

Research Committee 19 (Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy) International Sociological Association

2008 Newsletter

RC19 BOARD, 2006-2010

President

Ann Orloff, Northwestern University, USA

Vice-Presidents

Julia S. O'Connor, University of Ulster, UK,
Joakim Palme, Institute for Future Studies, Sweden

Secretary/Treasurer

Daniel Béland, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Board Members

Valeria Fargion, University of Florence, Italy
Torben Fridberg, Danish National Institute of Social Research, Denmark
Ana M. Guillen, Universidad Oviedo, Spain
Huck-Ju Kwon, Sung Kyun Kwan University, Korea

RC19 IN STOCKHOLM: THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

For updates about the 2008 Stockholm meeting (September 4-6), please visit this website:

<http://www2.sofi.su.se/RC19/>

The papers to be presented at the meeting are available here:

http://www2.sofi.su.se/RC19/inc_papers.html

BACK TO THE FUTURE IN STOCKHOLM

Letter from RC19 President Ann Orloff:

Dear fellow members of RC19,

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Stockholm in a few days, where Joakim Palme and the team at SOFI (Swedish Institute for Social Research) have put together a wonderful program (as our organizers always do). We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the revived RC19, which is an achievement in intellectual longevity of which we should be proud. RC19 was founded in the mid-1960s, and its members helped to create an important scholarship on poverty and social provision; by the 1980s, however, the group was no longer so active. In 1988, Walter

Korpi, recently elected as the group's president, organized a meeting in Stockholm which marks the start of our research committee's "second life," in which comparative analyses of the politics of social policy and social provision's institutional configurations have been at the forefront of our investigations. Walter created a durable framework for a series of intense intellectual encounters at our yearly workshops, most notably the famous "Korpi's rules," in which papers are taken as read and are presented by commentators, allowing for an intense—and unusually-satisfying—exchange of ideas.

RC19 is in excellent financial and organizational shape: we have more than 400 paid members, and our finances are in the black. We've been able to offer substantial support to local organizers this year, as in past years, which has enabled us to offer financial assistance to scholars otherwise unable to attend.

As for the future, we have our next two annual conferences lined up: 2009 will see us in Montréal, and 2011 in Moscow; the quadrennial conference of ISA will be held in 2010 in Goteburg, Sweden. We are looking for local organizers for 2012 and beyond, so do let me or someone else on our Executive Board know if you might be interested in hosting a conference. And we will be looking for a new President—I will have served the allowable two terms by then—and officers, to be elected in 2010, so please also suggest good candidates, or run yourself!

Sincerely,

Ann Orloff
President
Research Committee 19
International Sociological Association
Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Gender Studies
Northwestern University

Walter Korpi's recollections of the 1988 Stockholm meeting:

On the eve of the 2008 Stockholm meeting, we invited former RC19 President Walter Korpi to reflect on a major RC19 meeting that took place in the same city exactly 20 years ago.

RC19 was founded during the 1966 ISA meeting in Evian, Switzerland. The first conference I attended was in Mexico City in 1982. When I was subsequently elected president of the research committee, I found out that the number of members was very low. If I remember correctly, at that time only about 17 members had paid their fees to the Committee.

In this situation, major reforms were obviously needed. The reforms came to focus on different aspects. One was a broadening the research focus of the committee by placing comparative research on different aspects of welfare-state policies and development in the center of interest. Another was to engage internationally recognized researchers into regular conferences, scholars working with theoretically guided empirical research but differing in

theoretical outlooks. A third reform was to arrange meetings in the format of workshops with pre-circulated papers.

With the aid of a generous research grant from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Fund, I was able to invite some 25 international scholars to the 1988 conference in Stockholm. Intensive debates during the conference indicated that we had succeeded in bringing a plurality of theoretical perspectives into the committee. The format with pre-circulated papers, assumed to have been read by participants and introduced by an appointed discussant, also worked well. I had experimented with such workshops during my turn as president of the Swedish Sociological Association, and in such relatively small workshops, this format was fine. Among people whom I consulted on this issue, some said that scholars from abroad would be disappointed if not allowed to make at least a ten-minute introduction to their papers. Others argued that if you give them five minutes, they would in practice be impossible stop. The result was that in this new format, papers are assumed to have been read. The role of the discussant is not to present or to summarize the paper; instead *the discussant must assume the more demanding role of critically conveying to listeners the main arguments made in the paper so as to set the frame for initiated discussions.*

After this Stockholm conference, annual RC19 conferences were convened in other Nordic countries and later also in other parts of the world. This bodes well for the future of RC19.

Walter Korpi
Professor
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)
Stockholm University

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Asian Social Protection in Comparative Perspective

January, 7-9, 2009 - National University of Singapore - Singapore

Asia's growing economic and geopolitical importance has led to increased interest in its social protection and social welfare programs. How do these diverse countries deal with aging, disability, drug and alcohol abuse, housing, income supports and welfare, health care coverage, old-age pensions, single mothers, social services, unemployment, and the working poor? Are there lessons in this experience for other parts of the world? Are there lessons Asia can learn from the experience of others? And, how can we encourage cross-national exchanges among researchers, academics, practitioners, and government officials?

