IN WORKING ORDER
DISABILITY POLICY,
ECONOMIC RATIONALES
AND EMPLOYABILITY

A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE
ON DISABILITY INSURANCE POLICIES

4th February 2016
Av. de Beaumont 21
1011 Lausanne
Swiss disability insurance (DI) has recently undergone fundamental transformations. In accordance with active social policies, the 5th and 6th revisions of DI have restricted the right to disability pensions and introduced various measures aiming at sustaining the employability and the labor market integration of persons with health issues. The impacts of these reforms go far beyond the objectives of increasing the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation and of reducing the costs of pensions. This one day conference will address several questions pertaining to the consequences of the implementation of this new social policy at various levels and for different stakeholders.

How have the DI reforms been implemented through the decentralized structures of cantonal disability offices and vocational rehabilitation services? How do they address employers, who ultimately decide on the employment of people with health issues, and for what actual reasons do employers hire workers considered as less productive? What are the continuities and breaks with previous policies regarding the employers’ responsibilities? How do the new rehabilitation measures impact DI recipients and people close to them? Do these new policies blur the boundaries drawn between people considered as able (to work) and those considered as disabled?

This conference aims at discussing these issues on the basis of recent sociological and historical studies conducted in Switzerland. It is a unique opportunity for reflecting on social policies in the field of disability and analyzing their intended or unintended effects, as well as their social consequences.

The conference will be held in English (no translation available). Each of the three research presentations will be discussed by an invited scholar.
PROGRAM

MORNING

9h15 - 9h30  OPENING

9h30 - 11h00  How to sell and how to use workers with «limited productivity». The employment of people with disabilities between welfare and economy
Anna Gonon, Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit FHNW, Olten
Prof. Eva Nadai, Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit FHNW, Olten
Fabienne Rotzetter, Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit FHNW, Olten
Discussant: Benoît Beuret (doctoral student), University of Fribourg and Haute école de travail social et de la santé - EESP - Lausanne

11h00 - 11h30  BREAK

11h30 - 13h00  Trusting the goodwill of employers. The concept of «voluntariness» in the labour market integration of people with disabilities (1945-1985)
Alan Canonica (doctoral student), University of Basel
Discussant: Dr. Urs Germann, University of Bern

13h00 - 14h00  LUNCH

AFTERNOON

14h00 - 15h30  Redefining (dis)ability? A critical disability studies perspective on the recent reforms of Swiss Disability insurance
Monika Piecek, Haute école de travail social et de la santé - EESP - Lausanne
Prof. Isabelle Probst, Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud - HESAV - Lausanne
Prof. Jean-Pierre Tabin, Haute école de travail social et de la santé - EESP - Lausanne
Discussant: Prof. Cristina Ferreira, Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud - HESAV - Lausanne

15h30 - 15h45  CONCLUSION
VENUE
Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV)
Av. de Beaumont 21
1011 Lausanne
Room GSS/5

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
Registration is free, but mandatory until 15th January 2016
Contact for questions regarding organization and registration: Isabelle.Probst@hesav.ch

MAP
Metro M2: station CHUV