

Gawron, Grzegorz Piotr; Toczyski, Piotr

**Article — Published Version**

## Editorial: Towards 2030: Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty. A Sociological Perspective

Frontiers in Sociology

*Suggested Citation:* Gawron, Grzegorz Piotr; Toczyski, Piotr (2024) : Editorial: Towards 2030: Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty. A Sociological Perspective, Frontiers in Sociology, ISSN 2297-7775, Frontiers Media, Lausanne, Vol. 9, pp. 1-3, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2024.1487228>

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/303183>

### Standard-Nutzungsbedingungen:

Die Dokumente auf EconStor dürfen zu eigenen wissenschaftlichen Zwecken und zum Privatgebrauch gespeichert und kopiert werden.

Sie dürfen die Dokumente nicht für öffentliche oder kommerzielle Zwecke vervielfältigen, öffentlich ausstellen, öffentlich zugänglich machen, vertreiben oder anderweitig nutzen.

Sofern die Verfasser die Dokumente unter Open-Content-Lizenzen (insbesondere CC-Lizenzen) zur Verfügung gestellt haben sollten, gelten abweichend von diesen Nutzungsbedingungen die in der dort genannten Lizenz gewährten Nutzungsrechte.

### Terms of use:

*Documents in EconStor may be saved and copied for your personal and scholarly purposes.*

*You are not to copy documents for public or commercial purposes, to exhibit the documents publicly, to make them publicly available on the internet, or to distribute or otherwise use the documents in public.*

*If the documents have been made available under an Open Content Licence (especially Creative Commons Licences), you may exercise further usage rights as specified in the indicated licence.*



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



## OPEN ACCESS

EDITED AND REVIEWED BY  
Guillermina Jasso,  
New York University, United States

\*CORRESPONDENCE  
Andrzej Klimczuk  
✉ klimczukandrzej@gmail.com

RECEIVED 27 August 2024  
ACCEPTED 02 September 2024  
PUBLISHED 17 September 2024

CITATION  
Klimczuk A, Gawron GP and Toczyski P (2024)  
Editorial: Towards 2030: sustainable  
development goal 1: no poverty. A  
sociological perspective.  
*Front. Sociol.* 9:1487228.  
doi: 10.3389/fsoc.2024.1487228

COPYRIGHT  
© 2024 Klimczuk, Gawron and Toczyski. This  
is an open-access article distributed under the  
terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution  
License \(CC BY\)](#). The use, distribution or  
reproduction in other forums is permitted,  
provided the original author(s) and the  
copyright owner(s) are credited and that the  
original publication in this journal is cited, in  
accordance with accepted academic practice.  
No use, distribution or reproduction is  
permitted which does not comply with these  
terms.

# Editorial: Towards 2030: sustainable development goal 1: no poverty. A sociological perspective

Andrzej Klimczuk<sup>1\*</sup>, Grzegorz Piotr Gawron<sup>2</sup> and Piotr Toczyski<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Social Policy, Collegium of Socio-Economics, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland, <sup>2</sup>Institute of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Silesia in Katowice, Katowice, Poland, <sup>3</sup>Media and Communication Department, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland

## KEYWORDS

SDG1, COVID-19, poverty, injustice, resilience, sustainable development

## Editorial on the Research Topic

[Towards 2030: sustainable development goal 1: no poverty. A sociological perspective](#)

## Overview

This Research Topic focuses on the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) by the UN, which aims to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere.” Progress toward this goal is evaluated through various targets and indicators. The most recent SDG progress report highlighted how poverty reduction has significantly slowed and worsened, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic (United Nations, 2024). This unprecedented emergency has particularly affected informal workers, young people, and women. With the goal of eradicating poverty by 2030 currently off track, intensified action is crucial. Moreover, amid a growing climate crisis, significant efforts are needed to bring the 2030 targets within reach. This Research Topic examines SDG1 from a sociological perspective, focusing on its framing, geographic adaptations, stakeholder involvement, and the influence of social mobility and stratification studies, especially in the context of the challenges of the post-COVID-19 pandemic.

Two journals were involved in the work on this project: “Frontiers in Sociology” and “Frontiers in Human Dynamics.” The presented Research Topic includes four articles prepared by six authors affiliated from the following countries: Denmark, Italy, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom. Three types of articles are included, covering: two original research articles (Bova; Millard and Fucci), one review (Özgün and Dolcerocca), and one mini review (Hung). This Research Topic covers topics encompassing, among others, definitions and measurement of poverty and social exclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic emergency measures, health policies, mental health, homelessness, internal migration, social reintegration, resilience, agency and structure, and social innovation.

