

International Symposium  
— on —  
Comparative Sciences

*Inaugural Session*

**PROGRAM**  
&  
**ABSTRACTS**

Organized by the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society (BCES)

Sofia, Bulgaria, 8 - 11 October 2013



FESTA HOTEL SOFIA

## Sections

**Section 1: Comparative Education, Comparative Psychology, Comparative Religion**

Section Chair: Prof. Dr. Charl Wolhuter, North-West University, South Africa

**Section 2: Comparative Law, Comparative Labor Studies, Comparative Sociology**

Section Chair: Prof. Dr. Katharina Boele-Woelki, Utrecht University, Netherlands

**Section 3: Comparative Linguistics, Comparative Literature, Comparative History**

Section Chair: Dr. Gordon O. Ade-Ojo, University of Greenwich, UK

## Organizing Committee

### **Symposium Chair**

Prof. Dr.habil. Nikolay Popov, Sofia University, Bulgaria, BCES Chairperson

### **Symposium Co-Chair**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexander W. Wiseman, Lehigh University, USA

### **Assistant Symposium Chair**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Klara Skubic Ermenc, Ljubljana University, Slovenia

### **Local coordination**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marinela Mihova, Veliko Turnovo University, Bulgaria

Assist. Prof. Dr. Marina Pironkova, Sofia University, Bulgaria

Assist. Prof. Dr. Petia Todorova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

## Keynote Papers

Alexander W. Wiseman

Introduction to the Symposium: It is natural to compare

Tuesday, 8 October 2013, 18:30 - 19:30

Wim M.J. van Binsbergen

Comparability as a Paradigmatic Problem

Thursday, 10 October 2013, 09:30 - 11:00

## Symposium Venue

**Festa Hotel Sofia**

Address: 83 Bulgaria Blvd, 1404 Sofia, Bulgaria

Conference Hall, Floor 7

# Program

## Symposium Overall Program

**Tuesday, 8 October 2013**

Arrival, Registration, Opening, Welcome Cocktail

12:00 – 18:00	Arrival, taking rooms, registration, non-formal meetings
18:00 – 18:30	Opening: Festa Hotel, Conference Hall, Floor 7
18:30 – 19:30	Introduction to the Symposium
19:30 – 22:00	Welcome Cocktail: Festa Hotel, Restaurant

	<b>Wednesday 9 October 2013</b>	<b>Thursday 10 October 2013</b>	<b>Friday 11 October 2013</b>
09:30 – 11:00	Section 1	Keynote paper	Section 3
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee / tea break	Coffee / tea break	Coffee / tea break
11:30 – 13:00	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Section 1	Section 2	Visit to the National History Museum
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee / tea break	Coffee / tea break	
16:00 – 19:00	Section 1	Section 2	
19:00 – 19:30			Symposium Closing
19:30 – 22:00			Farewell Dinner

## Section 1 Comparative Education, Comparative Psychology, Comparative Religion

Section Chair: Prof. Dr. Charl Wolhuter, North-West University, South Africa

Wednesday, 9 October 2013

Festa Hotel: Conference Hall, Floor 7

09:30 – 10:00	Charl Wolhuter Comparative Education and the Range of Comparative Sciences
10:00 – 10:30	Nikolay Popov An Interdisciplinary Comparative Model of Studying ABC Books
10:30 – 11:00	Karen L. Biraimah & Agreement L. Jotia Crossing the North-South Divide: A Critical Analysis of Study Abroad Programs to Emerging Nations – Collaborative Efforts between the University of Central Florida and the University of Botswana Presenter: Karen L. Biraimah
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Anna Kirova, Larry Prochner, Ailie Cleghorn, Darcey Dachyshyn & Christine Massing Culture and Practice in Early Childhood Teacher Education: A Comparative and Qualitative Study Presenter: Anna Kirova
12:00 – 12:30	Ricardo Lozano, Yelkin Diker Coşkun, Gonca Kizilkaya Cumaoglu, Luis Enrique Aguilar & Emma Leticia Canales Rodriguez School Uniform Policies in Brazil, Mexico, and Turkey: A Reflection of Culture, Society, or Politics? Presenter: Ricardo Lozano
12:30 – 13:00	Marina Pironkova Comparison in Historic-Educational Studies
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Stefan Stefanov & Milka Terziyska Educational Reforms in Bulgaria and Italy in the 1920s Presenter: Stefan Stefanov
14:30 – 15:00	Pepka Boyadjieva & Petya Ilieva-Trichkova Higher education and social trust: a European comparative perspective Presenter: Petya Ilieva-Trichkova
15:00 – 15:30	Marinela Mihova Education Management in the Member States of the European Union in Comparative Perspective

