

**University of Cologne**  
**Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences**  
**Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)**  
**Chair of International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology**

## **The Origins and transformation of European Welfare States** (Bachelor course)

### **Information on the course**

**Teaching language:** English

**ECTS:** 9 (Klips 2 students) / 6 (Klips 1 students)

**Instructor:** Stefano Ronchi, M.A.

**Email:** [ronchi@wiso.uni-koeln.de](mailto:ronchi@wiso.uni-koeln.de)

### **Course schedule (Block seminar)**

Introductory session: 18.4.2017, 10:00-11:30, Politische Wissenschaften Seminarraum (Gebäude 203)

Block 1: 6.5.2017, 9:30-15:00, Seminarraum 2 (110 WiSo Modulbau)

Block 2: 13.5.2017, 9:30-15:30, Seminarraum 2 (110 WiSo Modulbau)

Block 3: 5.6.2017, 9:30-15:30, Seminarraum 2 (110 WiSo Modulbau)

Block 4: 10.6.2017, 9:30-15:30, Seminarraum 2 (110 WiSo Modulbau)

### **Course description**

What is the welfare state? Why did European welfare state developed along similar, though distinct, paths? How are they coping with today's economic and social challenges? This course will walk undergraduate students through the basic concepts and theories on the welfare state: how European welfare states originated, expanded, and how they (strive to) adjust to new social risks and to the changed economic context. The basic definitions will be introduced, together with a description of the policy instruments which form the architecture of the welfare state, in the fields of labour market and family policies, pensions, healthcare and minimum income protection. The course gives special attention to the political economic theories that try to explain the development of European welfare states through their different phases. First, which common factors drove their expansion in the postwar, and why they developed into different welfare "regimes". Then, how they had to cope with downward pressures for retrenchment on one side, while on the other struggling for meeting the new social demands sprung in postindustrial societies. Together with the classics, some recent developments in the literature on welfare state change will be discussed: the emergence of a new welfare paradigm such that of "social investment", as well as darker views on the future of welfare states in the aftershocks of the economic crisis.

### **Prerequisites**

Since active participation is encouraged, participation have to know English. Perfection is not required – you just need to understand and make yourself understood.

### **Registration**

In addition to the registration via Klips, participants are asked to bindingly confirm their participation via e-mail ([ronchi@wiso.uni-koeln.de](mailto:ronchi@wiso.uni-koeln.de)) until Wednesday, 12 April, at the very latest. This is necessary to better plan the block seminar and students' presentation.

## **Working requirements**

All participants are expected to:

- attend the all the block seminar;
- complete assigned obligatory readings according to schedule;
- actively contribute to class discussions;
- give a 10 to 15 minutes presentation in the seminar (details below)
- Write a term paper as assignment after the end of the course (details below)

## **Assessment**

1) Input presentation: students will have to give a presentation based on one of the reading indicated below as "further reading". Presentations are obligatory and should last 10 to 15 min. They are not graded on a scale, but just "pass" of "fail". The "pass" is necessary in order for the student to be qualified for the final exam (the term paper).

2) Term paper. The final exam consists in writing a term paper based on the suggested literature and on seminar discussions.

*Language*: term papers should be written in English. Nevertheless, those students who do not feel comfortable with English can write the final paper in German.

*Length*:

Klips 1: about 3500 words for 6 ECTS ( $\approx$  9 pages, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1,5 line spacing);

Klips 2: about 5000 words for 9 ECTS ( $\approx$  12 pages, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1,5 line spacing).

*Deadline*: August 25th, 2017

Students will have to pick up one of the topics discussed during the course and elaborate on it, possibly finding additional references on their own. The quality of the term paper defines the final grade. Further details on the final essay and the general assessment will be given during the introductory session. The term papers have to be sent to the instructor via email at latest August 25, 2017 at 11:59 o'clock, and also submitted in hard copy to the CCCP-Secretariat. We check for plagiarism. The hard copy must contain the following statement: [http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/fileadmin/wiso\\_fak/cccp/Lehre/ErklaerungzuArbeiten.pdf](http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/fileadmin/wiso_fak/cccp/Lehre/ErklaerungzuArbeiten.pdf)

## **Course plan**

[Preliminary version: minor changes can occur in the reading list]

### **18.4.2017: Introductory session**

Course presentation

### **6.5.2017: Block 1 - The origins of European welfare states**

#### **Topic 1: *What is the welfare state?***

basic definitions: social risks; social assistance/insurance/security; cash vs services; review of social policy fields

#### **Topic 2: *At the roots of European welfare states***

Compulsory reading:

Flora P. (Ed.). (1986). "Introduction" in *Growth to limits: the Western European welfare states since World War II* (Vol. 2). Walter de Gruyter.

Further reading:

Hay, C., & Wincott, D. (2012). The political economy of European welfare capitalism. Palgrave Macmillan: Chapter 1.

