



WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, 29-30 MAY 2014

The CSSR is hosting a workshop on Thursday and Friday, 29th/30th May 2014, on social protection in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa. We anticipate panels organized around the following themes:

- **History of welfare policy in South Africa**

Cash transfer programmes were first introduced in South Africa 85 years ago, and the history of poor relief stretches back centuries. What lessons does this history have for us today?

- **Street-level bureaucrats and the administration of welfare programmes**

The delivery of grants involves diverse local bureaucrats, often working together with members of the 'community', specialists (such as doctors) or private sector contractors – who serve as gatekeepers for claimants, processing applications and overseeing payments. This session will examine the complex negotiations and conflicts involving the local bureaucracy of welfare payments.

- **Pensions, grants and 'community' politics**

How do citizens view welfare programmes, and how does this feed into local politics? In South Africa, child support and disability grant programmes are widely criticized because the beneficiaries are perceived to include too many people who are not considered deserving.

- **The politics of pilot programmes in Southern and East Africa**

In the early 2000s, many countries in Southern and East Africa launched pilot programmes for old-age pensions, child grants or grants for the poorest. These pilot programmes were often initiated in response to donor pressure and funding. Why have these pilot programmes attracted more domestic political support in some countries than in others? What affects whether pilot programs are scaled up, ultimately to the national level?

- **The national politics of policy-making**

Cash transfers are proliferating not only across Southern Africa but further north also. What explains the uneven expansion of cash transfers in Africa? What roles have donors played? Has the deepening of multiparty democracy shaped the expansion of cash transfers (or of social policy expenditures more generally?).

In addition to the panels, we anticipate also two 'plenary' talks. One will be given by Professor Sarah Brooks of Ohio State University, on the comparative politics of conditional cash transfers. Professor Brooks is the author of *Social Protection and the Market in Latin America* (Cambridge UP, 2009).

If you would like to present a paper, please send us the title, identify the relevant session, and let us know when a written paper would be available for circulation. If you would like to attend, but not present a paper, please let me know (Jeremy.seekings@uct.ac.za). We have a modest budget for travel and accommodation for presenters. Practical arrangements will be handled by Liz Welsh (elizabeth.welsh@uct.ac.za, 021-650-3365).

Regards,

Jeremy Seekings

Prof. Jeremy Seekings (Director, CSSR, UCT)