

Welfare states in Europe – what was it about?

- Prof. Dr. Günter J. Friesenhahn,
- Hochschule Koblenz
- International Seminar:
- Production of social services and social work in European contexts
- Hogeschoole Zyud/Sittard
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- Friesenhahn@hs-koblenz.de



Europe and the world

Viewed from the outside, the central



feature of the EU is certainly the high level of welfare and social benefits (Schubert 2008, p.13)

Schubert, K.u.a.(eds:)(2008): Europäische Wohlfahrtssysteme im Vergleich. VS Verlag, Wiesbaden



And now?



Reference: Nation State

- The development of the European welfare state is closely linked to the development of the Nation State
- Welfare arrangements are based on national thinking (methodological nationalism) in which >the social< has territorial boundaries

Methodological nationalism

Methodological nationalism considers nation states as the basic of all politics. It assumes that humankind is naturally distributed among a limited number of nations, which organize themselves internally as nation states and delimit themselves externally from other nation-states

Welfare: a broad definition

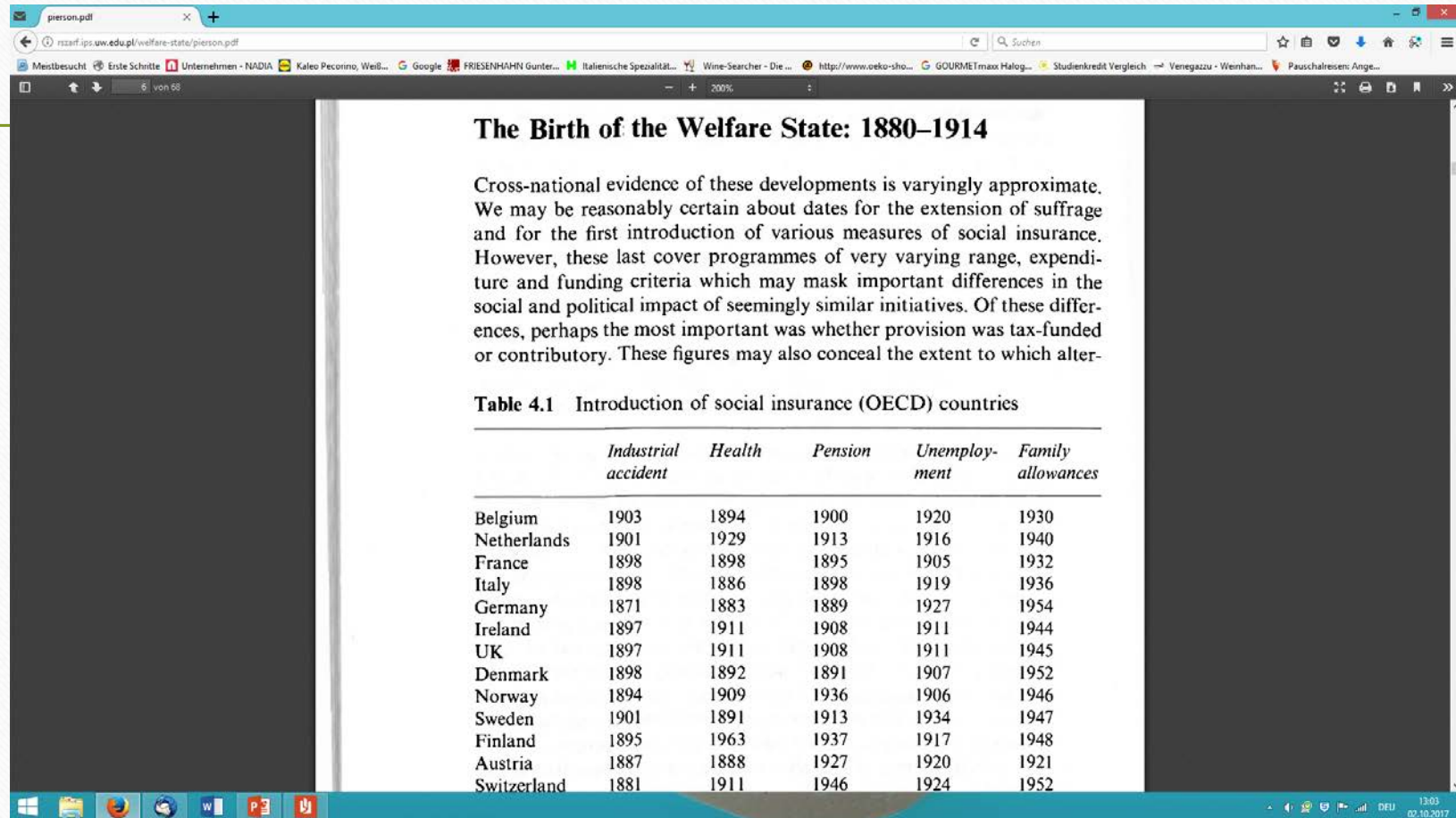
Ein Typus von Staatstätigkeit, der in enger Verbindung mit Kapitalismus und repräsentativer Demokratie als Modus der politischen Willensbildung steht.

