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**Paper Presentation Panel ‘Women’s labour market participation – Achievements and Shortcomings across Europe. How legal rules can work as incentives or disincentive for employment integration’**

**Part of the International Conference Law and Society in the 21st Century  
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**Chair/Discussant:** Prof. Dr. Kirsten Scheiwe, University of Hildesheim

**Session Organizer:** Maria Wersig

**Papers presented:**

Dr. Susanne Burri, University of Utrecht, Netherlands **“Trends in Female Labour Market Participation and Work-Family Policies in the Netherlands”**

Dr. Lena Wennberg, Umeå University, Sweden **“Social inclusion of solo mothers- constructions of normality in past, present and Swedish social security”**

Prof. Dr. Åsa Gunnarsson, Umeå University, Sweden **“Gender Equality and the Diversity of Rights and Obligations in Swedish Social Citizenship”**

PD Dr. Sabine Berghahn/Maria Wersig, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany **“The male breadwinner model in Germany”**

**Keywords:**

Welfare State, Gender

**Abstract:**

The European Union has set the goal of increasing the labour market participation of women as part of the European Employment Strategie. Policies of the member states are also aimed to increase the labour market participation of women. The integration of women into the labour market to secure an independent income has also been an important feminist demand. But the employment-rates of women still differ greatly within the EU 15, although current research is observing changes towards an adult-worker model across Europe. Many often interrelated factors are to be taken into account while discussing women’s labour market experiences: part-time work, the gender-pay gap, job segregation, unequal division of labour and availability of childcare. These factors play different roles in European welfare state models and are tackled by the member states with different strategies. Legal rules may function as incentives or disincentives for employment integration of women. “Women” are a heterogeneous group, there are differences in labour market participation according to age, ethnicity, location that have to be taken into account. The panel aims to assess the achievements and shortcomings in selected European countries and lead to a discussion of policies and legal options to promote gender equality in the labour market. The papers presented will therefore sketch the recent developments in selected member states and assess them from a gender perspective.