

# FISS 2018 ABSTRACT LIST

## ABSTRACT 1

### **Can you have your cake and eat it too? Targeting within universalism**

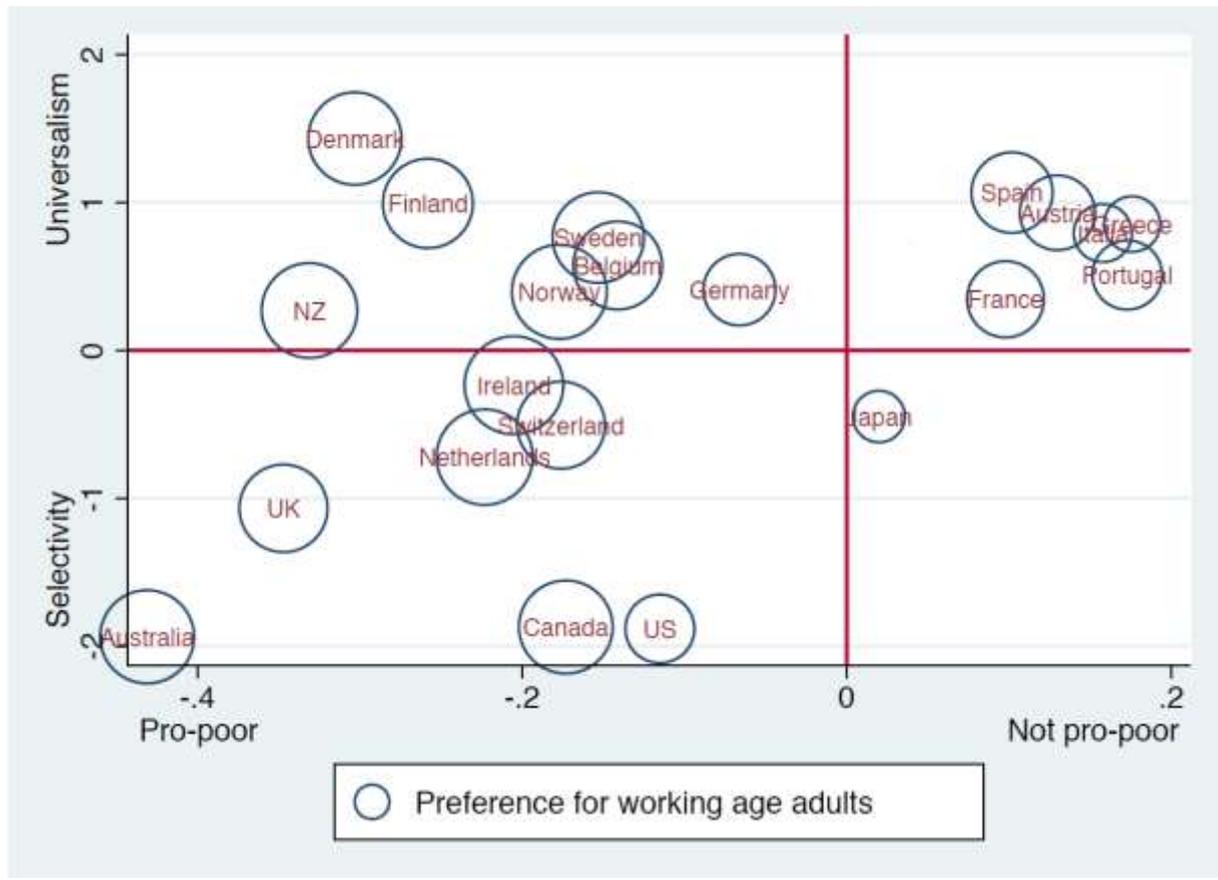
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The idea of targeting within universalism has been evoked frequently, usually as a best of both worlds strategy (Skocpol, 1991; Kenworthy, 2011). Why not combine the advantages of an encompassing welfare state with the redistributive power of targeted programs? How exactly this can be done, however, remains elusive. Isn't universalism defined precisely by the absence of targeting (Rothstein, 1998)? Marx et al. propose that the mix may take place at the level of programs, targeting within universalism occurring when some programs are means-tested, in a broadly universal context (2016). This program-level solution appears as the only one possible when both universalism and targeting are measured by their outcomes, through concentration coefficients. One is simply the opposite of the other, and they cannot coexist at the system level.

A different perspective comes to light if we measure universalism not by outcomes but by the overall institutional design of social programs (Jacques and Noël, 2018). Once we do so, we can consider universalism and pro-poorness — measured by the OECD coefficient of concentration of transfers for working age citizens — as two distinct dimensions that combine in different ways. Four welfare state possibilities then emerge, defined by varying degrees of universalism and pro-poorness. Sweden and Canada are both pro-poor, but the first is universal and the second selective; France is universal but not pro-poor; and Japan's is neither universal nor pro-poor.

Universalism helps explain why similar concentration measures lead to different redistributive outcomes. But how does a universal welfare state become pro-poor or not? This variation is associated with the age bias of transfers. Pro-poor universal welfare states favor working age adults, reaching more low-income citizens; not-pro-poor universal welfare states privilege income replacement for the elderly, and thus miss the poor. The Figure below summarizes the argument (bubble size represents working age transfer preferences).



## ABSTRACT 2

### **Deprivation among couples: sharing or unequal division?**

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In the standard analyses of deprivation, including the EU agreed indicator of severe material deprivation, all household members, including partners in a couple, are supposed to share equal living conditions. The few studies to date about differences in deprivation between partners in a couple suggest that such differences are not very common, but that when they do occur, they are somewhat more often to the disadvantage of women than of men.

This paper is the first to present empirical evidence on this issue for a range of EU-countries, using the 2015 wave of the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), which contains for most but not all countries a number of items on deprivation at the individual level. We map the extent of intra-couple inequality in deprivation, and analyse its determinants. We pay special attention to the possible effect of interviews by proxy, which are quite numerous in some countries. We also make a number of recommendations for future data collection on intra-couple differences in deprivation.

We find that, across the EU, for most items the gender difference in enforced lack (i.e. not having an item because one cannot afford it) between partners, though generally small, is significant and at the disadvantage of women. When aggregating enforced lack into a deprivation scale, we find similar results. As did earlier studies, we find that the work status of the partners and their relative contribution to the joint income are important determinants of the intra-couple gender deprivation gap.

Across countries, the proportion of couples with a non-zero deprivation gap varies from over 30% in Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece to less than 10% in a number of other countries. In all countries where there is a significant difference in enforced deprivation by gender, it is to the disadvantage of women.

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## ABSTRACT 3

### **Income inequality and fiscal redistribution in 47 LIS-countries, 1967-2014**

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In most OECD countries the gap between rich and poor has widened over the past decades. This paper analyzes whether and to what extent taxes and social transfers have contributed to this trend. Has the redistributive power of different social programs changed over time? The paper contributes to the literature by disentangling several parts of fiscal redistribution in a comparative setting for the period 1967-2014.

We use micro-data from the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) to examine household primary income inequality and disposable income inequality, redistribution from transfers and income taxes, and the

underlying social programs that drive the changes. We offer detailed information of fiscal redistribution in 47 countries for the period 1967-2014, employing data that have been computed from LIS. LIS data are detailed enough to allow us to measure both overall redistribution, and the partial effects of redistribution by several taxes or transfers. We elaborate on the work of Jesuit and Mahler (2004) and Wang et al (2012 and 2014), and we refine, update and extend the Fiscal Redistribution approach. LIS data allow us to decompose the trajectory of the Gini coefficient from primary to disposable income inequality in several parts (i.e. 9 different benefits and income taxes and social contributions).

The update and extension of the *Leiden LIS Budget Incidence Fiscal Redistribution Dataset on Income Inequality (LLBIFR Dataset on Income Inequality 2017)* allows researchers and public policy analysts to compare fiscal redistribution across developed countries and middle income countries over the last five decades. Research may employ these data in addressing several important research issues. Among the most commonly addressed questions in the empirical literature on the welfare state concerns the sources of variance across countries and over time in the extent and nature of fiscal redistribution. Changes (in the generosity) of welfare states can be linked to changes in the fiscal redistribution. Best-practice among countries can be identified and analyzed in more detail. In exploring the causes and effects of welfare state redistribution in the developed world, the literature has increasingly moved towards more disaggregated measures of social policy, an enterprise in which the *LLBIFR on Income Inequality 2017*, with its detailed data on taxes and a large number of individual social benefits, offers a rich source of information, which may be used by scholars and policy analysts to study the effects of different social programs on economic well-being.

Key words: welfare states, social income transfers, inequality, Gini coefficient, LIS

JEL-codes: H53, H55, and I32

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This study is part of the research program *Reform of Social Legislation* of Leiden University. Financial support of *Instituut GAK* is gratefully acknowledged. We thank the LIS Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg for permission to post the Budget Incidence Fiscal Redistribution Dataset on Income Inequality at our website (Leiden Law School / Economics / Data). This working paper, our dataset and the accompanying documentation guide are available at the LIS website as well.