- Institutionalisierte Verpflichtung zur sozialen Sicherung und Förderung der Staatsbürger (Schubert u.a. 2008)

- A type of state activity, which is closely connected with capitalism and representative democracy as a mode of political will formation.
Institutionalized commitment to social protection and the promotion of citizenship (Schubert et. al. 2008)

Ch. Pierson, Origins and the development of the welfare states

rszarf.ips.um.edu.pl/welfare-state/pierson.pdf



The Birth of the Welfare State: 1880–1914

Cross-national evidence of these developments is varyingly approximate. We may be reasonably certain about dates for the extension of suffrage and for the first introduction of various measures of social insurance. However, these last cover programmes of very varying range, expenditure and funding criteria which may mask important differences in the social and political impact of seemingly similar initiatives. Of these differences, perhaps the most important was whether provision was tax-funded or contributory. These figures may also conceal the extent to which alter-

Table 4.1 Introduction of social insurance (OECD) countries

	<i>Industrial accident</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Pension</i>	<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>Family allowances</i>
Belgium	1903	1894	1900	1920	1930
Netherlands	1901	1929	1913	1916	1940
France	1898	1898	1895	1905	1932
Italy	1898	1886	1898	1919	1936
Germany	1871	1883	1889	1927	1954
Ireland	1897	1911	1908	1911	1944
UK	1897	1911	1908	1911	1945
Denmark	1898	1892	1891	1907	1952
Norway	1894	1909	1936	1906	1946
Sweden	1901	1891	1913	1934	1947
Finland	1895	1963	1937	1917	1948
Austria	1887	1888	1927	1920	1921
Switzerland	1881	1911	1946	1924	1952

Approaches

- **Functionalist modernization approaches** lead to the emergence and extension of state social policy to socioeconomic factors. They see social policy as an answer "to problems such as industrialization, urbanization and migration.
- **Conflict-theoretical approaches** emphasize, on the other hand, the influence of political factors, such as rule elites or mobilization processes in the course of democratization and social movements (conflict theory, bottom-up).
- **Institutionalization approach:** emphasizes the role of institutional factors beyond socioeconomic and political factors. Once created institutions develop an institutional inertia, resulting in a path dependency: national state traditions characterize the social-political development in a country sustainably
- (see Mau, St./Verwiebe, R. (2009): Die Sozialstruktur Europas. UTB Verlag, Konstanz ,p. 7ff

Welfare Regimes – 3 sets of criteria

- 1. Relation between state and market

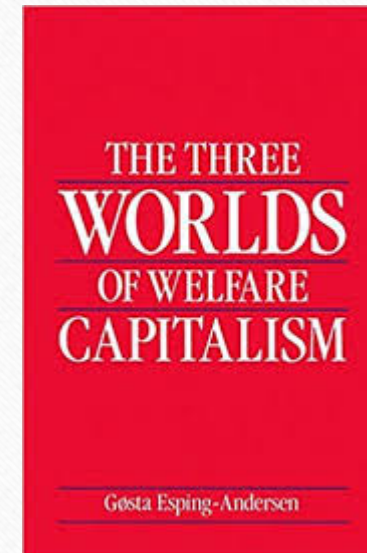
welfare mix

- 2. Social rights – de-commodification

„Rather, the concept refers to the degree to which individuals, or families, can uphold a socially acceptable standard of living independently of market participation” (Esping-Andersen 1990, 37)

- 3. Stratification – degree of segmentation and inequality in different social security systems

the welfare state “is an active force in the ordering of social relations”;



Rights

Rights

- 18th century
- Civil rights - freedom of thoughts
- 19th century
- Political rights, election
- 20th century
- Social rights , education, Well being security

Institution

- Court
- Parliament
- Welfare arrangements



Welfare states in Europa –framework for social work

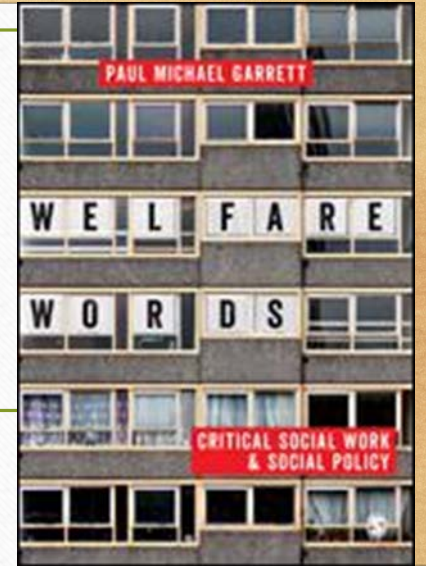
1° summary

- Democracy
- The state intervene in order to correct the market
- Welfare for all Citizen
- Constitutional state
- Distribution of power
- Security for Citizen