To learn more about the conference, please visit this website:

<http://www.appam.org/conferences/international/singapore2009/index.asp>

NEW BOOKS

Daniel Béland and André Lecours. 2008. *Nationalism and Social Policy: The Politics of Territorial Solidarity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Despite the recent proliferation of literature on nationalism and on social policy, relatively little has been written to analyse the possible interaction between the two. Scholars interested in social citizenship have indirectly dealt with the interaction between national identity and social programs, but they have seldom examined this connection in reference to nationalism. Specialists of nationalism rarely mention social policy, focusing instead on language, culture, ethnicity, and religion. The main objective of this book is to explore the nature of the connection between nationalism and social policy from a comparative and historical perspective. At the theoretical level, this analysis will shed new light on a more general issue: the relationships between identity formation, territorial politics, and social policy.

The cases at the centre of this study are three multinational states, that is, states featuring strong nationalist movements: Canada (Québec), the United Kingdom (Scotland), and Belgium (Flanders). The book looks at the interplay between nationalism and social policy at both the state and sub-state levels through a detailed comparison between these three cases. In its concluding chapter, the book brings in cases of mono-national states, like Germany and the United States to provide broader comparative insight on the meshing of nationalism and social policy. The original theoretical framework for this research is built using insight from selected scholarship on nationalism and on the welfare state.

Contents

Introduction

1. Understanding the Nationalism-Social Policy Nexus
2. Canada: Nationalism, Federalism, and Social Policy
3. The United Kingdom: Nationalism, Devolution, and Social Policy
4. Belgium: Nationalism, State Reform, and the Federalisation Debate

Conclusion

Amílcar Moreira. 2008. *The Activation Dilemma: Reconciling the Fairness and Effectiveness of Minimum Income Schemes in Europe*. Bristol: Policy Press.

The activation of social welfare recipients has been, and still is, a central issue in the development of social and employment policies in Europe. This ambitious book explores the employment effectiveness of minimum income schemes, and provides the first comprehensive examination of its dependency on how the rights and obligations of the recipients are defined.

The book argues that the right to a minimum income can only be adequately justified with reference to the individual's right to personal development. Combining political theory and policy analysis, the author draws on evidence from eight different European countries to

illustrate how it is possible to combine higher levels of employment effectiveness with the respect for recipients' right to personal development.

Exploring the balance between fairness and effectiveness in the activation of minimum income recipients and acknowledging that individuals have both rights and obligations, this book will provide a useful reference tool to students, researchers and policy-makers with an interest in the work versus welfare nexus.

Contents

Introduction; The right to a minimum income: between Mead and Van Parijs; Justifying a minimum income guarantee: the right to personal development; The activation dilemma: a comparative study; Measuring respect for the right to personal development; The employment effectiveness of minimum income schemes; The employment effectiveness of minimum income schemes and their respect for the right to personal development; Conclusion.

Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, Silke van Dyk and Martin Roggenkamp. 2008. *Party Politics and Social Welfare: Comparing Christian and Social Democracy in Austria, Germany and the Netherlands*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Christian and Social Democracies have been the driving force behind welfare state developments post-WWII. This valuable new book investigates whether continued party differences have contributed significantly to the design of social welfare in three conservative welfare states, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands, since the mid-1970s. Rather than assuming continued differences or convergence between parties, the primary focus is to empirically analyze party positions with regard to employment and labour market policies, social security, and family policies as well as the implemented policies themselves. The analysis demonstrates how changed interpretative patterns have led to a programmatic convergence amongst Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, largely resulting in a liberal-communitarian approach guiding the development of social welfare policies.

Contents

Introduction; 1. Institutions and Political Parties in Historical Contexts; 2. Welfare State Arrangements: A Historical Perspective; 3. Welfare Policy Changes Since the Mid-1970s; 4. Theories Explaining Welfare State Change; 5. Changed Interpretative Patterns of Welfare State Parties; 6. Christian Democratic and Social Democratic Welfare Policies and Politics in Comparative Perspective: Towards a Liberal Communitarian Welfare State? References; Index.

Martin Seeleib-Kaiser (ed.). 2008. *Welfare State Transformations: Comparative Perspectives*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

This edited volume provides fresh empirical evidence of far reaching transformations of the welfare state globally that have changed the boundaries of the 'public' and 'private domains within the mixed economies of welfare. By investigating the various modes of policy

intervention, such as financing and the provision and regulation of social policy, it provides a nuanced account of reforms in the past decade. The book includes contributions from leading anthropologists, political scientists, sociologists and social policy analysts, and analyses key policy areas including income security, health, care, social services and education.

