The Comparative Political Economy of the Welfare State (Master course)

Time: Block Seminar

Introduction: 23.10.2015, 10:00-11:30, 203 Gottfried-Keller-Str. 6 - 2
Block 1: 16.1.2016, 9:00-15:00, 101 WiSo-Hochhaus - 310
Block 2: 23.1.2016, 9:00-15:00, 101 WiSo-Hochhaus - 310
Block 3: 30.1.2016, 9:00-15:00, 101 WiSo-Hochhaus - 310
Final session: 19.2.2016, 10:00-11:30, 203 Gottfried-Keller-Str. 6 - 2

Instructor: Dr. Dennis C. Spies
E-Mail: spies@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Course summary
The protection of the population against risks such as unemployment, illness or aging is considered as one of the core tasks of government policy. Consequently, social spending accounts for the bulk of government spending in almost all developed political economies. However, significant differences exist both with regard to the quantity and quality of welfare programs. At the same time, all welfare states face the same set of current challenges, including e.g. migration, demographic changes and several new social risks. The seminar introduces into this extensive literature on the emergence, establishment and the current crisis of the welfare state as a political-economic system of risk protection and redistribution. The occupied perspective is international-comparative and is intended to illustrate significant differences between different welfare regimes, as well as common developments and trends.

Prerequisites
The focus of the seminar literature will be on empirical studies which often follow a quantitative research design. Therefore, a general understanding of this kind of methodology is highly recommended. Since nearly all reading assignments are in English, this will be the general classroom language as well. Participants therefore must know enough English to be able to participate actively. Perfection is not required – you just need to understand and make yourself understood.

Registration
Students have to register via KLIPS.

Reading assignments
At the beginning of October the required texts for the sessions of the seminar can be accessed via ILIAS. If you register via KLIPS you will automatically have access to the ILIAS files.
Working requirements and assessment method
All participants are expected to:
  - attend the seminar on a regular basis
  - complete assigned obligatory readings according to schedule
  - actively contribute to class discussions
  - give a 10 to 15 minutes presentation in the seminar

Depending on the “Prüfungsordnung”
- EITHER write a research paper of 20-25 pages (but not more than 10.000 words) in length
- OR sit a written exam (probably in the last session of the seminar on 11th February 2016)
- BOTH THE TERM PAPER AND THE EXAM HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN ENGLISH!

Submission of the research paper
The research paper have to be handed in an electronic version via email to spies@wiso.uni-koeln.de. The paper version should be handed in personally at the secretary of the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (IBW Gebäude, Herbert-Lewin-Str. 2, 1st floor, Room 1.09). Deadline for both is 15th March 2016.

The paper version must contain the following signed statement:
http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/fileadmin/wiso_fak/cccp/Lehre/ErklarungzuArbeiten.pdf

Course schedule
23.10.2015: Introduction

Further reading:

16.1.2016: Block 1: How and why welfare states emerged

Topic 1: The welfare state as „politics against markets“

Obligatory reading:

Further reading:
Topic 2: The welfare state as part of the national production regime

Obligatory reading:

Further reading:


Topic 3: The impact of religion on welfare states

Obligatory reading:

Further reading:


Topic 4: Welfare state retrenchment

Obligatory reading:

Topic 5: Public support for welfare

Obligatory reading:

Further reading:

Topic 6: Do parties still matter?

Obligatory reading

Further reading:

30.1.2016: Block 3: New risks and new challenges

Topic 7: Migration

Obligatory reading

Further reading:

Topic 8: Demographic change

Obligatory reading:

Further reading:


Topic 9: Labor market dualization

Obligatory reading:

Further reading:

19.2.2016: Final session: Summary and information on term papers