## Selected studies

In the first study included in this Research Topic, “*Bringing classes back into poverty discussions*,” Özgün and Dolcerocca focused on a shift in the poverty discourse that started in the 1980’s and on moving from production relations to consumption relations, using measurements of consumption levels and purchasing power to define poverty. This approach often relies on absolute poverty lines or relative indicators to differentiate between “poor” and “non-poor” populations. The paper argues that, while these assessments can track trends over time, they hide the root causes of poverty and lead to overly optimistic interpretations. The study critiques the decontextualization of poverty from its political and economic context, particularly within a neoliberal framework. Moreover, this research advocates for a focus on the material causes of poverty, which are rooted in the conflicts inherent in the capitalist system and the class-based contradictions of production.

The research team of Millard and Fucci continued the discussion on fundamental issues in their research on “*The role of social innovation in tackling global poverty and vulnerability*.” The authors underlined recent events and crises, such as the financial crisis of 2007–2008, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine, which have contributed to the rapid rise in global poverty. The study argues that development organizations have long used social innovation to combat poverty, but only recently have they begun to systematically analyze its contributions to the SDGs. Social innovation, driven by local civil society involvement, aims to empower those in need by increasing their agency and capability rather than relying on external aid. This study examines various definitions of poverty and advocates for recalibrating social innovation to address contemporary challenges, emphasizing the need for proactive public sector involvement. Furthermore, the article calls for a revised understanding of the relationship between sustainable development and resilience, proposing a nexus approach that integrates SDG1 with other related goals.

Two studies focus on case studies related to poverty. In the paper, “*The homeless population during the COVID-19 syndemic: inequities, practices of social resilience, and social reintegration strategies*,” Bova examined the social insecurity and misrecognition of people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic in Bergamo, Italy. The research was conducted in two phases. The first focused on analyzing the social resilience practices of socio-educational staff and support services during the crisis. During the second research phase, social dynamics that can improve the long-term wellbeing and reintegration of homeless people have been studied. Initially, public authorities neglected people without housing, prompting social services to implement emergency responses and acquire protective equipment. The article highlights that to achieve full social reintegration and prevent future misrecognition, fostering a relationship with a non-stigmatized social community and involving the local community in awareness-raising and participatory activities are essential for developing support networks.

In the final paper, “*Is psychologically vulnerable rural-to-urban migrants’ mental health further at stake under China’s*

*tightened COVID-19 measures: how should the government respond?*” Hung studied potential policy recommendations for the recent population changes. The study indicates that the COVID-19 outbreak has had a widespread effect on the mental health of Chinese nationals, but its impact on rural-to-urban migrants has not been well-documented. The author argues that rural-to-urban migrant workers already face discrimination and stigma in urban areas, which severely influences their mental health. The pandemic is likely to have exacerbated these issues, although this has been insufficiently explored. To address these challenges, Chinese policymakers need to understand the specific mental health impacts on these migrants to create effective interventions. The researcher calls for local governments to adopt policies to mitigate the mental health burden of rural-to-urban migrants, given their specific characteristics and social risks.

## Conclusion

The research findings contained in the papers in this Research Topic allow the formulation of at least four directions for further research. These are (1) new approaches to defining and measuring poverty in the context of other SDG agendas, such as SDG3 related to public health challenges (Atkinson, 2019); (2) scaling up of social innovations related to poverty reduction (Nicholls and Ziegler, 2019); (3) fostering the institutional ecosystems to support the social economy and solidarity economy (Fontan and Lévesque, 2023); and (4) comparative social policy studies, including differences between countries and a variety of policy ideas and policy instruments (Aspalter, 2021).

## Author contributions

AK: Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Supervision, Validation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. GG: Supervision, Validation, Writing – review & editing. PT: Supervision, Validation, Writing – review & editing.

## Funding

The author(s) declare that no financial support was received for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all the authors and reviewers who have contributed to this collection of articles for their dedication to our Research Topics and their readiness to share their knowledge and time. We would also like to thank the ever-helpful Frontiers team, whose organizational skills and understanding made this Research Topic possible.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

The author(s) declared that they were an editorial board member of Frontiers, at the time of submission. This had no impact on the peer review process and the final decision.

## Publisher's note

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

## References

- Aspalter, C. (2021). *Ideal Types in Comparative Social Policy*. Abingdon, OX, New York, NY: Routledge.
- Atkinson, A. B. (2019). *Measuring Poverty Around the World*. Princeton, Oxford: Princeton University Press.
- Fontan, J.-M., and Lévesque, B. (2023). "The Institutional Ecosystem," in *Encyclopedia of the Social and Solidarity Economy*, ed. I. Yi (Cheltenham; Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing), 443–451.
- Nicholls, A., and Ziegler, R. (2019). *Creating Economic Space for Social Innovation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- United Nations (2024). *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024*. New York, NY: United Nations.