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## ABSTRACT 4

### **Fair Shares and Families: Children's and families' perspectives on intra-household allocation in England**

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This paper presents findings from the 'Fair Shares and Families' study, designed to offer insight into how children (aged 10-17) in England participate in processes and outcomes of intra-family resource allocation; what their roles are in household economies; how family socio-economic status relates to resource allocation; and how different patterns of resource allocation and socio-economic status relate to children's subjective well-being.

Child poverty is a well-established predictor of poor outcomes during childhood, for the adults children become, and for the societies in which impoverished children live. However, there is little consensus in either academic or policy circles about how best it should be measured. Household income remains the most common approach, despite increasing acknowledgement of the multidimensional nature of poverty, and a wealth of research problematizing household income as a proxy for individual access to resources on the grounds that the assumption of equitable sharing is flawed. Research has tended to take a gendered perspective, finding that women often lose out to men in relation to both processes and outcomes (Bennett, 2013). Studies examining intra-household allocation between adults and children based on adult reports find that adults prioritise children's needs over their own (Main and Bradshaw, 2018).

Children's voices have been almost entirely absent from these debates. Children have tended to be treated as passive burdens on household economies; their perspectives on and experiences of intra-household resource allocation, and the strategies that they adopt to support their own and their families' material well-being, have been largely neglected. 'Fair Shares and Families' places children's perspectives as central to this issue, adopting a mixed methods (ethnography and survey) approach to garner a better understanding of children's perceptions, experiences, and roles in intra-family resource allocation.

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#### ABSTRACT 5

##### **Who bears the burden? Gendered effects on parental employment when having a young child with a disability: Belgium and Norway compared**

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Over the last couple of decades, women's massive entry into the labour market made the dual-earner family the new standard and consequently put great pressure on the traditional division of roles. Yet, differences between countries remain large. Particularly the Northern European welfare states realise almost equally high labour market participation among men and women, whereas in the more conservative-continental ones, women are still lagging behind. Research consistently shows that, although men's contribution to the domestic tasks has increased substantially, women still bear the largest burden and adjust their employment according to their family's needs. Especially the presence of children in the household is found to have a gendered effect on parental employment. So far, comparative studies of the employment impact of intensified care needs are scarce due to the lack of sufficient, reliable and comparable data. In this paper, we draw on two comparable administrative datasets to investigate the maternal and paternal employment effects for families with and without a child with a disability in Belgium and Norway. These countries both adhere to the social investment strategy, although their operationalisation regarding families with (disabled) children differs. The aim of this paper is to examine how and in what way childhood disability impacts on parental work-care

arrangements in these two countries, and if so, whether this effect (1) is gendered, and (2) can be explained by (i) the increased care burden faced by the family or (ii) by their socioeconomic background as families with disabled children are generally found to have less favourable socioeconomic background characteristics which jeopardise their labour market participation in the first place. We apply logistic regressions to examine employment participation among mothers and fathers who became first-time parents between 2001 and 2005 and compare families with and without a disabled child to get a better grasp on this.

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## ABSTRACT 6

### **Redistribution in a joint income-wealth perspective: a cross-country comparison**

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Redistribution is usually understood in terms of income; as a way to rank individuals as well as to determine taxable capacity or benefit eligibility. Yet, it is increasingly argued that more prominence should be given to the joint distribution of income and wealth and interest into the taxation of wealth for redistributive purposes has largely increased. By including the HFCS data into the microsimulation model EUROMOD we add two novel aspects to the literature. First, we include the analysis of taxes on wealth and wealth transfers. Second, we evaluate redistributive effects of tax-benefit systems against the joint income-wealth distribution instead of income only. We show that expressing living standards in terms of both income and wealth results in considerable reranking of individuals, which in turn leads to a lower redistributive impact of tax-benefit systems than is traditionally considered.

Key words: wealth policies, distributional analysis, EUROMOD, HFCS

JEL Classification: C15, H24, I3

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## ABSTRACT 7

### **What does participation in activation programmes mean to employers?**

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Active labour market policies (ALMPs) are widely diffused measures, which aim at re-integrating unemployed jobseekers into the labour market. Although, research has provided many evaluation studies of single programmes and some meta-analyses, hardly any literature takes into account employers' perspective on these measures. However, considering employers' perception of ALMPs is important because they ultimately decide whom to hire, thus acting as gatekeepers to employment. In this paper we, therefore, analyse how employers interpret ALMP participation for their hiring decisions. We ask whether employers use ALMP participation to sort candidates and why this is the case. More specifically, we investigate whether employers consider ALMP because of the policies'

substantial effect (e.g. increasing participants' human capital) or rather interpret them as positive or negative signal of desirable candidate characteristics. For this purpose, we conducted 32 qualitative interviews with employers in the low-skilled sector of the labour market in Switzerland and Sweden, both countries with encompassing ALMP systems. We find that, although theoretically these social policies aim at positively affecting re-employment chances, employers may interpret participation as a signal of lower productivity. In particular, we find that employers' interpretation of ALMP programmes differs widely. Training is by tendency interpreted positively when it provides direct job-relevant skills and especially in the case of migrants and asylum seekers. Participation in temporary employment programmes can signal both, motivation to carry out unrewarding works but also a lack of employability. Finally, wage subsidies are interpreted mostly as negative signals with employers being suspicious about the candidate's productivity. We conclude that a careful distinction between different theoretical mechanisms is needed to be able to assign ALMPs in ways that they do not affect jobseekers chances negatively and prevent the development of unintended negative consequences.

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## ABSTRACT 8

### **Rich and poor: exploring the limits of inequality**

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The purpose of the paper is to explore the socially acceptable limits that could be set, as a policy objective, to economic inequality. The paper is broadly divided in two parts.

In the first part, we first briefly discuss the relationship between economic growth and inequality at a global level; we argue for the necessity to set some lower and upper limits to income inequality. Next section analyses the contributions of income and wealth to the satisfaction of human needs. The last section of this part proposes a methodology to identify the limits to income inequality at both national (within country) and international (between countries) levels. Although such boundaries are necessarily normative, the paper provides a rationale to empirically identify the best - or the least bad - socially acceptable limits.

The second part is mainly empirical. It first provides estimates of upper and lower limits of income inequality for each of the EU countries and compares the lower limits so derived with the usual statistical poverty lines. The following section discusses the methodological problems associated with the measurement of international and global inequalities and proposes some tentative benchmarks to deal with this issue. The conclusion summarizes the main results, discusses some policy issues and identifies some directions for future research.

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## ABSTRACT 9

### **Do migrant families have less access to formal childcare services? An empirical investigation into the migrant penalty in care use across European countries**

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The last few decades are characterized by the increasing attention for the positive role formal childcare provision can play in fostering reconciliation for working parents, fighting social exclusion and promoting human capital accumulation. However, part of the literature has stressed that this type of provision might also create new and exacerbate existing social inequalities, with children in better-off families being able to benefit more from high-quality childcare than other children (a so-called “Matthew effect”). Yet, no particular attention has been paid to the issue of migration. In this paper we investigate to what extent the Matthew Effect in formal childcare across European countries also applies to migrant families and if so, to what extent this is related to structural or cultural factors. First of all, we examine whether there is a ‘migration penalty’ in the use of formal childcare services independent of social class and labour market participation. Second, we examine to what extent personal and household characteristic influence the probability to use childcare, taking due account of migration-specific characteristics such as region of origin, citizenship status and length of stay in the host country. Finally, we tests whether migration penalties can be explained by the mechanisms associated with how childcare policies are implemented (‘structural factors’) and/or by households preferences in terms of childcare. The contribution finds that having a migratory background has an independent negative association with accessing formal childcare. In line with findings from integration theories, it shows that the length of stay in the country of residence and the acquisition of the citizenship has a positive effect on access to formal childcare, but there are differences among migrants depending on their region of origin. In conclusion, the migrant penalty seems to be more strongly related to structural, institutional constraints in the access to formal childcare services rather than migrant households’ preferences for care arrangements.

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## ABSTRACT 10

### **The influence of family policies in 21 countries on women’s childbearing: A longitudinal micro-data analysis**

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This study analyzes if and how family policies are related to women’s first and second child transitions in 21 wealthy countries. We adapt the social investment approach developed in welfare state research as a framework to understand the linkages between different family policy orientations and fertility outcomes. We distinguish between investment-oriented or earner-carer oriented family policies and traditional, protection-oriented family policies. Empirically, our family policy indicators vary over time and reflect the generosity of earner-carer support and traditional-family support in each country at different time points. Fertility histories are provided by harmonized individual level data. We trace how the institutional set-up of family policies at one time-point is related to women’s childbearing in a few subsequent years, controlling for time-constant unobserved heterogeneity at the country level and individual-level factors. Our results show that the generosity of both types of family policy is correlated with the postponement of first births. Earner-carer support leads to postponement among the youngest women while traditional-family support is correlated with postponement among both younger and older women. Both types of family support are linked to earlier first births among lower educated women, while traditional-family support is also linked to postponement among women at

older ages and women still in education. In relation to the second birth transition, earner-carer support is positively correlated with its timing or occurrence and this does not vary across women according to their educational attainment. Traditional-family support is not linked to variation in when or whether a second child is born.