Welfare State and Social Policy

- Welfare state as a response to social risks
State secures social order and expects loyalty
Social question as a political challenge
Social protection - social care as a corrective of problems caused by capitalism
The right to benefit was provided by the belonging to the nation-state
Social policy – structuring of the social

The golden 30 years ?



- Garrett: “More broadly, shunning a ‘golden age’ interpretation, it is acknowledged that the welfare state was implicated in gendered and racialised forms of order making and exclusion
- “...we are ‘paradoxically led to defend what is not entirely defensible’ (Bourdieu in Grass and Bourdieu, 2002: 71).

Transition

- Welfare state
- Public provision
- Protection of labour
- Universal entitlement
- Solidarity of citizenship
- Consumptive policy
- Sharing
- Activation state
- Privatization
- Promoting work
- Selective targeting
- Solidarity of membership
- Support
- Competition

Restructuring - Retrenchment – Redistribution

- Investment state , invest in human capital
- Instead of balancing deficits, promotion of competences
- Activation -from welfare to workfare
- Prevention
- „flexicurity“
- Voluntarisation
- De-regulation, privatization
- Social service for money
- Gate-keeper function
- Social policy is subordinated to labour market policy

2009

Social Work in Restructured European Welfare Systems

Edited by Vincenzo Fortunato,
Günter J. Friesenhahn and Ewa Kantowicz

Carocci

Transformation

The traditional welfare state as a special form of redistribution and socialization creates compensations/new arrangements

The relationship between economics and social issues is being reformulated

Social workers have to learn to work professionally in this context

Second Welfare



Participation society

- „The welfare state is to be replaced by a participation society. In such a society involvement is central. All Dutch citizens have the right to develop their talents and the duty to use those talents in the service of society. Those involved have a responsibility and must take an active attitude...In this approach work security (employability) rather than job security is central“ p.8/9



Orientation



- Silvia Staub –Bernasconi

“The principles of human rights and social justice serve as the foundation of social work as a profession.”

„A profession has a **triple mandate**, which consists of both previously mentioned mandates (help and control) as well as a mandate from the profession itself“

A scientific base for methods to solve problems

A ethical basis oriented towards human rights and social justice

Reflexive Transformation

Die sozialpolitische
Instrumentalisierung Sozialer
Arbeit legt die theoretischen
Schwächen des
Professionalisierungsdiskurses
offen
(S.177)



- The social-political instrumentalization of social work reveals the theoretical weaknesses of the discourse of professionalization
It is time to give up "normative vanishing points" and to deal instead with the real conditions of how social work is produced in Europe (p.177)

Neo-liberal social work?

Neoliberal policies not only privatise formerly public services but also focus one-sidedly on discourses of individual autonomy and responsibility. This makes it difficult to raise 'the social question' (the question what constitutes social bonds) publicly since market principles are presented as allowing no alternatives.

Social work owes its professional origins however to a shift from early capitalist individualism to policies recognizing the need for social reconstruction and cohesion.

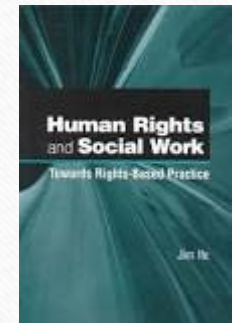
Attempts in current social work to adjust to the cancellation of the social question through techniques of 'activation' and individualised care

Public control measures and privatised concerns for 'care', thereby altering its core identity.

Walter Lorenz: Social work in an era of social fragmentation – affirming the social dimension. Unpublished Paper. Edinburgh

Humans rights based social work?

- **Reinventing Critical Social Work : Challenges from Practice, Context and Postmodernism**
- **By Karen Healy**
- <http://www1.uwindsor.ca/criticalsocialwork/reinventing-critical-social-work-challenges-from-practice-context-and-postmodernism>
- **Department of Social Work, Social Policy and Sociology**
University of Sydney
Sydney, Australia
-
- **Human Rights and Social Work**
- **Towards Rights-Based Practice Revised Edition**
- Human rights ideals are at the pinnacle of contemporary social work practice and international political discourse. Yet in recent years, with the heightened threat of terrorism, we have begun to witness an erosion of many traditional civil liberties.



Social work as.....

