The Department of Sociology at the University of Tübingen invites you to attend the lecture by

Prof. Dr. Herman van de Werfhorst

University of Amsterdam & Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Tübingen

**Effects of School Accountability on Social Inequality in Educational Attainment: A Difference-in-Difference Analysis of European Reforms**

(Joint research with Jennifer L. Jennings, Princeton University)

Tuesday 10 October 2017, 3.30 – 5.00 pm
OSA Keplerstr. 2, 72076 Tübingen, Room 003

**Abstract:** American studies have shown modest positive effects of school accountability on student achievement, but mostly for younger age groups and short-term achievement gains. Test-based accountability has also been criticized, because it magnifies socioeconomic or racial/ethnic inequalities. Calls have been made by American education policy scholars for Education Inspectorates, that are supposed to work with schools rather than against them. However, there are very few studies on the effectiveness of the introduction of external school evaluation policies such as implemented by Inspectorates.

In Europe, a number of countries have installed reforms towards external school evaluation policies in the past decades. We use a pre- and post-reform design on two education policies: external school evaluation and the introduction of standardized tests. Using data from 21 European countries for cohorts born between 1945 and 1989, we study inequality in final educational attainment by parents’ educational level and gender. Our results, holding constant for country fixed effects, overall inter-cohort trends, and country-specific socioeconomic inequality trends across cohorts, show that external school evaluation policies have magnified socioeconomic inequalities, particularly because strongly disadvantaged groups are harmed. The introduction of standardized test did not affect socioeconomic inequalities.

**Biography:** Herman van de Werfhorst is professor of sociology at the University of Amsterdam, and director of the Amsterdam Centre for Inequality Studies (AMCIS, www.amcis.uva.nl) which is sponsored by a Research Priority Area "Institutions and Inequality" of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences of UvA. Herman Van de Werfhorst is member of the Interuniversity Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology (ICS). He obtained his PhD at the ICS / University of Nijmegen in 2001. From 2000-2002 he was a Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College, University of Oxford. Since 2002 he has been teaching Sociology at the Department of Sociology of the University of Amsterdam, since 2007 as full professor. Herman has been involved in the acquisition of various large research grants, including a EU FP6 Network of Excellence EQUALSOC (2005-2010), an FP7 Collaborative research project GINI (2010-2013), a personal NWO-Vidi grant (2007-2012), an NWO-PROO collaborative research programme (2011-2015), and a personal NWO-Vici grant (2015-2020). Herman's research interests include the sociology of education, social stratification and mobility, labour market sociology, and quantitative methodology & statistics.