**Keywords:** family policy, earner-carer support, traditional-family support, subsequent childbearing, multilevel analysis.

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## ABSTRACT 11

### **Pension reforms and old age inequalities in Europe: from old to new social risks?**

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Pension reforms over the last two decades cut back public pension benefits, gradually extended the official retirement age, and fostered privately funded pensions. This marketization and privatization of income responsibility in old age has already important social consequence today and in the future. Moreover, the trend toward more flexible, if not precarious, employment has a negative impact on pension coverage and thus will affect old age income. While the sustainability of pension reforms in the face of demographic ageing has been widely discussed, the adequacy of retirement income has often been neglected from current debate, [Ardito](#)

partly because poverty in old age seemed no pressing concern in advanced welfare states until recently. However, already in the past, poverty and income inequality varies across pension systems in Europe.

Cross-national comparison shows considerable variation across Europe when we analyse poverty rates at different levels. Using past and current EU-SILC and LIS data, a comparative analysis of poverty rates in old age reveals that Beveridge basic security is not always capable of effectively reducing poverty despite the explicit purpose to do so, while some contributory Bismarckian systems are better suited to reduce poverty, despite focusing on status maintenance. The lowest poverty rates are found in the relatively generous Dutch and Danish basic pensions, while Finland and Sweden have moved away from basic pension to a new multipillar system that is doing still relatively well. In contrast, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Switzerland with basic security and Belgium, Greece, Italy and Spain as well as Slovenia with meagre pensions have the highest poverty rates, coming close to US levels. Considering indicators of inequality, the elderly are more at risk than the working population with the exception of few Bismarck systems (France, Germany, and some CEE countries) as well as the Dutch multipillar system.

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## ABSTRACT 12

### **Creating an Internationally-Comparative Child Poverty Estimate for the U.S.**

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#### **Abstract:**

This paper will produce new internationally-comparative estimates of child poverty in the United States, incorporating elements of the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), while maintaining consistency with international measures used by LIS. This new household-level poverty measure will utilize the concept of disposable income, which closely matches SPM resources, while excluding medical and work-related expenses. The thresholds will be set at an equivalized percent of median income, excluding geographic cost of living and housing tenure differences. Using this new poverty specification, we find that the current SPM poverty threshold in the U.S. is approximately 40 percent of median disposable income, while most other nations set their poverty thresholds at 50 percent of the median. This paper then compares U.S. child poverty rates to other EU nations using 50 percent of the median.

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## ABSTRACT 13

### **Financial journeys of Australian parents after separation**

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It is well established that relationship separation has greater negative economic consequences for mothers than for fathers. While research has shown that, at an aggregate level, negative financial impacts of separation diminish with time but at a much slower rate for mothers than fathers, a substantial proportion of mothers experience entrenched financial difficulties. Far less is known the extent to which economic journeys differ and the nature of factors influencing diverse economic trajectories. Drawing on data from the Longitudinal Study of Separated Parents (LSSF), which followed up a very large sample separated parents at three post-separation points (after 12 months, then two years and five years), this paper will identify various economic pathways of separated fathers and mothers, key factors affecting the diverse pathways, and associated policy implications.

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## ABSTRACT 14

### **Perceptions of household income and psychological well-being of children**

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The effects of real income and material deprivation on subjective well-being of children have been widely explored. However, little is known about how children's perceptions of household income may influence their psychological well-being. Using questionnaire survey data on children from 10 schools in Wuhan, China, this study aims to explore the issue. The results indicate that while perceptions of absolute household income show no significant association with psychological well-being of children, perceptions of relative household income exhibit a significant positive relationship with it. Gender, *hukou* status, and persons that children live with do not moderate the associations between perceptions of household income and psychological well-being of children. However, there is an interaction effect of perceptions of relative household income and bullying victimization on psychological well-being of children. That is, for children who perceive that their household income is better than others, the more bullying victimization they suffer the worse psychological well-being they have. The results of this study suggest that how perceptions of household income influences psychological well-being of children is in general in line with the influence of income on psychological well-being of adults. However, some traits such as the moderating effect of bullying victimization on the association between perceptions of relative household income and psychological well-being are worth to pay special attention. Moreover, the results of this study indicate that the relationship between income and psychological well-being maybe shaped in the childhood experience, suggesting that future research which dedicates to reveal this mechanism should pay more attention to the influence of life experiences of childhood.

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## ABSTRACT 15

### **Universal Credit – the UK's new working-age benefit**

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In the modern welfare state, the UK has been a leader in the introduction of social security measures to supplement wages, with the first such measures introduced in the early 1970s. Since then, this in-work support has developed into a major element of the UK system, received by about three million working families in 2015/16, at a cost of about £20 billion per year.

Major and potentially radical change is currently under way, with the roll-out of 'Universal Credit' as a single benefit, replacing means-tested tax credits, unemployment, housing and other benefits. Universal Credit is to be paid to people in and out of work, on the basis of a household means test, and with work requirements potentially applied to all recipients and partners, including people in part-time work.

This paper will first outline the antecedents, aims, design, and delivery of Universal Credit, discuss how Universal Credit has changed since the original proposals, and summarise evidence so far on how it is working. The second part will focus on the treatment of couples and outline a new research project, just starting at the Universities of Bath and Oxford, on '*Couples balancing work and care: exploring the shifting landscape under Universal Credit*'.  

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#### ABSTRACT 16

##### **The role of taxes and benefits in smoothing income shocks**

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We examine the extent to which the tax-benefit system in the UK smooths income shocks across the life cycle between 1991 and 2008. Using the BHPS, we construct five different income concepts ranging from household gross market incomes to net household disposable income. For each income concept, we then estimate a dynamic income model that includes (fixed) heterogeneity, permanent shocks (modelled as AR(1)) and transitory shocks (modelled as MA(1)). We then quantify the extent to which variance in income due to heterogeneity, permanent and transitory shocks is affected by four types of policy instruments, namely taxes, contributory benefits, means-tested benefits and other (mainly disability) benefits. We carry out our estimations, separately for men and women. Our results show that the UK tax-benefit system play an important role in reducing all three types of income variance, with taxes and means-tested benefits playing the most important role.  

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#### ABSTRACT 17

##### **Do welfare state taxes and transfers reduce gender income inequality? Evidence from eight European countries**

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We complement the institutional literature on gender and the welfare state by examining how taxes and transfers affect the incomes of men and women in different household types. Using microsimulation and intra-household income splitting rules, we measure the differences in the level and composition of individual disposable incomes of men and women in eight EU countries covering various welfare regime types. We verify whether countries that usually score high on de-familialization indices have on average lower gender gaps in income and vice-versa. We then quantify the extent to which taxes and transfers are able to close the gender gap in earnings, as well as which policy instruments contribute most to reducing the gap in the eight countries we study. We find that while taxes and social insurance contributions consistently close the gender income gap, the effect of transfers is highly dependent on the characteristics of household women live in.  

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## ABSTRACT 18

### **Accounting for differences in child poverty by income and consumption: evidence from Japan**

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Using a large-scale household survey in Japan, I replicate official child poverty rates by income, and provide corresponding estimates by consumption expenditures. In agreement with previous studies, poverty rates by consumption were always below poverty rates by income, and I examine possible explanations for the difference, with five major conclusions. First, only 1-2 percent of households were consistently poor by both income and consumption, and the proportion remained largely unchanged over time. Second, more than 10 percent of households were poor by income, but not so – by consumption. Similarly, about 7 percent of households were poor by consumption, but not so – by income. Third, the ratios of income-poor and consumption-poor households were growing since the mid-1980s, and reached 13.9 and 9.5 percent in 2015. Fourth, income-poor households were often self-employed or single households, who reported low incomes, but no reduced expenditures, with large negative savings. On the other hand, consumption-poor households had large incomes, but greatly reduced expenditures, with substantial positive savings. Fifth, using information on assets and liabilities, I found that large negative savings among income-poor households could not be matched by reported changes in their balance sheets. On the other hand, large positive savings of consumption-poor households could be attributed to large house ownership, and pressure to pay back outstanding housing loans by pruning consumption.

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## ABSTRACT 19

### **Voting in the aftermath of a pension reform the role of financial literacy**

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Economic reforms affecting people's lives are generally quite unpopular and may imply an electoral cost. This can derive, among other things, from lack of understanding of the basic elements of reforms. Our paper shows that the electoral cost of a pension reform is significantly lower in countries where the level of financial literacy is higher. The evidence from data on legislative elections held between 1990 and 2010 in 21 advanced countries is robust when we control for macro-economic conditions, demographic factors, and characteristics of the political system. Interestingly, these findings are not robust when we use less specific indicators of human capital – such as general schooling - supporting the view that knowledge of basic economic and financial concepts has distinctive features that may help reduce the electoral cost of reforms having a relevant impact on the life cycle of individuals.

