



Workshop

The Global Economic Crisis and the Welfare State Short-Term Responses and Long-Term Effects

University of Bremen, 24-25 November 2011

Call for Papers

The global financial crisis that started in 2008 has called comparative welfare state research to reconsider the role of the state and the specific social policy measures taken in response to the crisis. It seems that, in many cases, social policy reactions unfold over a period of several years and exhibit an interesting policy dynamic. Short and long-term effects not only differ, but what happens in the long term may depend on choices made immediately after the shock. It may be that an initial expansion of emergency measures ultimately increased the pressure to cut back benefits further downstream. Or, on the contrary, radical cutbacks in the face of the global shock may come at a high price of years of a lack in domestic demand and a Japanese-style 'lost decade'.

Now, three years after the beginning of the global economic downturn, is a good moment to reconsider and discuss – in comparative perspective – both short-term and long-term effects of economic crises on the welfare state. Our two-day workshop, organized by the Collaborative Research Centre 597 'Transformations of the State', aims to bring together comparative researchers to discuss questions such as:

- How did social policy responses to both the recent economic crisis and to earlier crises differ, and why?

- Do crisis responses consist of temporary or permanent changes to the welfare state?
- What are the long-term consequences of the crisis for the welfare state?
- How did international or transnational policy learning affect countries' responses?
- What is the role of political parties and interest organisations in shaping policy developments?

We invite abstracts addressing the global economic crisis – welfare state nexus in a comparative perspective. This could be either comparing crisis episodes across time (historical perspective), or across countries, addressing the variety of social policy reactions in different welfare states. We also welcome innovative conceptual/theoretical contributions, or those taking a transnational policy perspective.

Please send your abstract to crisis@sfb597.uni-bremen.de by the 1st of August 2011 latest. You will be informed about the acceptance by the 15th of August 2011. We are happy to offer participants accommodation in Bremen, a conference dinner, and a contribution towards travel costs.

Keynote speaker:

Anton Hemerijck, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Conference venue:

University of Bremen, Centre for Social Policy Research (ZeS), Germany

Organisers:

Peter Starke

Alexandra Kaasch

Franca van Hooren

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