



# Max Weber Programme

## Multidisciplinary Research Workshop

23 March 2011, 11.00-12.45, at Villa La Fonte, Conference Room

### Path-dependence in Welfare State Reforms with Kent Weaver

Prof. Kent Weaver (Georgetown University and visiting at the EUI) is going to present his paper '**Paths and Forks or Chutes and Ladders?: Negative Feedbacks and Policy Regime.**

Prof. Weaver is probably the founding father of the 'politics of blame avoidance' that have characterized most of the literature on welfare state retrenchment of the last two decades. His paper, a reasoned critique of both excessive reliance on path-dependent mechanisms of institutional change as well as of the varieties of models or worlds of welfare state capitalism, is a breath of fresh air in an otherwise rather static (path-dependent) literature on the politics of the welfare state.

Due to the theoretical implications of the paper, which go well beyond the narrow field of pension reforms in advanced industrialized countries, his presentations should be very interesting for all fields of the social sciences and humanities dealing with institutional stickiness and change (e.g. increasing returns in economics, neoinstitutionalist theories in the political sciences etc).

Programme:

Introduction by the chair, Igor Guardiancich, MWP

Presentation by Prof. Kent Weaver (30 minutes)

Discussion by MWF Alexandre Afonso (SPS) (10 minutes)

Comments by MWF Masanori Kashiwagi (ECO) and MWF Nathan Marcus and/or MCF Cornelius Torp (HEC) (5 Minutes each)

Floor open to the public