## ABSTRACT 20

### **The different regional models of welfare in Spain**

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The conception that associates the differences in the impact of poverty to the traditional division between rich and poor communities is dominant in Spain. This vision contributes to a social policy that, in application of principles of equality, considers rational to prioritize the attention to the disadvantaged population of the territories with lower level of GDP and income. This model legitimizes, however, the unequal protection suffered by the disadvantaged population of some regions.

Considering the model of approach to the study of poverty and wellbeing developed in the Basque Country, the paper will present the mechanisms that provoke the unequal access to protection of certain groups of population according to their place of residence, giving rise to very different welfare models in Spain.

Paradoxically, the poor populations in the theoretically richest regions of Spain (Madrid, the Basque Country and Catalonia) are, after national and Social Security transfers, in a comparatively unfavorable position, even in relation to some southern regions of the country. In Madrid and Catalonia, the lower intensity of state protection, not compensated by a regional policy of minimum income, places these communities around the average level of Spain in terms of poverty, closer to the poor regions. It is actually the main paradox, or contradiction, of the Spanish social protection system.

In this context, the Basque Country constitutes a very special case. This community is the only traditional rich region to have a low level of real poverty, a result of its regional minimum income scheme.

The analysis of the Spanish model of welfare, in fact different regionals models of effective protection, can be useful to understand the paradox of the social and economic reality of Spain in the context of the Southern European countries.

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## ABSTRACT 21

### **The Future of Social Security Beyond Social Investment: The Contribution of the Capability Approach.**

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During the last decade, social investment has become the dominant normative approach in which to frame social security reform all over the world. This perspective – which re-interprets social policy as an investment able to deliver economic returns – is increasingly endorsed not only by international organisations such as the OECD, the World Bank and the EU but also by academics working in the social policy field. This paper aims at challenging social investment, proposing an alternative normative framework for the social security of the future based on Amartya Sen's capability approach (CA), which focuses on people's quality of life – instead of economic growth – for assessing policies. In this

perspective, social security should expand individuals' capability, i.e. the freedom to lead the kind of life they have reason to value. This focus has three major implications. First, in order to expand people's capability, policies cannot act only on the supply-side, e.g. "investing" in people's "human capital", as it is the case in social investment. Rather, policies should also reform the socioeconomic context in order to guarantee that enough valuable options (e.g. good jobs) are available. Second, in contrast to social investment which is focused on promoting employment, the CA aims to expand people's freedom to lead a valuable life – a broader objective which may include other activities beyond paid work such as care work, which social investment does not recognize to the same extent. This focus on people's real freedom rather than on employment also implies putting the reduction of poverty and inequality high in the agenda. Third, the CA insists that social security reform is not a matter for "experts" but of public deliberation and discussion to be realized with wide-ranging citizens' participation. The importance attributed to political participation and deliberation in the CA is also a major point of departure from social investment.

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## ABSTRACT 22

### **Reallocating Contributions Between Employers and Employees: Analysis Through an OLG Model**

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Public PAYG systems remain as major components of social security systems. Reforms of the last decades have shifted their saving function to privatized systems, but public pensions still remain important sources of retirement income with strong redistributive implications. Despite performed reforms, these systems still face financial sustainability challenges and research on comparing alternative financing methods remains a crucial field for academic investigation.

It is a standard practice in PAYG systems to legally define contributions to be shared between employers and employees. This paper investigates the impact of shifting the burden of contributions between employers and employees. Such a shift has direct implications on the employer's demand for labour input, and therefore wage outcomes of the economy. That, in turn, impacts calculated pensions and has implications on social security system's financial balances, even if the aggregate contribution rate of the system does not change. This paper investigates these interactions through a 60 period OLG model that is able to account for contribution financing, and how contributions are split across various actors. The general equilibrium properties of the model enable the characterization of the connections between agent level decision making and macro aggregates.

**JEL Codes:** H55; H75; C68

**Keywords:** *Financing social security; Public pensions; Computable general equilibrium models*

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## ABSTRACT 23

### **Rethinking the Prevalence & Determinants of Extreme Child Poverty in the United States**

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This paper applies an augmented version of household income data to reevaluate the prevalence and determinants of extreme child poverty in the United States from 1997 to 2015. We find that correcting

for the underreporting of means-tested transfers and matching the income definition of LIS, the Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg, reduces the estimated share of children in extreme poverty from around 1.7 percent to 0.1 percent, a 93 percent decline. In contrast to prior literature connecting \$2-per-day poverty to single motherhood, we find that citizenship status is the more consequential predictor: an estimated 73 percent of children in \$2-per-day poverty live in a household headed by a non-citizen, many of whom are ineligible for social assistance benefits. Results from a longitudinal two-way fixed effects model and a multi-level cross-sectional estimation suggest that the steady decline of TANF take-up among eligible households after the 1996 'welfare reform' has contributed to higher levels of extreme poverty, though increases in SNAP benefits and take-up rates have largely offset TANF's decline. Our counterfactual estimates suggest that levels of \$2-per-day poverty in 2015 would be close to nonexistent if non-citizens had adequate access to SNAP or TANF benefits. Moreover, the share of children living below 20 percent of median income in 2015 would be substantially reduced if TANF take-up among eligible households matched 1997 levels. The sum of the results demonstrates that levels of extreme poverty are significantly lower than previously claimed, but would be lower yet if social assistance programs reached non-native residents and/or if TANF benefits were more accessible for eligible households.

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#### ABSTRACT 24

##### **Demand-side and supply-side barriers to formal childcare use in Europe**

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Sustainable Development Goals envision that all children benefit from good preschool education, but there are substantial inequalities in accessing early education and care (ECEC) across European Union (EU) countries. Using micro-data from the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and macro-data from the OECD and Family Database and the IMF World Economic Outlook, this paper analyses differences in preschool children's ECEC enrolment and attendance in a multilevel modelling framework. The analysis documents the relative contributions of different demand-side and supply-side barriers to ECEC use. The presence of other preschool children in the family, the number of pension-age adults, maternal labour force status and education, household income and the country-level length of paid maternity leave serve as proxies for the demand-side factors. The child's age, family's area of residence, country wealth and the relative index of income inequality in ECEC access serve as indicators of ECEC availability and affordability.

Predictably, children aged 1-4 are significantly more likely to attend formal childcare if they are older, living in an urban area in a richer household with no pension-age people in it, and have a mother who is more attached to the labour market, is more highly educated and does not have a co-resident partner. There is a significant cross-level interaction between the child's age and the length of paid maternity leave, suggesting that the length of paid maternity leave affects demand for formal care for younger children only. The effect of household income is progressively larger in countries with higher income inequality in childcare attendance. Omitting this cross-level interaction results in an overestimation of the average effect of household income. Affordability of formal childcare is a greater problem in some European countries than others.

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## ABSTRACT 25

### **A distorted catch up: delay of in-kind benefit in Korea**

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This study explores a result of the catch up with advanced welfare countries in Korea. This study focuses on the policy mix of in-cash benefit and in-kind benefit in social security as a result. Income poverty and income inequality has been core issue in social protection since industrialization era. Even though income inequality of Korea is not more severe, in-cash benefit is a priority policy task. On the other hand, in-kind benefit has been improved comparatively passively.

Benchmarking on the social policy of developed country has been a major way to develop social policy in Korea. Most reference countries have finished the planning and building major social services including social housing, NHS, education support etc. before Korea has started to develop social security system including social services. Researchers and policy makers of Korea have examined similar social issues with advanced welfare countries even though Korea is in the different step of social service development from the countries. Income inequality became core issue after economic recession on worldwide scale, policy makers of Korea had a more severe risk to miss past experience like social service expansion of the reference countries.

This study examines the history of social security shortly and recent situation related to underdevelopment of in-kind benefit in Korea. The main method to figure out the situation is to measure the burden of household for basic needs that is resulted from the shortage of in-kind benefit. A useful concept for the measurement could be adjusted disposable income considering cost for housing, health, education. And Social expenditure for in-cash, in-kind benefit will be analyzed to understand that in-kind benefit has not developed compared to in-cash benefit in Korea.

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## ABSTRACT 26

### **An experimental approach to reduce non-take up of employment services: set-up and first preliminary results.**

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Public employment services (PES) are confronted with high levels of non-take up (NTU) in particular amongst disadvantaged families across developed welfare states. In this research project we seek to assess the impact of an outreach program towards disadvantaged families in the Belgian city of Kortrijk. The objective of the program is to increase the take-up of local social services, with a particular focus on employment. The study is designed as a randomized controlled trial (RCT) which enables us to test whether close counselling by multi-disciplinary case handlers are effective to increase take-up rates of local employment services. The experiment lasts until the end of 2019 and we hope to include about 235 families (117 treatment, 117 control). In addition we aim to 1) further our understanding of the underlying mechanisms of NTU; and 2) examine other possible outcomes of the intervention.

