of competences and role of expertise

Economic governance is a key area for policy making at all levels, including the EU, and affects all other policies. It is also an area characterised by the handling of highly technical issues, with related issues on the reciprocal roles of experts, politicians and the wider public. The objective here is to improve the knowledge base concerning the functioning of economic
governance, the differences and similarities to other policy areas and options to enhance the public understanding of and appropriate involvement in economic decisions. This lecture examines the articulation of levels in economic governance within the EU, compare the functioning of governance in the field of the economy with that in other areas, and address the distinctiveness and similarities –namely in terms of the complexity of issues and the degree of importance for the general interest of the decisions taken. The particular nature and range of expertise mobilised for economic policies in the broad sense (e.g. competition, fiscal, industrial, monetary, trade policies) should be addressed, including how such expertise is selected in view of policy advice (transparency) and how the differences in experts’ assessment are taken into account in the decision-making process (accountability). The interactions between experts, decision makers and other actors should be explored –including an identification of procedures and criteria by which other actors are allowed to participate, how they do so, and the degree of transparency, accountability and legitimacy of the process. The roles of independent agencies and authorities and/or the role of policies in the process of decision-making in this field –with emphasis on the relations between local, national and EU levels- may be also explored. The strategies of social partners and other stakeholders in assuming their roles in economic governance in a knowledge society could be also investigated.

Theme 6:
Issues connected with the resolution and Conflicts and restoration of peace and justice

The objective of this theme is to support the development of institutional and social capacity in the field of conflict resolution, identify factors leading to success or failure in preventing conflict, and develop improved options for conflict mediation.

1. Approaches to conflict analysis: prevention and resolution of violent conflicts

Preventing, managing, transforming and resolving armed, violent conflicts can be significantly enhanced by an in-depth understanding of their causes, impacts and long-term effects. The objective is to increase knowledge in the field of conflict analysis in Europe by examining the full cycle of violent conflicts and to help identify policy relevant options to address these issues. This lecture will provide a synthesis of current knowledge and possibly develop an integrated assessment of the social, psychological, institutional, economic, historical, environmental or other factors contributing to violent conflicts. Specific issue to be addressed in
this context include: notions of conflict and reconciliation developed in different contexts and research traditions; learning processes, e.g. how and which lessons are learnt from previous conflicts or conflicts in other regions, as well as from political, humanitarian or military intervention; indicators of social, economic or institutional vulnerability to eruption of violent conflicts; causes of escalation of conflicts and factors that lead to early warnings being followed up or ignored; gender roles, relations and perspectives in situations of conflict; relations between political elites, governmental and international (e.g. UN) institutions, non-governmental organisations, citizens’ initiatives, grassroots activists in the prevention and transformation of conflict; role of ‘third parties’ in conflict mediation as well as in monitoring and verification of peace settlements; long-term impacts of conflicts. Incorporation of ‘local’ knowledge of the areas under examination can be especially useful in addressing the above issues.

2. Translational terrorism, security and rule of law

The European Union is engaging in political discourse and policy actions related to the enhancement of ‘security’, considered in a broad sense. Trans-national terrorism is identified as a key security threat, to be responded to by the EU within a democratic framework and according to the rule of law. The objective here is to examine the nature and significance of the threat of trans-national terrorism, and the appropriateness and effectiveness of response options in the EU and beyond. This lecture will analyse: the development and use of broad notions of security (e.g. ‘human security’, ‘civilian security’, ‘comprehensive security’, ‘security and stability’); what such notions include and exclude concerning coverage and options for action –particularly with regard to terrorism; how terrorism is defined –e.g. how this is distinct or linked to other phenomena of political violence and organised crime; terrorism and/ vs resistance and liberation movements; terrorism as domestic and as international phenomenon, also in historical perspective; different forms of terrorism; factors that contribute to the emergence, escalation or abandoning of terrorism; threat perception and role of the media; use of religious or civilisation narratives; assessment of vulnerability of economic activities and social groups; states, terror and rule of law –including safeguarding of fundamental rights; terrorism and war; comparative analysis of options for fighting terrorism, including legal and normative aspects as well as relations with social, economic and other policies.