Korpi, W. (1980). Social policy and distributional conflict in the capitalist democracies. A preliminary comparative framework. *West European Politics*, 3(3), 296-316.

Manow, P., & Van Kersbergen, K. (2009). Religion and the western welfare state: the theoretical context. *Religion, class coalitions, and welfare states*, Chapter 1: 1-38.

**Topic 3: Welfare state regimes**

Compulsory reading:

Esping-Andersen, G. (2013). *The three worlds of welfare capitalism*. John Wiley & Sons. Chapters 1-2.

Further reading:

Ferrera, M. (1996). The 'Southern model' of welfare in social Europe. *Journal of European social policy*, 6(1), 17-37.

Arts, W., & Gelissen, J. (2002). Three worlds of welfare capitalism or more? A state-of-the-art report. *Journal of European social policy*, 12(2), 137-158.

**13.5.2017: Block 2 - Challenges for the welfare state**

**Topic 1: New politics of the welfare state - The age of retrenchment**

Compulsory reading:

Pierson, P. (1996). The new politics of the welfare state. *World politics*, 48(2), 143-179.

Further reading:

Clayton, R., & Pontusson, J. (1998). Welfare-state retrenchment revisited: entitlement cuts, public sector restructuring, and inegalitarian trends in advanced capitalist societies. *World Politics*, 51(01), 67-98.

Armingeon, K., Guthmann, K., & Weisstanner, D. (2016). Choosing the path of austerity: how parties and policy coalitions influence welfare state retrenchment in periods of fiscal consolidation. *West European Politics*, 39(4), 628-647.

**Topic 2: Recalibrating the welfare state**

Compulsory reading:

Ferrera, M., & Hemerijck, A. (2003). Recalibrating Europe's welfare regimes. *Governing work and welfare in a new economy*, 88-128.

Further reading:

Myles, J., & Quadagno, J. (2002). Political theories of the welfare state. *Social service review*, 76(1), 34-57.

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**Topic 3: Recalibrating the welfare state: pension and labour market reforms**

Further reading:

Vail, M. I. (2008). From 'welfare without work' to 'buttressed liberalization': The shifting dynamics of labor market adjustment in France and Germany. *European Journal of Political Research*, 47(3), 334-358.

Ebbinghaus, Bernhard, 2011 *The Varieties of Pension Governance: Pension Privatization in Europe*, Oxford University Press, chap.2

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### **3.6.2017: Block 3 - New social risks, new welfare**

#### **Topic 1: *The emergence of new social risks***

##### Compulsory reading:

Taylor-Gooby, P. (2004). *New risks, new welfare: the transformation of the European welfare state*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

##### Further reading:

Bonoli, G. (2005). The politics of the new social policies: providing coverage against new social risks in mature welfare states. *Policy & politics*, 33(3), 431-449.

Rovny, A. E. (2014). The capacity of social policies to combat poverty among new social risk groups. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 24(5), 405-423.

#### **Topic 2: *The politics of the new welfare state***

##### Compulsory reading:

Bonoli, G., & Natali, D. (2012). *The politics of the new welfare state*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 1 (Introduction)

##### Further reading:

Huber, E., & Stephens, J. D. (2014). *Partisan Impacts on Social Policy and Distributive Outcomes in the Eras of Welfare State Expansion and Retrenchment*.

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#### **Topic 3: *Social investment: and emerging welfare paradigm?***

##### Compulsory reading:

Morel, N., Palier, B., & Palme, J. (2012). *Towards a social investment welfare state?: ideas, policies and challenges*. Policy Press. Chapters 1 and 3.

##### Further reading:

Gingrich, J., & Ansell, B. (2011). The dynamics of social investment: human capital, activation, and care. *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*.

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### **10.6.2017: Block 4 - European welfare states at the crisis stress test**

#### **Topic 1: *Darker views on welfare state change***

##### Compulsory reading:

Pierson, P. (2011). *The welfare state over the very long run*. ZeS-Arbeitspapier.

Further reading:

Armingeon, K. (2013). Breaking with the past? Why the Global Financial Crisis led to austerity policies but not to modernization of the welfare state. In C. Pierson and F.G. Castles (eds.). *The Welfare State Reader* (3rd Edn.), Oxford: Blackwell, 214–26.

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**Topic 2: North and the South: diverging trajectories?**

Compulsory reading:

Kvist, J. (2013). The post-crisis European social model: developing or dismantling social investments?. *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*, 29(1), 91-107.

Further reading:

Kersbergen, K., Vis, B., & Hemerijck, A. (2014). The great recession and welfare state reform: Is retrenchment really the only game left in town?. *Social Policy & Administration*, 48(7), 883-904.

León, M., & Pavolini, E. (2014). ‘Social Investment’ or back to ‘Familism’: The impact of the economic crisis on Family and Care Policies in Italy and Spain. *South European Society and Politics*, 19(3), 353-369.

**Topic 3: Wrap-up session**

Concluding discussion and information on term paper; Q&A