

Thomas Riis und Mareike Hansen (eds)

Poverty: its Degrees, its Causes and its Relief –  
a Multidisciplinary Approach to an Urgent Problem



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Compared with other questions in social history research into poverty was to a certain extent neglected since the early 1990s. This is astonishing, as today poverty is regarded as one of the major problems in society. On a purely contemporary basis research into poverty will frequently suggest solutions which propose to cure the symptoms rather than the illness.

Hoping to contribute to the fight against poverty René Leboutte (Luxemburg) and Thomas Riis (Kiel) took the initiative to give research into poverty a new impetus through interdisciplinary cooperation. To this end, an international group of researchers met at Kiel in the autumn of 2005. The occasion was a conference sponsored by the European Science Foundation; in order to take advantage of the synergy of interdisciplinarity.

Its purpose was to discover the long-term consequences of poverty seen in a historic perspective. The papers read deal with factual as well as with methodological questions.