Therefore the RCT is complemented by a mixed method approach where participants to the experiment are surveyed before and after the treatment to shed light on determinants of NTU and examine as well other outcomes including well-being, social network, trust in institutions, satisfaction with social services. In this paper we present the design and methodology of the study, discuss ethical considerations in the set-up of an experiment in 'real life' involving disadvantaged families, and present first results. In particular we will examine baseline NTU levels by triangulating baseline measurements from the survey with administrative data recorded by the employment services in the city of Kortrijk, we will compare the experimental population with disadvantaged families in Belgium in terms of living conditions and household characteristics, and we will examine potential determinants of NTU at baseline levels, including the presence of trigger events, information costs, process costs, and psychological costs. Finally, first endline results (does the intervention work?) will be presented.

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## ABSTRACT 27

### **Disability benefits in Europe – evolution and impacts**

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This paper analyses recent changes in the disability benefit systems in the European Union, focusing particularly on the years since the start of the global economic recession in 2008. The analysis distinguishes between two main types of disability benefits: income replacement benefits, and benefits to meet the extra costs of disability. The paper will also explore the effect of disability benefit systems on poverty rates of disabled people.

The paper draws on research carried out by the Academic Network of Experts in Disability (ANED) for the European Union. Experts in each country compiled reports on income protection measures for disabled people and on assistance with disability-related expenses, both of which are requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As well as presenting summaries of provisions the country reports also contained critiques of these and examples that might be considered to be promising practice. The second part of the paper draws on a separate analysis of EU-SILC data from 2013.

One conclusion reached is that all disabled people in the EU have a measure of income protection from the state. However, levels of payments are highly varied, with means-tested benefits generally paid at lower rates (sometimes very much lower) than contribution based benefits. A common criticism of the levels of benefits is that they are low, and frequently insufficient to lift disabled people out of poverty or provide them with a decent standard of living. Regarding benefits for the extra costs of disability it is clear that levels of support are limited at best and, in some cases, inadequate. In some countries there is still little or virtually no support for disability-related expenses.

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## ABSTRACT 28

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Studies on the welfare state are today a prominent research area in various disciplines, including sociology, political science and labour economics. Since Esping-Andersen's seminal work (1990), it has become popular to analyze similarities and differences between welfare states in terms of regimes or models, particularly in the area of cash benefits. However, when research is shifted from cash benefits to health care, results show that both the number of models (Moran 2000; Bambra 2005), as well as the composition of countries into these models (Wendt 2009), differ quite extensively as compared to Esping-Andersen's welfare regimes. Thus, cash benefits and care services seem sometimes to be organized according to different principles (Bambra 2005, 2006). Few large scale comparative studies have however so far focused on how countries have organized and combined both sickness benefits and health care. The paper aims to analyze how countries have combined sickness benefits and health care from 1970 onwards, and to evaluate whether it is possible to distinguish between different models of health systems. The paper focus on financing, coverage and levels of provision, thus aligning research on the institutional structure of health care to that of cash benefits. Data from the Social Policy Indicator Database (SPIN) and OECD Health Care Data will be combined and analyzed over time. The data is analyzed by using pooled time-series analysis with the outcomes of life expectancy and infant mortality in relation to financing, coverage and levels of provision of both sickness cash benefits and health care.

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## ABSTRACT 29

### **Religion and the Welfare State: Testing the Manow Hypothesis**

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Welfare states in all industrialized countries face the same challenges with respect to globalization and demographic change. In spite of these common economic and demographic pressures, we do not observe a uniform capitalist welfare state to emerge. Even under an economic and social environment as homogenous as the European Union, welfare states continue to differ in scope, size and structure. Comparative welfare state research has developed regime typologies that are able to capture these varieties descriptively, but was less successful in explaining the main cause for this institutional persistence. Thus, the limited convergence of social policy systems in both scope and institutional structure remains an open question in comparative social policy analysis.

In a series of contributions, the German political scientist Philip Manow explains these long-lasting differences of social policies by the religious denomination that is prevalent in a society. He argues that welfare regimes basically mirror a society's deep-rooted value judgements which are produced, shaped and conveyed into the socio-political process by a country's religious authorities. He assigns the social-democratic, the liberal and the conservative welfare regime to Lutheran, Free Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions.

In this paper, we assess Manow's hypothesis on the influence of religious affiliation on the Welfare State empirically. We use OECD data on social spending and the religious affiliation of the country's majority from 33 countries, covering the time period from 1990 to 2015. With respect to affiliation, we follow Manow's argument and use three Christian denominations (Roman-Catholic, Lutheran and

Free Protestant) as main explanatory variables. We use panel-data regressions that take account of the fact that the population majority's affiliation does not change over time. As dependent variable, we use the ratio of social expenditure to GDP as a measure for the scope of the welfare state and the ratio of cash to in-kind benefits as a measure for a welfare state's institutional structure. We see significant differences in the means of both indicators between the three groups under analysis. These differences persist after controlling for demographic and socio-economic variables. From this, we argue that the religious denomination in fact has a long-lasting influence on the size and the structure of the welfare state. The paper ends with a brief discussion of the likely influence of Greek and Russian Orthodoxy on social policy, an influence that Manow has omitted so far.

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### ABSTRACT 30

#### **Collective Bargaining, the Welfare State and the Middle Class in Post-industrial Economies**

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Despite its increasingly alarming effects on economic growth, social cohesion, intergenerational mobility and democratic stability, the causes of middle class decline (or polarization in income distribution) remains largely understudied. Whereas previous research claimed that polarization is a common development in post-industrial economies, brought upon by global market integration or skill-biased technological change, I present significant cross-country variation in the development of income polarization among working-age households in 18 industrialized democracies between 1971 and 2010. Drawing on comparative political economy literature, my analysis finds that the divergent outcomes are explained by institutional changes in collective bargaining coverage and earnings-relatedness of unemployment insurance benefits. It also finds the negative effects of a particular type of right-wing government on these institutional changes. I argue that unlike Christian right governments, secular-right governments had positive effects on polarization (and negative effects on the size of middle-income strata) by weakening (or drifting on) collective wage-bargaining arrangements and social insurance benefit levels.

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### ABSTRACT 31

#### **Assessing the effectiveness of social security policies in reducing poverty**

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An ongoing challenge for social security policy is striking the balance between payment adequacy, incentives to work and program cost (the "iron triangle"). This paper reports on the development of a microsimulation modelling tool that allows the impacts of various policy parameter changes on the poverty rates and poverty gaps experienced by different groups to be modelled. The approach taken is to calculate the relationship between policy parameter changes and changes in the poverty gap by running the microsimulation model for incremental changes in policy parameters and then

summarising the relationship between policy parameters and poverty gaps in a series of equations. Mathematical methods are then used in an attempt to optimise the policy settings in terms of poverty gaps. The model allows constraints to be imposed such as the structure and cost of social security system (e.g. total social security expenditure, relative rates of payment between single and couple, allowance or pension recipients).

Australia is an interesting case for this study because the Australian system of income support has been found to be amongst the most efficient at targeting assistance to those most in need and is particularly effective at reducing poverty. Despite this, Australia continues to have persistent pockets of relative income poverty, particularly amongst single parents, older lone persons, those receiving allowances (e.g. the unemployed), low income persons in the private housing rental market and students.

Various policy scenarios are modelled in order illustrate the use of the new tool and to provide insights into the relationship between payments rates, thresholds and other policy parameters and poverty gaps and rates of payment for different groups of key policy interest. The impacts on effective marginal tax rates of different policy scenarios are also estimated in order to assess the impact of different levels of payment adequacy and means testing on work incentives.

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## ABSTRACT 32

### **The future inequality among pensioners in Belgium**

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Recent decades have seen a strong increase in the labor market participation of women, in particular older women. At the same time, labor market participation among men has increased much less or been stable. When in future, the baby-boom cohorts presently at working age are going into retirement, these developments are likely to lead to less inequality in pensions between women and men, and, possibly, in general to less inequality in individual pensions.

At the same time, inequality in pensions between people with different levels of education may increase as people with less education will have earned lower wages during their career, and experienced more periods of unemployment or inactivity than people with more education. This evolution may have an upward effect on inequality among future pensioners on the individual level, and perhaps even more strongly on the household level.

The distribution of public pensions has been relatively equal in Belgium, compared to other EU countries. This is at least partly due to a number of mechanisms in the Belgian public pension system (in origin of Bismarckian design) for employees that ensure that pensions are less unequal than the earnings on which they are based. In fact, as Perelman et al. (2012) show, at present equalization in the Belgian pension system is overdetermined in the sense that if one of these mechanisms is removed, the effect is small, while the removal of several of them has a large impact. Given the current political tendency to make pensions more closely related to earnings, it is important to assess which of these mechanisms will be the most effective to limit the degree of future inequality among pensioners.

These issues will be explored using the dynamic microsimulation model MIDAS and a large database from administrative sources (years 2011-12).

