



The Role of Social Policy in Poverty Reduction

A Comparative Study on Life Course Changes and the Dynamics of Poverty in Germany and the United Kingdom

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Abstract

Despite the vast research on poverty, little is known about poverty transitions at a cross-European level, particularly in a longer run. The aim of this research is to analyse the interrelation between the welfare state and poverty transitions in Germany (East and West Germany) from 1993 to 2013 and in the United Kingdom from 1991 to 2006. This study updates and extends existing comparative works on both trends and dynamics of poverty linking the cross-sectional poverty research to a longitudinal approach in Germany and the United Kingdom by employing data from Cross-National Equivalence Files (CNEF) which provides nationally representative panels. This data is used on description of poverty transitions and spells of poverty both pre-and post- transfers to evaluate the effectiveness of the social transfer of different welfare systems. Following the tradition of most comparative analyses of poverty, the poverty is measured as a relative terms and the analysis is supplemented by a measure of the sensitivity of the chosen poverty indicator. Furthermore, exit and entry rates and the duration of poverty are added to the analysis by applying discrete time event history analysis.

Jury:

Prof. Hans-Peter Blossfeld (EUI, supervisor), Prof. Jonathan Bradshaw (University of York), Prof. Martin Diwald (University of Bielefeld), Prof. Klarita Gërxhani (European University Institute)

Bio

Before joining the doctoral program at the European University Institute in year 2012, Saara graduated in Social Policy from the University of Turku. Currently she is a Senior Research Assistant for the Centre for Population Change at the University of Southampton. She is working for the intergenerational relations and exchange strand within CPC. Her main research interests are poverty, incomes in later life and social policy.