


8TH WORKSHOP ON UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

EXPECTED INEQUALITIES AND UNINTENDED SYMMETRIES

11-12 May 2020, Warsaw, University of Warsaw Library [BUW], ul. Dobra 56/66, room 256

Organizers:
 Polish Sociological Association
 Research Unit on Action and Consequences, University of Warsaw
 Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences
 Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
 The Maria Grzegorzewska University



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Call for Papers

8TH WORKSHOP ON UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Expected Inequalities and Unintended Symmetries
 11-12 May 2020, Warsaw, Poland

Guest speakers

Sam Friedman (London School of Economics)
 Daniel Laurison (Swarthmore College)

**The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15
 December 2019**

<http://unintended.uw.edu.pl/>

Call for Papers

The relation between inequality and unintended goes back a long way in social sciences. Inequality as well as the effects of the reaction to inequality of policy making, are enmeshed in processes of structuration. These in turn both produce and reproduce inequalities and asymmetries, although attempts for countering it are being made. The unintended consequences of education policies, the inequality effects of usage of algorithms, the polarization effects of innovations in banking, the discrimination effects of policies aimed to support gender equality or offer assistance are all manifestations of the unintended-inequality nexus. Engaged social sciences, contemporary social movements and even the apparent conservative turn politics signal the need to rethink existent inequalities, and the perceptible “us-them” divisions. Moreover, the consequences of new AI techniques applied to data gathered from digital networks that permeate modern societies are looming. It is crucial to estimate their social impact, as it seems that humans are being rated using algorithms by their peers, states, companies, and other organizations.

The 8th edition of the workshops on unintended consequences aims to reveal the dynamics of this process and to explore its manifestations. We are particularly interested in processes that render certain forms of inequality as normal, while treating their other manifestations as crossing the border of what is considered to be acceptable. For instance, in certain contexts and social groups children are acceptably unequal, and the same pertains for women and elderly alike. In a similar vein, forms of exclusion of the disadvantaged or discriminated groups are institutionalized, while the same discriminatory treatment

when applied to higher, or other, social classes is considered scandalous. Inequality is asymmetrically distributed in the society depending on the context and distribution of power.

We also aim to tackle the so called unintended symmetries. Arguably, their most common manifestation is the levelling of social distinctions in situations of hazard and risk or other contexts when certain elements of status do not matter. E.g., without a doubt the environmental risks have certain equality- and inclusion-effects. Moreover, the financial status and expert claims of social actors are rendered powerless in worlds that function according to a different logic of social distinction (such as sport gyms, emergency hospitals, illness, even death). While hidden mechanisms of production and reproduction of inequality are present herein as well, the symmetry tendency cannot be easily dismissed.

The Workshop welcomes contributions dealing with such topics as:

- Inequality: definition, types, reaction against; coping with
- Measurement of inequality
- Epistemology of inequality: categories, ignorance and knowledge
- Gender, age and race
- Production and reproduction of inequality and symmetry
- Technologies of inequality, algorithms and classification
- Experiences of inequality
- Media production and distribution of inequalities
- Hidden inequalities and its manifestation
- Unexpected & unintended social symmetries
- Religion, ideologies and politics of inequalities.
- “Us vs Them” dynamic and its role in building group identity
- Unequal access to education and medical services

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **15 December 2019**. See also [Important Dates and Registration](#).

Mini-workshops proposal

The Unintended Consequences team welcomes themes for its mini-workshops. These should be approx. 500 words long and relate to the topic that is announced to be the focus of the unintended discussion, which is organized in May, the following year. The mini-themes will be integrated on the agenda of the next unintended workshop, and usually held on its second day.

The deadline for submission of **mini-workshop proposals** is **15 November 2019**. More information is available [HERE](#).

Organizers

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