3. Human rights, conflicts and the role of humanitarian intervention
Protection of human rights is generally considered as a universal value and of utmost importance in democratic societies; at the same time, violation of human rights continues to occur, especially in situations of violent conflict and war. The objective is to examine the social, political, cultural and other factors that lead to violation of human rights and identify options for better safeguarding the rights of individuals and populations at risk. This lecture will examine the philosophical, juridical and other foundations of human rights principles and conventions (including European Charter of Fundamental Rights), focusing on their application to conditions of conflict and war; perceptions of human rights and their violation in conflicts occurring in different social, cultural, psychological and political contexts; relations between universalistic and gendered analysis human rights, and human rights associated with especially vulnerable groups (e.g. women, children, minorities); conduct in wartime, torture, genocide, ethnic cleansing and international justice (including role of the International Criminal Court); human rights in European foreign policy as well as in home affairs policies (e.g. status and treatment of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees).

4. Crime and criminalisation

Some social conflicts - e.g. between different communities in disadvantaged areas - may be associated with socially deviant behaviours and to their ‘criminalisation’; the latter, in turn may influence the capability to address the roots of such behaviours as well as the possibilities of resolving the conflicts themselves. The objective is to identify the social, political, economic, legal and cultural factors in Europe conducive to the perception of crime and to the practice of socially deviant behaviours, and to examine the implications for crime prevention policies within the EU. This lecture will consider how ‘new’ and ‘old’ forms of violence have (re)defined the notion of crime and highlight the relevance of class, race, gender, age and location in understanding these phenomena; the distinctiveness of socially deviant behaviour as compared to organised crime, as well as possible relations between them (e.g. the first as recruitment field for the second); the causes and consequences of criminalisation and marginalisation together with the dynamics of socio-political, economic and media actors responsible for constructing feelings of insecurity. The challenges that measures such as detention and repatriation face in reproducing and preventing further crime -and in safeguarding or violating human rights- should be critically examined; the role of negative social stereotyping could also be considered in this regard. A comparison of different criminal law regimes and crime prevention and social integration policies implemented across national and European levels should be undertaken and good practises should be identified.
Theme 7:  
New forms of citizenship and cultural identities:  
Implications for Asia

The objective of this theme is to learn how to promote citizens' involvement and participation in European policy making, to understand perceptions and impacts of citizenship and human rights provisions in Europe and to identify factors that allow mobility and coexistence of multiple identities.

1. Towards a European public sphere

The possibilities for public debate are important features of democracy and of the current development of the EU; whether and how debate occurs in relation to European issues, across different European countries, at different levels, raise important challenges for the building of a European polity. The objective is to provide integrated perspectives on the roles of different social and political actors and assess their contributions towards the articulation of diverse public communicative spaces in Europe, as components of the broader public sphere. This lecture provides innovative perspectives and foster syntheses of ongoing research efforts in relation to: the contribution and impact of elites, political parties, social movements, citizens’ initiatives and expertise in constructing different discourses at multiple levels; the factors encouraging and obstructing diverse spheres from becoming both ‘European’ and ‘public’; national, trans-national and European public spheres; the interplay between politics, democratisation and the development of a European public sphere; how processes of European integration and globalisation as well as linguistic diversity are reflected in and shape the public sphere. The role of electronic and print media should be examined in terms of agenda setting and generating debate and controversy in relation to cultural, societal, political and economic matters, with particular emphasis on European issues; the implications of media concentration or variations for the pluralism and integrity of information could be examined in this regard. Research should examine how key events such as critical historical junctures, summits and international crises have influenced the content and structure of the public sphere.

