Changing Welfare States: Europe and Beyond

Prof. Martin Kohli, Dr. Nadia Steiber

Second Term Seminar – Winter 2011

Thursdays 08:45-10:45
Seminar room 4, Badia Fiesolana

(Please register with Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu)

The seminar will examine the societal changes (e.g., the “new social risks”) that lead to new demands for welfare policies, and the effects of these policies on how people navigate these risks. It will put special emphasis on the changes occurring in and through population, gender and family dynamics – which have been much less studied than the changes emanating from the world of work and production. It will go into comparative issues among European welfare states, including the new members states and accession countries. Moreover, it will go beyond Europe and take a comparative perspective on Asian systems.

The seminar will consist of three parts. First, we will discuss the theoretical approaches to welfare state development in terms of how welfare states respond to changing social needs and risks, and how the latter can be conceptualized. Second, we will briefly go into the debate on welfare regimes, and compare the welfare systems in the ‘old EU’ with post-communist welfare pathways and Asian welfare systems. Third, we will analyze the most important current changes in the spheres of population, gender, family and the generational contract, the policies that have been put in place to respond to them, and the impact of these policies on the fields that they address.

Most sessions are based on readings. Participants will be asked to reflect on these readings with brief questions in advance of each session. In addition, each participant will be required to critically present the readings of one of the sessions and lead the discussion on how they contribute to the key questions of the seminar.

If you want to write a term paper for this seminar, please send a copy to the seminar's professor and the relevant secretary by 31 May 2011.
A. THEORETICAL APPROACHES

Session 1 (January 13)
Welfare states as responses to the transformation of macro-social conditions: industrialism, modernization, demographic change, globalization

General readings
Myles, John and Jill S. Quadagno (2002). Political theories of the welfare state. Social Service Review, 76(1), 34-57. (L/M I/3)

Additional readings

Session 2 (January 20)
Beyond functionalism: Organized interests, power resources, political institutions

General readings

Additional readings

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Rothstein, Bo (1998). *Just institutions matter: The moral and political logic of the universal welfare state*. Ch. 6 The political and moral logic of the universal welfare state (pp. 144-70). (L/M I/20)


**Session 3 (January 27)**

**From expansion to retrenchment to reconstruction**

**General readings**


**Additional readings**


**B. COMPARATIVE WELFARE STATE ANALYSIS**

**Session 4 (February 3)**

**Welfare regimes: Which ones? And do they converge?**

**General readings**


**Additional readings**


Session 5 (February 10)

**Enlarging the Scope: New Member States and Accession Countries**

*General readings*


*Additional readings*


Session 6 (February 17)

**The Asian Welfare Regime(s)**

*General readings*


*Additional readings*


**C. POLICY FIELDS**

Session 7 (February 24)
Family policies: gender and care

*General readings*


*Additional readings*


Session 8 (March 3)
Family policies and fertility

*General readings*

Additional readings


Session 9 (March 10)

**Pension reform**

General readings


Börsch-Suppan…

Additional readings


Session 10 (March 17)

**Intergenerational relations: transfers**

General readings


Additional readings

*European Societies, 1*, 81-104.