15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Olena Lokshyna Comparative Education in Ukraine – Characteristics of Development (Video presentation)
16:30 – 17:00	Amalija Žakelj Implementation of different forms of help for pupils with learning difficulties
17:00 – 17:30	Franc Cankar, Olga Dečman Dobrnjič, Stanka Setnikar Cankar Parent's satisfaction, education and knowledge of pupils in state international schools in Slovenia - comparison with a public Slovenian primary school Presenter: Stanka Setnikar Cankar
17:30 – 18:00	Vasiliki S. Fotopoulou & Amalia A. Ifanti Investigating certain aspects of professionalism through the lens of pre-primary and primary school teachers in Greece Presenter: Vasiliki S. Fotopoulou
18:00 – 18:30	Gordana Stankovska & Myqereme Rusi Cognitive, Emotional and Social Characteristics of Gifted Students with Learning Disability Presenter: Gordana Stankovska

## Section 2 Comparative Law, Comparative Labor Studies, Comparative Sociology

Section Chair: Prof. Dr. Katharina Boele-Woelki, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Thursday, 10 October 2013

Festa Hotel: Conference Hall, Floor 7

11:30 – 12:00	Katharina Boele-Woelki Reflections on comparative family law: the subject matter, the method and the issue of multidisciplinary
12:00 – 12:30	Elia Marzal & Yannis Karagiannis Comparing Comparisons: The Scientific Use of the Comparative Method in History, Law, and Political Science Presenter: Elia Marzal
12:30 – 13:00	A.E. (Marieke) Oderkerk The Influence of the Aim of the Research on the Selection of the Objects to Compare in Comparative Legal Research
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>



MARINA NICOLSI & ALESSANDRA PERA

### **Female work, family needs and equal opportunities: A comparative analysis among EU legal systems**

Italy has been classified by the World Economic Global Forum on Gender Gap in a terrible position. It is the 84<sup>th</sup> country, as its policies are not able to improve female job market and family condition. In particular, other countries with similar PIL have a range of semi-completed female occupation and it is not a question of a low level of education and studies. Actually, recent studies shows that Italian woman education, specialization and skills have a high level and that they have access to the job market, but, at the same time, there are many difficulties to preserve and maintain the job in a certain period of woman life. Exactly, the critic period is connected to the choice of having children or a "traditional family" and, in general, with family duties.

Some economists have underlined that an important key to explain the different percentage of women participation to job market in different Countries are connected to peculiar institutional structure of "municipal" job market and to social support measures offered at "municipal level". For what, specifically involve southern Europe job markets, some scientists reveal that this area is characterised by "over-ruled" job markets, especially on matters as employment, dismissal, and different and peculiar contractual schemes. These elements, together with costly initial wages, make difficult women entrance in the job market.

The public offer of child care and family support explains lots of the differences among different countries, but it is a complex datum, really hard to detect, collect and interpret. Not by chance, lots of economic and statistics studies do not pretend to interpret and explain this datum, but use it only to describe a phenomenon.

The welfare system seems to be stronger in France and in the Scandinavian area, while the public effort is absent in English language Countries. A relevant data are statute provisions on parental leave (mother or father oriented), which are really heterogeneous in different Countries. A systematic approach and analysis of the collected data let us considering that we have, both at a national and at a European level, legal rules and models which should promote equal opportunities, but that we miss cultural promises going in the direction of assisting and supporting families, as a way to encourage the preservation of female job place. The point is to ensure instruments to avoid the exit from job market in the critics years when a woman wants to build up both her family and her career, even if she pretend to be a top manager, a lawyer, a judge, a public administrator...

This study will investigate two different kinds of answer, analysing and comparing micro-choices (technical and juridical instruments) and macro-choices (legal policies) that different legal system have adopted in the European context to promote an effective integration between life time and job time, to support families in terms of public services and suggest possible new instruments connected with partnership of public and private programmes.



GEORGI ANGELOV

### **Comparative Policy Analysis: Benchmarking in Innovation and Educational Policies**

Governments are paying increasing attention to international comparisons as they seek to develop effective policies and to improve the performance of the respective national systems. Policy benchmarking exercises are a relatively new tool for performing international comparative analysis of public policies, for their formulation on national level and for introducing new implementation instruments. Originally developed as a management tool to assist individual enterprises to identify their weakness and strengths in relation to competitors and thus help them to identify ways of improving their relative performance, benchmarking was adopted by EU as a