Contents

Shifting Boundaries of 'Public and Private'; M.Seeleib-Kaiser

PART I: STATE PERSPECTIVES

Welfare State Reforms in the United Kingdom; M. Powell

Welfare State Transformations in an Affluent Scandinavian State: The Case of Denmark; J.Goul-Andersen

The Public-Private Mix in Southern Europe: What Changed in the Last Decade?; A.Guillen & M.Petmesidou

Metamorphoses of Welfare States in Central and Eastern Europe; M.Potucek

The State of Japanese Welfare: Welfare and the Japanese State; R.Goodman

PART II: POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Politically Dominant but Socially Flawed: Projected Pension Levels for Citizens at Risk in Six European Multi-Pillar Pension Systems; P.Bridgen & T.Meyer

The Changing Public-Private Mix in OECD Healthcare Systems; H.Rothgang, M.Cacace, L.Frisina & A.Schmid

From Liberal Statism to Statist Liberalism: The Transformation of Unemployment Policies in Europe; D.Clegg

The Transformation of Incapacity Benefits; P.Kemp

The 'Public' and 'Private' of Work-Family Reconciliation: Unsettling Gendered Notions and Assumptions; D.Ben-Galim & R.Gambles

PART III: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES AND CONCLUSION

Reconstructing Nation, State and Welfare: The Transformation of Welfare States; J.Clark

Conclusion; M.Seeleib-Kaiser

Wim van Oorschot, Michael Opielka and Birgit Pfau-Effinger (eds). 2008. *Culture and Welfare State: Values and Social Policy in Comparative Perspective*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Culture and Welfare State provides comparative studies on the interplay between cultural factors and welfare policies. Starting with an analysis of the historical and cultural foundations of Western European welfare states, reflected in the competing ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism, the book goes on to compare the Western European welfare model to those in North America, Asia and Central and Eastern Europe. Comprehensive and engaging, this volume examines not only the relationships between cultural change and welfare restructuring, taking empirical evidence from policy reforms in contemporary Europe, but also the popular legitimacy of welfare, focusing particularly on the underlying values, beliefs and attitudes of people in European countries.

This book will be of great interest to sociologists and political scientists, as well as social policy experts interested in a cultural perspective on the welfare state.

Contents

Part I: Cultural Foundations of the Welfare State: Ideas of the Good Society

Part II: Worlds of Welfare Culture

Part III: Cultural Change and Welfare Reform

Part IV: Popular Welfare Values and Beliefs

Contributors include: J. Clarke, Z. Ferge, J. Fink, J. Gelissen, D. Hofacker, B. Hvinden, M. Kremer, D. Lueck, J. O'Connor, M. Opielka, I. Peng, B. Pfau-Effinger, G. Robinson, S. Stjernø, K. van Kersbergen, W. van Oorschot, and R. Walker.

Yeates, Nicola (ed.). 2008. *Understanding Global Social Policy*. Bristol: Policy Press.

As a field of study, global social policy has grown in strength and remit over the last decade and offers a fresh set of perspectives on contemporary debates within social policy. This book is the first student-aimed textbook that comprehensively engages with this field of study, examining the key theoretical and policy debates and issues.

Written by an international team of leading social policy analysts, it examines the impact of the prefix 'global' on the ways in which social policy as a field of study is constructed and explores how the globalising strategies of state and non-state actors intersect with social policy concerns, evaluating their impacts upon social welfare.

Features

- Emphasises the role of supra-national organisations and international actors in social policy formation;
- Highlights the 'bottom-up' transnational pressures and forces in the formation of global social policy as well as 'top-down' ones associated with intergovernmental fora and organisations;
- Historicises current developments and debates in global social policy;
- Focuses on policy processes, content and impacts.

Designed with the needs of students in mind the book includes useful chapter summaries, illustrative boxes and diagrams, and pointers to relevant websites and other sources of further information that will be invaluable to undergraduate and postgraduate students in social policy, sociology, health studies and development studies.

Contents

The idea of global social policy ~ Nicola Yeates; Global and regional social governance ~ Bob Deacon; The global transfer of social policy ~ Rob Hulme and Moira Hulme; Business and global social policy formation ~ Kevin Farnsworth; International trade and welfare ~ Christopher

Holden; Global labour policy ~ Robert O'Brien; Global health policy ~ Meri Koivusalo and Eeva Ollila; Global housing and urban policy ~ Sunil Kumar; Global pensions policy ~ Mitchell Orenstein; Global migration policy ~ Nicola Yeates; Global population policy ~ Sarah Sexton, Larry Lohmann and Nicolas Hildyard; Conclusion ~ Nicola Yeates.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Please forward us news about your publications, forthcoming conferences, and job opportunities so that we can feature them in the next RC19 Digest, which should appear in the fall:
daniel.beland@usask.ca

Daniel Béland
Secretary-Treasurer
Research Committee 19
International Sociological Association
www.danielbeland.org