2. Gender and citizenship in a multicultural context

Gender relations influence and at the same time are affected by different notions and practices shaped by diverse cultures. The objective is to develop significant new perspectives on how different and changing notions and practices of citizenship relate to gender issues in
Europe’s multicultural context and the implications for policies. This lecture will examine how current notions of citizenship and multiculturalism incorporate a gender perspective, with focus on the European context; the relations between gender, race, ethnicity, class and different notions and practices of citizenship; what are the differences, and why, between women’s and men’s participation and engagement in political and civil life - with focus on possible differences or similarities in more homogeneous or more multicultural settings; different access to and exercise of political, economic, civil and social rights - including how different institutions and governance modes enable, or hamper, equal participation and the access of gender issues on the political agenda; perceptions of ‘nationality’, ‘European citizenship’ and ‘cosmopolitanism’ from a gender perspective; impacts of notions and practices of citizenship and multiculturalism on policies which actively address issues of gender and on women’s quality of life (e.g. family, work, local community); gender aspects in processes of exclusion from/inclusion for citizenship - and the roles of social, political, legal and other factors in shaping them.

3. Values and religions in the EU and Asia

European societies have a long history of dialogue and coexistence as well as of tensions between different cultures, values and religions. The objective is to better understand the significance and impact of values and religions in societies across Europe and their roles in relation to changes in society and to the emergence of European identities. This lecture will explore the role of different values, religions and cultures in European societies from an historical perspective; their different perceptions within and across communities (e.g. ethnic, religious, national minorities, immigrant communities) -including gender aspects- either as an enrichment or a threat to their own identities. The processes leading to tolerance or intolerance and xenophobia -and their relation to changes in society- could be examined in this regard. The role of symbols and cultural heritage in the transmission and diffusion of different values (secular and religious) could be examined as well. Research could also explore how religion is sometimes being used as a political instrument and a factor in social mobilisation, solidarity or discrimination. The challenges posed by religious, ethnic and cultural diversity to legal, educational and political systems in European countries and possible ways to ensure peaceful coexistence of different value systems should be examined. The differing ways in which European countries address these issues and implement various policies and practices in this context could be examined in a comparative perspective as well as their degrees of success in achieving them.
Part 3: Research Actions and Evaluations

Theme 8:
Research Actions to Promote an Asian Welfare Network and its Contribution to a Sustainable Welfare Society in the EU, Asia and the World

The objective of this theme is to promote the establishment of a Sustainable Welfare Society in Asia with a view to maximising the potential of Asian region to address the key policy challenges and issues involved in the transition towards an Asian Welfare Network. The achievement of this objective is pursued by means of a comprehensive package of research actions in four inter-related domains as follows:

1. Enhancing the coherence of public policies with regard to networks among academics, practitioners in national governments, NGOs, IGO, INGO and citizens

Research activities in this domain aim to develop strategic analysis, intelligence, and an effective dialogue between policy makers (international, national and regional) as well as other stakeholders (organisations of researchers, private foundations, policy research programmes and institutes, etc.) in Public Policy Studies.

2. Developing Asian research infrastructures to facilitate comparative work about the EU in particular and the world at large

Research activities in this domain aim to facilitate the further development of Asian infrastructures for comparative research in public policies, through targeted actions that add value to the creation of infrastructures and facilitate their use over and beyond the specific needs of particular themes and disciplines. In this way, these activities are intended to complement relevant initiatives in the context of the COE programme.

3. Improving the dissemination and exploitation of comparative research in Asia and the EU in relation to key Asian and European policy challenges
Research activities in this domain aim to enhance the dissemination and exploitation of the Asian and European Public Policy Studies in support of key policy challenges at national and supranational levels.

4. New and emerging policy challenges and opportunities, for the perspective of the transformations to a sustainable welfare society

Research activities in this domain aim to address new and emerging opportunities and challenges for Public Policy with a forward looking perspective and to prepare the research community to respond to these opportunities and challenges, within the perspective of the transformations to a sustainable welfare society.