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### ABSTRACT 33

#### **Income and expenditure of people with learning disabilities in Japan**

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This paper focuses on economic situation of people with disabilities in Japan. Compare to OECD countries, Japanese welfare system has provided limited economic supports for people with disabilities. Recent policy has emphasized onto independent living in the community or supports for employment, while less attention is paid for economic environment. For example, the amount of disability pension is designed as only early supplement of old age pension, and the level is lower than social assistance. National survey of people with disabilities also shows that people with learning disabilities receive less than half amount of income compare to people with physical disabilities.

As a result, it would be able to assume that people with disabilities receives significant financial supports from their family members such as parents or siblings. It is reported that the quality of life for people with learning disabilities in Japan tend to depend on the financial situation of their family. Despite economic aspect is one of the important part of the normalization principle which Japan has adopted, Japanese welfare system has failed to give higher priority on it.

This paper analyses income and expenditure of people with disabilities and suggest that more financial support is vital for accomplish independent living.

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### ABSTRACT 34

#### **Analysis of Child Poverty and Policy Responses in Japan: The roles of local authorities and voluntary sectors.**

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This paper examines Japanese social policy against child poverty. The public attention has been increasingly paid to the issue as the bad record of Japanese child poverty in international comparison reported in the early 2010s. The Child Poverty Act has enacted in 2013, and the government has set policy guideline on child poverty in 2014. Five years on, it has become clear, however, that these policy frameworks have failed to deliver the significant improvements in the situation.

This paper will focus on the measures taken by local governments, which are expected to play main roles in this framework. The recent local policy measures tend to stress the parentings, education and social capital issues, and programmes are often limited to community dining services and teaching groups for the children living in poverty. It is important to note that many local authorities have increasingly relied on the voluntary sectors in the service provision, because of their financial difficulties. It is also interesting to note that no visible roles of central government against child poverty could be seen. The lack of redistribution measures and financial aids have caused hardships for those

living in poverty. The current child poverty measures in Japan appear local charity activities, rather than a part of social policy.

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#### ABSTRACT 35

##### **Is social assistance reform eroding Finland as a Nordic welfare state?**

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Nordic welfare states are characterized by strong emphasis on universalism. Universal social policies are found to be more effective than selective ones in creating equality and social trust among citizens, i.e. *building social citizenship*. The Scandinavian idea extends universalism to the policy outcomes by emphasizing the role of public services in diminishing poverty and increasing equality i.e. financial aid is not always enough to enable participation in the society. At the beginning of 2017, last resort social assistance was transferred from the municipalities to the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela). The problems occurring in the implementation of the reform indicate that the purpose of social assistance was not fully understood, even though its purpose was clearly specified in the previous legislation. In the reform, fiscal objectives yet again overtook the social policy objectives cherished in the Nordic welfare state.

The paper scrutinizes which *client groups were excluded and which advantaged and in what way, when the reform was implemented*. Further, it asks how the reform revised universalism and an idea of *social citizenship* behind it. The research material consists of data based on surveys targeted to municipal social workers, the management of municipal social services, the benefit handlers in the Social Insurance Institution of Finland and the social assistance receivers.

Based on our empirical findings, people with cumulated social problems and need for social services are in more risk of exclusion than before the reform. Hence, the reform has increased the social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups and contradicts strongly to the promotion of social citizenship in the Nordic welfare state context. We argue that in the long term, this will erode the foundations Nordic welfare state and increase the number of poor households in Finland.

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#### ABSTRACT 36

##### **In-work poverty in the UK: Trends, tax credits and transitions**

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This paper will present results from a study examining in-work poverty in the UK, funded by the Nuffield Foundation. In it, I will outline trends in in-work poverty between 2004/5 and 2014/15, and will identify the groups who have borne the rise in in-work poverty during this period, drawing on data from the Households Below Average Incomes survey. I will then examine the relationship between tax

credits and in-work poverty, demonstrating that tax credits were highly effective at reducing in-work poverty for families who received them, but that a substantial proportion of working poor families did not. Finally, the paper will present findings of in-poverty transitions, drawing on data from the Understanding Society survey, demonstrating the ways in which people can, and do, enter and exit in-work poverty in the UK.

**Keywords:** pension system, confidence, knowledge, survey, socio-economic differences, Finland

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## ABSTRACT 54

### **Support for a Universal Basic Income: A Demand-Capacity Paradox?**

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Universal basic income (UBI) in different variations has become a common topic of discussion within social policy and welfare state reform. Though the literature tends to focus on its economic or behavioural implications, this article investigates the determinants of support for UBI. Using data from the 2016 European Social Survey (ESS8) we investigate whether support for UBI can be explained by (i) material wellbeing and economic position; (ii) *power resources theory*, in terms of individual trade union membership and support for leftist politics; (iii) *welfare state chauvinism*, in terms attitudes towards immigrants and their access to social welfare; and (iv) *path dependence and the role of institutions*, investigating the moderating role of national-level spending patterns and welfare state performance.

We utilise the ESS8 variable for UBI support, and apply a multi-level model to estimate how national-level institutions moderate individual-level predictors of support for a UBI. Results indicate that the relative size of the welfare states that individuals live in has a large effect on UBI support. At the macro-level, higher levels of support for UBI can be found in countries with less developed welfare states. This presents a demand-capacity paradox: countries which are presumably best equipped to implement a UBI also see the least support for the policy. We also find that national-level institutions have a large moderating effect on individual predictors of UBI support: where welfare state spending is low, welfare state chauvinism and left ideology have little to no effect on support for a UBI. The study contributes to a wider understanding of institutions' role in shaping policy-making, mapping support for UBI, and to our understanding of where UBI locates itself in relation to traditional theories of welfare state development and maintenance.

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## ABSTRACT 37

### **Should I stay or should I go? Leaving the parental home patterns among young Europeans**

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In general, the transition-to-adulthood process involves leaving the parental home, entering the labour market, forming a partnership, and childbearing and childrearing. In this paper, we will concentrate on one of the transition events, leaving the parental home. Leaving the parental home is said to be one of the most visible symbols of adulthood and it is often seen as an essential stepping stone towards adulthood. There is major variation in the timing of this event, and the diversity of the durations and timings is part of the pattern common in modern Europe. The differences between countries indicate that the transition process is not as structured as before and that there is more freedom to make individual choices.

The purpose of this paper is to perform a cross-country comparison of leaving the parental home behaviour, to describe when this transition happens and to focus specifically on delayed leaving home behaviour and its consequences. Leaving the parental home has been rather widely discussed, but there is a lack of comparative empirical and explanatory research. This paper contributes to filling this gap. This is done by using the EU-SILC data set (2012), by comparing 20 European countries and by using logistic multilevel regression analysis.

According to preliminary results, there are several alternative explanations for why young adults in different countries leave their parental homes at different times. Weak welfare states, difficulties in entering the labour market and the shortage of housing, for instance, are reasons for not leaving the parental home, but strong family ties and family traditions also play a role. The results of the paper show that there is variation between European countries in terms of young adults' leaving the parental home processes and practices. These differences between countries are not a surprise: despite the closeness and commonalities of the 20 European countries included in this paper, their institutional arrangements, economies and cultures are diverse.

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## ABSTRACT 38

### **Student support and tuition fee systems in a comparative perspective**

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Student finance concerns the extent to which the state, family and students are responsible for covering study costs, including tuition fees and living expenses. Public measures targeting tuition fees and living expenses are often subsumed under the category of student support, which typically includes a combination of repayable (loans) and non-repayable (need- and/or merit-based) grants, as well as family support (e.g. various forms of student related tax benefits).

The purpose of this study is to analyse student finance systems in comparative perspective. What types of arrangements exist in the affluent countries, and how generous are they? Based on the political economy of income redistribution, we hypothesise that students from poor families are financially better off in systems that grant support also to middle- and higher-income families. Mapping the political determinants of the development of student finance systems is important, because changes can lead to forcing students to rely more on paid work in order to maintain a standard of living, or into poverty if finding employment or family support is not possible. This in turn can influence study outcomes, like performance or graduation on time.

We use new comparative data on student finance systems of tertiary education in 21 OECD countries. The data has been collected by using model family analysis techniques, frequently applied in international comparisons of social transfers. The results show that the degree of low-income targeting in student support is negatively related to its generosity. Thus, student support is less generous in countries that more exclusively concentrate benefits on students from financially poor families. In the paper we discuss how these results feed into the more general discussion of the political economy of redistribution.

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## ABSTRACT 39

### **Estimating Housing Affordability in Japan**

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In this paper, we examined the trends of housing affordability in Japan from 1994 to 2009. During this period, Japan was struggling the long recession and population aging, which led the income distribution into worse. Also, it surfaced housing issues, since the housing policy in Japan is to promote having owned accommodation and not to provide housing safety-net for low income households. In fact, there is no housing benefit in cash except for social assistance recipients. For the working age, it make harder to accumulate real assets, and for the people who weren't able to have their owned house, housing cost burden is one of the serious problem to make ends meet.

However, there are few literature which investigated the changes of housing affordability in Japan, so we estimated several indices of housing affordability, like ratio of housing cost (over)burden and relative poverty rate, using micro-data. We found the following two main facts.

