Now, with up to 900 participants and almost 500 lectures, the annual meetings of the Verein für Socialpolitik rank among the largest and most respected economic conferences in Europe.

Beside various expert panels and keynotes, the conference’s Open Meeting offers a platform for more than 450 researchers to speak within about 150 sessions. Also three VfS standing field committees present their scientific work.

The Verein für Socialpolitik assigns various prices and awards during the annual conference. As the umbrella organisation of German-speaking economists, the Verein für Socialpolitik considers one of its primary tasks to honor outstanding contributions to intellectual discourse and research in economics, particularly by younger researchers.

Sunday is workshop day, book a place to bring forward your scientific career. For female scientists the VfS also offers a mentoring workshop and a Women’s Network Meeting. Child care will be provided for families.

For more information on the VfS Annual Conference 2020, please look here:

Local Organisation
Erik Hornung (University of Cologne)
Alexander Westkamp (University of Cologne)
The Annual Congress of the Verein für Socialpolitik consists of a core conference with invited lectures concerning "Gender Economics" and of an Open Meeting with mixed topics. Presentations and Organised Sessions for the Open Meeting may be submitted from all fields of economics.

The submissions are evaluated by anonymous referees and subsequently selected by the Programme Committee. The decision of acceptance may be expected by the end of May 2020.

Membership in the Verein für Socialpolitik and acceptance of its Code of Ethics are required for presenting at the annual conference. The membership can be sought on the homepage of the association (www.socialpolitik.org), after the paper has been accepted.

EconStor – Make your publications visible. The publication is optional: During the submission process, the submitter can decide whether the accepted and revised paper should be published on EconStor in time for the conference.

Scientific Programme Committee of the Open Meeting
Christine Binzel (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
Nadja Dwenger (University of Hohenheim)
Christina Felfe (University of Wuerzburg)
Martin Halla (JKU Linz)
Fabian Herweg (University of Bayreuth)
Holger Herz (University of Fribourg)
Sebastian Krautheim (University of Passau)
Moritz Kuhn (University of Bonn)
Alexandra Niessen-Ruenzi (University of Mannheim)
Uta Pigorsch (University of Wuppertal)

Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee of the Open Meeting
Davide Cantoni (LMU Munich)

Gender differences are pervasive across all economic contexts. Wages and career paths differ strongly between men and women. Their choices and preferences differ, too. A large set of recent studies has set out to explore the causes and consequences of such gender differences. What is the effect of institutions such as tax regimes and childcare facilities on the labor market outcomes of men and women? What roles do social norms and gender stereotypes play? How do choices and outcomes within the household interact with choices and outcomes in the market? What policies are effective in enhancing the professional success of women?

Three keynotes by leading international scholars will provide insights into these questions and give an overview of current research. Raquel Fernandez (New York University) will present a macroeconomic perspective on gender issues, including cultural effects and gender norms. Muriel Niederle (Stanford University) is an expert on behavioral causes of gender differences and will analyse how institutional settings can moderate their effects. Manuel Bagues (Warwick) will discuss a body of work on the consequences of gender quotas for economic outcomes. A panel discussion with politicians, entrepreneurs, and researchers will ask what measures are effective in achieving gender equality.

Scientific Programme of the Core Conference
Dorothea Kübler (WZB)