
COMPARATIVE WELFARE STATE RESEARCH
Undergraduate seminar for BA students in 3rd semester
University of Greifswald – Winter term 2017/18
Thursday, 2–4 PM, SR Wollweberstr. 1 - Seminarraum 143

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Consultation: Wednesdays 1–2 PM (by appointment only)

I. Outline

Welfare states and policies are central elements of government activity in modern democracies and are essential for ensuring social citizenship. However, the level of social security provided by welfare states differs. Empirical investigations show significant variation in both outputs and outcomes of social security institutions in Western democracies. Discussion in the seminar will focus on different typologies as well as the main exogenous determinants that lead to differentiation among welfare states. Furthermore, we will investigate which methods researchers use to empirically support their theoretical claims.

In the course students have to give a short presentation on a selected topic. The course assessment will be based on three exercises: i) a written report on the short presentation, ii) a literature overview, and iii) an empirical chapter using descriptive and inferential statistics.

II. Basic literature

Barr, N. (2012). *Economics of the Welfare State*. Oxford University Press.

Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., Pierson, C. (eds.) (2010). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. 1st edition, Oxford University Press.

Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton University Press.

III. Course assessment

- Presentation in sessions 2–14
 - Keynote, max. 20 minutes, about 10 slides
 - Presentation of the texts for the session (both obligatory and optional texts)
 - Three major points for discussion
- Exercises for term paper:
 1. Written elaboration of your course presentation
Write an essay about your presentation using the obligatory as well as optional texts *and* other sources that these texts refer to. Only refer to scientific sources (Wikipedia does not suffice in that regard) like books, journal papers, chapters in edited volumes, and so forth. Stick to the formal requirements and append a formally correct list of references.
 2. Literature overview with 10–12 references
Write a literature overview for your chosen topic with a minimum of 10 references. Try to work out commonalities and differences of these articles and depict them in your overview. Again, stick to the formal requirements, append a formally correct list of references, *and* a tabular overview of your chosen texts.
 3. Empirical section with descriptive and inferential statistics
Write an empirical essay about your chosen topic. That essay must include descriptive graphs and statistics as well as simple inferential methods (i.e. bivariate correlations, linear regression). Focus on interpreting your findings and try to draw inferences from your analyses about the previous findings and theoretical foundations that you laid out in your previous tasks.

Grades will be published after all three exercises have been submitted. If any part is missing, the submission is regarded as insufficient and the grade will be marked ‘inadequate’. The specifics of each section, including required content and deadlines, will be announced in the course.

The formal requirements for each task are as follows:

- Submission of a **pdf** document
- Four pages of continuous text in total (excluding graphs, tables, and references)
- 12pt font size, with serifs
- 1.5 line spacing
- Fully justified text, including hyphenation
- 2.5cm margins on all sides

IV. Syllabus

Note: Optional texts are regarded as obligatory for presenters.

1. Introduction & Organisation (October 19th)

2. Introduction to comparative welfare state research (October 26th)

Obligatory:

Barr, N. (2012). *Economics of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Part 1, Chapter 1: Introduction, pp. 3–21.

Optional reading:

Amenta, E., and Hicks, A. (2010). Research Methods. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 7, pp. 105–20.

3. Development of welfare states (November 2nd)

Obligatory:

Nullmeier, F., and Kaufmann, F. X. (2010). Post-War Welfare State Development. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 6, pp. 81–101.

Optional reading:

Kuhnle, S., and Sander, A. (2010). The Emergence of the Western Welfare state. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 5, pp. 61–80.

Sessions will start at 14:00 s.t.

4. 1st block (November 23rd)

Normative perspectives on the welfare state

Obligatory:

Barr, N. (2012). *Economics of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Part 1, Chapter 2: Political theory: Social justice and the state, S. 22–40.

Optional reading:

Pierson, C., and Leimgruber, M. (2010). Intellectual Roots. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Part I, Chapter 3, pp. 32–44.

King, D., and Ross, F. (2010). Critics and Beyond. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Part I, Chapter 4, pp. 45–57.

Policy output and outcomes

Obligatory:

Stephens, J. D. (2012). The Social Rights of Citizenship. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 35, pp. 511–525.

Optional reading:

Hemerijck, A. (2013). *Changing Welfare States*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 7: Welfare Performance at a Glance, pp. 221–289.