Firstly, the ratio of housing cost (over)burden was increased from 1994 to 2009, particularly for low income households and households with children. The main reason of this trends was that household disposable income was steeply dropped, while housing cost was almost the same during the period.

Secondly, although the poverty rate for the single elderly living in private rental housing was decreasing from 52% to 37%, the ratio of housing cost burden has been increasing and it is still one of the highest poverty risk group. To take into account that homeownership rate has been decreasing for the working age group and the level of pension benefit will be cut for the next decades in real term, it would be necessary to introduce a new cash benefit for housing to maintain the living cost for low income households.

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#### ABSTRACT 40

##### **Solidarity between generations in extended families. Direction, size and intensity**

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We analyze intergenerational solidarity within multigenerational (MG) households, and assess across European countries how the formation of these household is related to poverty. When three generations cohabit within the same household, pension benefits can reduce child poverty, and child benefits and working income can reduce elderly poverty. Using data from EU-SILC 2013, we first assess to what extent financial gains of the formation of the MG households are pro-child, pro-elderly or to the benefit of all. Especially in those countries where MG households are most prevalent we find a pattern of predominantly pro-child MG household formation. Next, we determine how the prevalence of MG households relates to poverty risks, and especially how (the sharing of) elderly income impacts child poverty. We analyze (1) the direct relationship between living in a MG household and child poverty using a logistic regression and (2) the contribution of elderly income to lowering child poverty risks, under different scenarios of cost-sharing and resource-sharing using a pre-post analysis. We thereby also investigate the standard assumption in distribution analysis that resources are fully shared within the household. Under an assumption of partial resource-sharing we find that child poverty in MG households would be on average almost 10 percentage points higher than under the standard full sharing assumption (with considerable cross-country differences). The results indicate that the formation of MG households operates mainly as solidarity from older to younger generations. This is likely related to the fact that the prevalence of MG households is mainly high in welfare states characterized by relatively generous pensions and by relatively meagre child benefits, as well as larger inequality in working income. Although not designed for this purpose, the pensions in these countries thereby also serve as a function to alleviate child poverty.

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#### ABSTRACT 41

##### **Is religious participation *really* helpful to reduce depressive symptoms in old-age?**

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Depression is one of the leading causes of disability worldwide and strongly associated with circumstances that many elderly face at some point in late life: loneliness, poor social support, disability and lower living standards. With an increasing older population, late-life mental health is becoming an important topic in European policymaking. One of the strategies to augment the

management of late-life depression is enabling elderly into higher levels of social participation through a variety of social activities. Such activity that has recently been attracting more attention through its linkage to mental health, is participating in religious organizations. Past research on this topic suggests that higher levels of religious participation are associated with lower levels of depressive symptoms. However, the majority of these studies are based on cross-sectional designs and fail to address questions regarding directionality. In this article, the longitudinal relationship between religious activities and depressive symptoms in the elderly is assessed, drawing on data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), which allows us to make comparisons between countries. Additionally, we take account of the multidimensional concept of religiosity by including frequency of praying into the analysis. Our results point out that participation in religious organizations is indeed associated with lower levels of depressive symptoms but that the effect is merely the result of a selection effect i.e. elderly with less depressive symptoms are more likely to participate in religious activities. Promoting social participation between elderly can be beneficial for their mental health, but places of worship are not necessarily a relevant setting to combat late-life depressive symptoms, according to our findings. Overall, these results provide more insight in the complex relationship between late-life mental health and religiosity and offer a sound basis for future policy recommendations in the context of an ageing society.

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#### ABSTRACT 42

#### **On the effects of the MIG-associated programs as “welfare basket” on welfare dependence – Evidences from the surveys in Yiwu City of China**

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With the improved living standards and the empowered economy, the Chinese governments strengthen the efforts of poverty reduction. One of the useful policy instrument against poverty is Minimum Income Guarantee Program (MIG), implemented nationwide in 1999 for urban population and in 2017 for rural population. However, when the benefit level of MIG is low, the MIG-associated programs were set up in the fields of health care, housing and education. This generates the debate over the issue, some regard it positive and other critical. Some may argue that these programs could encourage these benefices to reduce the their work initiatives but produce welfare dependency.

This study will investigate the effect of these programs and evaluate their impacts on people’s attitude toward these programs. It introduces various scheme of social assistance on health care, housing support, and home help, etc. for the group of MIG benefit receivers, in comparison to those near-poor group who receive no benefits from neither MIG nor MIG-associated programs. The study conducts its survey in Yiwu city (China) among the informants from both sides of these two groups. Based on the survey data, it studies the people’s view on the effect of the MIG-associated program, and on this ground, the study further take interview and data analysis.

According to its result, this paper suggests reducing welfare relief but promoted in Yiwu City, and afterwards, made field visits and telephone survey and interview, not only with the poor families, but also with the civil servants of the governments at the municipal and twoship levels, responsible for the work, recording their views on the implementation of the MIG- associated programs on their . positive and negative effects of poverty reduction. On this basis, this paper will discuss the implementation status, existing problems, and the causes of the associated benefits of Dibao insurance, and propose targeted countermeasures.

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## ABSTRACT 43

### **Pension privatization and partisan politics in an era of welfare state adjustment**

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The relevance of partisan politics to explain pension reforms after the Golden Age of social protection has been widely discussed in the literature. Focus is often on the political determinants of retrenchment in public pensions, leaving aside occupational and private pension plans. This paper aims to address this gap by analysing the driving forces of pension privatization and more specifically, the role of political parties in the introduction or the expansion of private pension provisions. One question of interest is whether the factors prevailing to pension privatization mirror those of public pension retrenchment. Another question is whether the effect of political factors on pension privatization is mediated by the generosity of public pensions. Structural Equation Modelling techniques is used to analyse the direct and indirect effect of left parties on pension privatization in 17 OECD countries over the period 1995-2011. In order to account for the complexity of private pension schemes, the latter are first operationalized as private pension expenditure and second as pension fund assets. Preliminary results show that generous public pensions are negatively associated with private pension provision and the association is statistically significant. They do not seem however to mediate the role of left parties. Pension privatization seems indeed to be explained by structural factors rather than political ones. These results are preliminary and might be influenced by the way pension privatization is operationalized, something that needs to be further explore in future research.

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## ABSTRACT 44

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND INCOME SUPPORT DURATION FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS: ANALYSIS USING LONGITUDINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DATA: 2001-2012**

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The social and labour market integration of young people is a key policy priority for many developed economies, including Australia. Many young people face increasingly protracted pathways into employment, despite being the most educated generation in history (Skattebol et al, 2015; Arnett 2000). Developing mental illness (especially in childhood) has been shown to inhibit a young person's accumulation of human capital, further hindering their lifelong labour market attachment prospects (Currie & Stabile, 2006; Ettner et al, 1997; Currie & Madarian, 1999).

Governments of all political persuasions have demonstrated strong interest in encouraging labour market participation through a variety of welfare reforms, characterised by increased conditionality. More recently, this has also been extended from unemployed to other groups, including those living with a disability (Taylor, Gray & Stanton 2016; Dwyer & Wright 2014; OECD 2009; Soldatic and Chapman 2008; Dwyer 2004; Galvin 2004; OECD 2003; Grover and Piggott 2010; Roulstone and Prideaux 2012; Lunt 2006; Russell 1998).

In this paper we examine impacts of mental ill-health among young Australians on their income support reliance, as a proxy measure for deficits in their human capital accumulation. Drawing on 50 per cent sample of longitudinal administrative data spanning fourteen years, we depict income support

patterns (in terms of inflows, outflows and durations) of Australian youth aged 16 to 24 living with mental illness. We present results by age, sex and type of mental illness.

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#### ABSTRACT 45

##### **In-work poverty (IWP) and non-standard employment among migrants in Europe**

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The issue of migration is high on most European countries' political agendas, and the impact that migration, and the free movement of people within the EU in particular, have on social security expenditures has been hotly debated. While some publications have underlined that migrants and non-nationals are more exposed to IWP than other workers, the causes and mechanisms behind this fact are often analysed in terms of lower human capital. However, other mechanisms could be at play and it is more important than ever to understand them. This paper builds on recent analyses that showed that migrants and non-nationals are systematically more exposed to IWP than natives and nationals, even when controlling for a broad range of socioeconomic characteristics, which led me to think that discrimination could be an important part of the story. Here I try to identify which type of labour market discrimination might be at play, notably whether or not non-standard employment and low-wage work are largely responsible for the higher IWP risks, which could have notable social policy implications.

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#### ABSTRACT 46

##### **Identifying the poor - Sensitivity and characteristics of household selection based on income and consumption data**

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Poverty is still an ongoing discussion in the industrialized world. Although extreme poverty has been drastically reduced, the relative approach to poverty reveals high rates of households that are socially excluded due to their lack of available resources. Nevertheless, the identification and quantification of those households is still under review as many different concepts and dimensions of poverty can be used for calculation. In most cases some form of material deprivation index is used but most of the available consumption data is not taken into consideration.

