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**Topic: Social protection institutionalization trajectories in Africa**

**Dr Sophie Plagerson – Center for Social Development in Africa, University of Johannesburg**

In the past 25 years, global commitments and national governments have endorsed social protection programmes as a means to addressing poverty and inequality. This has resulted in a growing level of institutionalization of social protection within national government administrations. This presentation reviews the cross-country variation in the institutional configurations that have resulted across Africa. Each country is reviewed in terms of the historical development of institutions (e.g. have new departments been created to manage new programmes), and the number of departments across which social protection functions are distributed (as a proxy for the level of coordination between programmes). The research forms a preliminary analysis which can support further research on the design and implementation of comprehensive social protection systems towards the achievement of the SDGs.