Theme 9: Understanding and measuring Public Policy Studies and the impact in Asia and the EU

The objective is to develop knowledge about public policy studies in Asia and Europe, particularly as regards their institutional context, knowledge content, functions and contributions in the economy and society, with a view to enabling the design of better policies for citizens in Asia and Europe. This lecture will address the mechanisms whereby Public Policy Studies create value and returns (private and public, economic, social, political, scientific etc.). This may include the relations between Public Policy Studies and innovation (broadly defined innovation to include technical, organisational, social and other forms of innovation which may be relevant to different economic activities, industries, as well as social and political functions). The diversity within public policy studies, in terms of content, methods, institutional loci, links with professions and communities of practice etc, should be taken into account. The role of the private sector (including industry, services as well as foundations and interest groups) in funding research and using results of policy should be also assessed.

1. Promotion and support for comparative research, methodologies and data generation

The objective is to promote and support comparative research through the development and diffusion of tools, methodologies, research designs and large scale data-sets of wide applicability for comparative research and across disciplines. This will address one or more of
the following issues: The development of new (or improvement of existing) research methods and tools (quantitative/qualitative) for comparative research. These need to be generic methods and/or tools of wide applicability in different fields and disciplines. Research proposals may usefully address the challenges and opportunities posed by rapidly expanding data-recording and processing capacities. Research methods and tools dealing with the context-dependency of data and the challenges this poses in the accumulation of data over time. Challenges and opportunities arising from the use of new types of data can also be addressed. Research proposals could also aim at promoting the diffusion of good practice in comparative research and deriving evidence (e.g. by developing protocols and standards). The need for large scale comparative data-sets of wide applicability for Public Policy can be covered by proposals to this topic.

2. Increasing the visibility and impact of research infrastructures and activities for Public Policies in Asia and Europe

The objective is to facilitate the mobilisation of research communities and to promote the use of research infrastructures by increasing the visibility of national, Asian and European infrastructures and research activities. Studies can be proposed to examine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of virtual research centres, electronic portals and other specialised instruments (e.g. citation indexes, on-line data-bases, virtual networks of researchers, etc.) for improved accessibility and diffusion of data, methods, archived material etc. Appropriate implementation plans and pilots could be developed as part of the studies.

2. New approaches to Public Policy Studies dialogues in An Asian Welfare Network: targeted dissemination of studies in national and multi-national contexts

The objective of this research activity is to increase the impact of Public Policy Studies results on national, regional and local levels. This idea should address the organisation of specific events to disseminate the findings of research activities in Public Policy on important topics of particular policy relevance and interest for the countries involved. These can take the form of seminars or conferences, and should aim at addressing specific needs of particular users (e.g. advisors to policy makers, journalists, specific interest groups, etc.). The dissemination days should contribute appropriate research results in a targeted and user-friendly way. This activity is especially addressed to National Contact Points or other relevant organisations (e.g. Focal Points at the Millennium Goals of the United Nations) with strong and broad links to their
research and policy communities, who are invited to submit proposals aiming at organising these targeted dissemination days for individual or groups of countries.

4. Promoting international research and policy co-operation in Public Policy Studies

The objective is to promote international co-operation on themes of common interest in the field of Public Policy Studies. This idea is called for the organisation of targeted conferences and workshops involving researchers from both Asian and European countries, on important themes and topics of mutual (Asian and European countries, in principle) interest in the Public Policy Studies. The idea could involve important scientific meetings where researchers from the third party countries (e.g. North America, Australia, New Zealand and so on) could exchange findings and results with their counterparts in a structured way. In such cases research proposals could bring together research projects with similar projects from groups of international co-operation countries as above. This idea can also address policy oriented meetings on the development of common research agendas on important themes of interest for Europe and Asia as well as individual and groups in the rest of the world.

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