5. 2nd block (November 30th)

De-commodification and stratification

Obligatory:

Esping-Andersen, Gosta (1990). *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton University Press. Part I, Chapter 2 & 3, S. 35–78.

Optional reading:

Scruggs, L. (2007). Welfare State Decommodification in Time and Space, in: Siegel, N., and Clasen, J. (eds.). *Welfare Reform in Advanced Societies: the Dependent Variable Problem in Comparative Welfare State Analysis*. Edward Elgar. Part III, Chapter 7, pp. 133–66.

Welfare state typologies

Obligatory:

Arts, W. A., and Gelissen, J. (2010). Models of the Welfare State. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Part VII, Chapter 39, pp. 569–83.

Optional reading:

Arts, W. A., and 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. doi:[10.1177/0952872002012002114](https://doi.org/10.1177/0952872002012002114)

6. 3rd block (December 14th)

Cash benefits

Obligatory:

Barr, N. (2012). *Economics of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Part 2, Chapter 6: Insurance: Unemployment, sickness, and disability, pp. 135–149.

Barr, N. (2012). *Economics of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Part 2, Chapter 7: Consumption smoothing: Old-age pensions, pp. 152–188.

Optional reading:

Kuitto, K. (2011). More than just money: Patterns of disaggregated welfare expenditure in the enlarged Europe. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 21(4), 348–64.
doi:[10.1177/0958928711412223](https://doi.org/10.1177/0958928711412223)

Kuitto, K., and Helmdag, J. (2016). Extending the tail end of working lives: How policies shape labour market participation and retirement of older workers. Available at <http://www.etk.fi/wp-content/uploads/Kuitto-Helmdag-sep2016.pdf>

7. 4th block (January 11th)

Gender and the welfare state

Obligatory:

Sainsbury, D. (1999) Gender, Policy Regimes, and Politics in: Sainsbury, D. (ed.). *Gender and welfare state regimes*. New York: Oxford University Press. Part Three, Chapter 8, pp. 245–76.

Optional reading:

Pfau-Effinger, B. (2005). Culture and Welfare State Policies: Reflections on a Complex Interrelation. *Journal of Social Policy*, 34(1), pp. 3–20. doi:[10.1017/S0047279404008232](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279404008232)

Migration and and the welfare state

Obligatory:

Sainsbury, D. (2006). Immigrants' social rights in comparative perspective: Welfare regimes, forms in immigration and immigration policy regimes. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 16(3), pp. 229–44. doi:[10.1177/0958928706065594](https://doi.org/10.1177/0958928706065594)

Optional reading:

Crepaz, M. M. L., and Damron, R. (2009). Constructing Tolerance. How the Welfare State Shapes Attitudes About Immigrants. *Comparative Political Studies*, 42(3), pp. 437–63. doi:[10.1177/0010414008325576](https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414008325576)

8. 5th block (January 25th)

New social risks

Obligatory:

Bonoli, G. (2005). The Politics of the New Social Policies: Providing Coverage against New Social Risks in Mature Welfare States, in: Pierson, C., Castles, F. G., and Naumann, I. K. (eds.). *The Welfare State Reader*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Part III, pp. 389–407.

Optional reading:

Kuitto, K. (2016). From social security to social investment? Compensating and social investment welfare policies in a life-course perspective. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 26(5), 442–459. doi:[10.1177/0958928716664297](https://doi.org/10.1177/0958928716664297)

Welfare states outside of the OECD

Obligatory:

Gough, I., and Therborn, G. (2012). The Global Future of the Welfare States. In: Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., Obinger, H., and Pierson, C. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 48, pp. 703–20.

Optional reading:

Mares, I., and Carnes, M. E. (2009). Social policy in developing countries. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 12, 93–113. doi:[10.1146/annurev.polisci.12.071207.093504](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.12.071207.093504)

9. Empirical session (February 1st)

Obligatory:

Best, H., and Wolf, C. (2015). Linear Regression. In: Best, H., and Wolf, C. (eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of Regression Analysis and Causal Inference*. 1st edition, Sage. Part I, Chapter 4, pp. 57–82.

Optional reading:

Englert, H., Helmdag, J., and Kuitto, K. (2015). Einführung in die Statistik und das Arbeiten mit Stata. Greifswald Comparative Politics Working Paper, No. 9/2015. Available at: <http://comparativepolitics.uni-greifswald.de/gcp/GCP-9-2015.pdf>