In our paper we analyze the poverty risk of households based on income and on variations of consumption data. We use the common methodology of identifying the poor only changing the underlying variable. We are especially interested in the differences in socio-economic characteristics between the different groups of identified households. As we focus on the time frame between 2003 and 2013 we can also analyze the effects on changes in the consumption pattern and in the structure of society on poverty rates. Furthermore, we study the sensitivity of changes in the relative poverty methodology with respect to the underlying data.

We use the latest three waves of the Income and Expenditure Survey of Germany of the years 2003/2008/2013 as database. This is an official representative household survey which contains around 50,000 observations per wave. As participants are asked to write down consumption expenditure for three months, this data set allows detailed insights in consumption patterns over time.

We use economic microsimulations to analyze the effect of changes in society on poverty and inequality.

First findings indicate that the marking of a household as being poor is highly conditional on the underlying variables. This is even true for different sets of consumptions data. Nevertheless, the direct measurement of poverty is less affected by minor changes in the underlying methodology. The problem however remains that characteristics of poor households differ with changes in the analyzed variables so that the identification of poor households is based on a normative setting.

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#### ABSTRACT 47

##### **Getting everyone on board. A field experiment on the effect of personal phone calls on the take-up of the increased reimbursement of health care in Belgium**

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In Belgium, persons with a low income are entitled to the Increased Reimbursement of health expenditures. When eligibility is tied to other benefits, uptake is quasi automatic resulting in very high take-up rates. In other cases people have to apply themselves at their local health insurer. Until recently, there was a general belief that non-take-up remained very high when people had to take the initiative themselves. Between 2015 and 2017 health insurers have contacted all those who had a low taxable income and did not yet benefit from the Increased Reimbursement, stimulating potential beneficiaries to apply for the benefit. As a result, the uptake of the benefit has increased substantially. In collaboration with the biggest health insurer (NACM) we set up a large scale randomised field experiment to test the effect of various ways to contact potential beneficiaries. In this paper, we report on the effect of sending letters and flyers, and the additional effect of phone calls to remind people to apply for the Increased Reimbursement. In addition, we evaluate which socio-economic and demographic groups benefit the most from these additional phone calls. We also report on an online survey to see how take-up of the increased reimbursement is associated with perceived information costs, process costs and stigma.

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#### ABSTRACT 48

##### **The Diminishing Power of One? Welfare State Retrenchment and Rising Poverty of Single Persons and Single Parents in Sweden 1988-2011.**

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The Swedish welfare state has become less generous and inclusive in recent decades. Much of this retrenchment in social policy has gone unnoticed in the international literature. We analyse the remarkable increased poverty risks of single-adult and single-parent families in Sweden from 1989 to

2011, and test the combination of individual and institutional explanations, with a focus on unemployment benefits. The changes introduced to unemployment insurance is symptomatic to the cutbacks of social policy in Sweden, including much lower income replacement and substantial insufficiencies in benefit take-up. We use both descriptive analyses and statistical regressions based on high quality register and survey data. The results show that changes to unemployment insurance has been detrimental for the relative income position of single persons (with and without children), whereas the poverty risks of dual-earner households have been largely unaffected. Individual factors could not explain the dramatic increase in poverty among single and single parent households.

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#### ABSTRACT 49

##### **The Philippines Welfare State System: The minimalist model**

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This paper argues that the Philippine welfare state system is distinct and different from other Asian nations. The welfare state system in the Philippines is composed of very limited social security measures: social insurance for the workers and social assistance for those below the poverty line. However, it does share with other Asian nations a cultural expectation that social security and wellbeing is a familiar, not a state responsibility. There are three parts to this paper. The first part briefly examines poverty in the Philippines. It discusses the different ways poverty has been identified and measured in the Philippines. The second part discusses the core characteristics of the Philippines welfare state system (social insurance, social assistance, familiar responsibility). The final part attempts to locate the Philippine within general models of the welfare state (Gosta Esping-Andersen three models, the Productivist model of Ian Holliday, the East-Asian model of Catherine Jones and the developmental model of welfare state by James Midgley). It is argued that the Philippine does not fit within these received models, possessing a distinct and minimalist system.

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#### ABSTRACT 50

##### **To take or not to take? Development and psychometric testing of a new instrument to measure the costs associated with claiming benefits.**

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Social benefits targeted at the poor are an important part of modern welfare states. However, recent evidence shows that in many European countries only a fraction of those that are supposed to benefit, take up their social rights. In the literature, several explanations have been proposed for incomplete take-up. These are information problems (e.g. lack of knowledge of the existence of a benefit), problems related to the complexity and hassle involved with applying (e.g. queuing, filling in application forms) and social and psychological hurdles (e.g. negative attitudes against social workers, fear of stigmatization), or so called “claiming costs”. Until now, to the best of our knowledge, no

reliable and valid instrument exists to measure the relevance of these three types of claiming costs in practice. Most studies that try to understand non-take-up either remain focused on a very limited set of causal factors that do not allow for teasing out the relative importance of each factor, or make use of data and methods in which relative rough proxies are used. Therefore, despite considerable research, the determinants of non-take-up remain poorly understood.

The aim of this present study is therefore to develop a new and useful instrument to measure the claiming costs (potential) beneficiaries face when applying for benefits and to evaluate its psychometric properties in a Belgian sample of low-income persons (n=1200). The factor structure of the scale was examined by applying both exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. The reliability was evaluated by Cronbach's alpha and test-retest analyses. Overall, our results suggests that the designed scale is a useful instrument to measure applicants' perceived or experienced costs associated with claiming benefits in Belgium. In addition, we use this instrument to investigate how claiming costs in Belgium differ across different types of welfare programmes and different socio-demographic groups of beneficiaries.

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## ABSTRACT 51

### **Multi-pillar perspective on the Swedish unemployment benefit provision**

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The unemployed in Sweden today is to relate to several kinds of benefit schemes. Apart from the public unemployment insurance program, different labor market sectors are covered by different complementary benefit arrangements regulated by the collective agreements between the employers' and unions' peak organizations. They have existed since the 1970s but recently further expanded in its scope. Apart from this occupational welfare arrangement there are complementary income insurances that the majority of the labor unions provide for their members, covering around 3 million workers today. They are to top-up the benefit from the public unemployment insurance program or prolong the benefit payment period. The complementary income insurance first appeared in the late 1990s and expanded quickly during the last fifteen years. While the union-provided, group-based income insurances dominate the market, there are also private income insurances operating upon the risk assessment and premium setting practice on the individual level.

As the public unemployment insurance program has retrenched in terms of benefit generosity and reciprocity rate (*de facto* coverage), the role of the occupational and private (collective and personal) pillars becomes more important. Without launching a sweeping institutional reform or a new political aim governing the unemployment benefit provision system, the division of responsibility over income protection for the unemployed has been therefore redefined between the state, unions, individuals and market actors - which has implications for the outcomes of unemployment protection.

The paper proposes a multi-pillar perspective in understanding the changed landscape of the unemployment benefit provision in Sweden. Compared to the regime perspective, which tends to emphasize the stability of the Nordic model, the pillar perspective helps us analyze the changes despite the relatively stable institutional arrangements for the public unemployment insurance program in Sweden, by highlighting the new roles and distributive logics of the newer *loci* of the unemployment benefit provision system. The paper provides a

comprehensive overview of the different pillars of the Swedish unemployment benefit provision system today and discusses the interactions between the pillars as well as the distributive implications of the system.

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## ABSTRACT 52

### **Reducing costs to raise the adequacy of the social floor? The use of Belgian reference budgets as an EU policy indicator.**

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The right to adequate minimum income protection is one of the key principles included in the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), which was proclaimed on 17 November 2017. The principle enfolds three main building blocks: (1) the right to adequate minimum income benefits ensuring a life in dignity at all stages of life, (2) effective access to enabling goods and services, and, (3), for those who can work, minimum income benefits should be combined with incentives to (re)integrate into the labour market. This paper takes the EPSR as a starting point to propose an indicator to assess the adequacy of minimum income protection including these three dimensions. We argue that reference budgets (priced baskets of goods and services that illustrate an adequate living standard) provide a useful tool to construct such an indicator. To illustrate this empirically, we make use of reference budgets for adequate social participation in Belgium, more specifically in the Flemish region for the years 2013 to 2017. Compared to existing research, reference budgets have the advantage of revealing the essential costs families face, taking into account publicly provided or subsidised goods and services and cost-reducing measures. Through a combination of hypothetical household simulations of essential out-of-pocket costs and designated tax-benefits for families living on different minimum income schemes, we are able to assess the adequacy of minimum income protection for a wide range of household types in Flanders. The paper shows that, on the one hand, reducing costs to access essential goods and services can support cash benefits to ensure a life in human dignity, without compromising on the social floor-minimum wage gap. On the other hand, means tested cost-reductions are often fragmented, insufficient to compensate for low cash benefits and impact negatively on work incentives as long as they are attached to social categories excluding working families.

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