

POLITICAL ISSUES AND SOCIAL POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Aims

An identification and examination of key political issues in a range of social policy areas within the European Union (EU). Employing relevant concepts, models and theories, these issues will be addressed within the context of EU processes of harmonisation, mutual recognition, convergence and the overall on-going integration project.

Objectives

Initially, a range of theoretical models and concepts relating to the overall development of the EU, and the process of integration, will be examined against the background of the growth in importance of social policy areas in the EU project. Within that framework and process the course will then proceed to address political issues relating to specific areas of social policy, including those concerning the environment, employment and unemployment, education, the 'demographic time-bomb', gender, and immigration and asylum policy. The course will conclude by examining political issues relating to social policy within the EU regional policy arena, and by examining social policy within the context of the politics of the future of the EU.

Structure of the course

The course will be taught through a series of weekly lectures, seminars and workshops. There will be 10 lectures, 5 seminars, and 2 workshops

Course programme:

PLEASE NOTE: 80% attendance at lectures (i.e. at least 8) is a requirement to pass the course (see Course Assessment on page 7)

- 01.10.08. Lecture 1. The growth in importance of social policy in the European Union project
- 01.10.08. Lecture 2. The E.U. integration project and the politics of social policy: theoretical perspectives – 'spillover', functionalism, neo-functionalism, federalism.
- 08.10.08 Lecture 3. Harmonisation, mutual recognition, and the europeanisation of social policy.

15.10.08 READING AND SEMINAR PREPARATION WEEK (no lecture)

- 22.10.08 Workshop 1 (see page 2)
- 29.10.08 Lecture 4. Environment policy + Workshop 2 (see page 3)
- 05.11.08 Lecture 5. Employment and unemployment policy
- 12.11.08 Lecture 6. Education and training policy + Seminar 1 (see page 3)
- 19.11.08 Lecture 7. Immigration, mobility and asylum policy + Seminar 2 (see page 4)
- 26.11.08 Lecture 8. The 'gender dimension' and E.U. social policy + Seminar 3 (see page 4)
- 03.12.08 Lecture 9. The 'demographic time bomb' + Seminar 4 (see page 5)
- 10.12.08 Lecture 10. Regions and the E.U. policy process + Seminar 5 (a) and (b) (see pages 5 and 6)

Workshops and Seminars programme (commencing 22.10.08):

PLEASE NOTE:

- a) *80% attendance at workshops and seminars (i.e. at least 6) is a requirement to pass the course (see Course Assessment on page 7)*
- b) *All students will be required to participate in a verbal seminar presentation in English as a requirement to pass the course. The seminar presentation can be made individually or as part of a group presentation. The verbal seminar presentation should be on one of the seminar questions listed below in the Seminar programme. Presentations can be on topics in the Seminar programme that relate to the student's choice of essay question. Discussion and feedback in the seminar, and in later consultations with the tutor (if requested by students), will assist in the production of the assessment essay. Allocation of seminar presentation topics, on a voluntary basis, will commence from week 2 of the course (08.10.08). Seminars and presentations will commence from week 7 (12.11.08), following the lecture. The 5 seminar sessions will then take place from 12.11.08 until 10.12.08, immediately after the lectures.*

Students will be expected to have read for each workshop and seminar, and participate. Indicative readings are given below for each seminar and workshop

Workshop 1: This will consist of student participation and discussion groups, and will take place on 22.10.08

22.10.08 *Question:*

Are political, social or economic concerns and factors of most importance for the success of the E.U. integration project? How important in that process is the 'politics of social policy'?

Readings:

Borros, S. and Greve, B. (2004) The Open Method of Co-ordination in the European Union, special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11:2 (various articles of interest)

Geyer, R. *Exploring European Social Policy*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.

Hantrais, L. *Social Policy in the EU*, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).

Kleinman, M. A European Welfare State: European Union Social Policy in context, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2002.

McCormick, J. *Understanding the European Union* (Third Edition), Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2005.

Richardson, J. (ed.) *European Union. Power and policy-making* (Third edition), Oxford, Routledge, 2006, chapters 2,3 and 4

Roberts, I. and Springer, B. *Social Policy in the European Union: Between Harmonisation and National Autonomy*, Boulder, Lynne Reiner, 2001.

Rosamond, B. *Theories Of European Integration*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2000

Threlfall, M. (2003) 'European social integration: harmonization, convergence and the single social area', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 13, pp.121-140.

29.10.08 Workshop 2

Question: Is harmonisation, mutual recognition or convergence the best principle upon which European Union social policy should be based? Should such a principle encompass a communitarian or cosmopolitan approach? Provide reasons and evidence for your preference.

Readings:

- Borros, S. and Greve, B. (2004) The Open Method of Co-ordination in the European Union, special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11:2 (various articles of interest)
- Geyer, R. *Exploring European Social Policy*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.
- Guillen, A. and Palier, B. (2004) 'Does Europe matter? Accession to EU and social policy developments in recent and new member states', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 14:3, pp.203-209, and other articles in this special issue on *EU Enlargement, Europeanisation and Social Policy*.
- Hantrais, L. *Social Policy in the EU*, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).
- Jepsen, M. and Pascual, A.S. (2005) 'The European Social Model: an exercise in deconstruction', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 15(3), pp.231-245.
- Roberts, I. and Springer, B. *Social Policy in the European Union: Between Harmonisation and National Autonomy*, Boulder, Lynne Reiner, 2001.
- Sinn, H-W and Ochel, W (2003) 'Social Union, convergence and migration', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 41, pp.869-96.
- Threlfall, M. (2003) 'European social integration: harmonization, convergence and the single social area', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 13, pp.121-140.

Seminar Questions:

- 12.11.08 Seminar 1. How have developments in E.U. environment policy contributed to the harmonisation and/or mutual recognition of E.U. social policy, as well as to the overall E.U. integration project?

Readings:

- Borros, S. and Greve, B. (2004) The Open Method of Co-ordination in the European Union, special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11:2 (various articles of interest)
- Geyer, R. *Exploring European Social Policy*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.
- Jordan, A. and Liefferink, D. (eds.) *Environmental Policy in Europe: The Europeanization of National Environmental Policy*, London, Routledge, 2004.
- PLUS:** on harmonisation and mutual recognition see *Readings* for Workshop 2

- 19.11.08. Seminar 2. Assess and evaluate whether E.U. employment and unemployment policy has been guided by principles of harmonisation or mutual recognition for political, social or economic reasons.

Readings:

Begg, I. and Nectoux, F. (1995) 'Social protection and economic union', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 5, pp.285-302.

Gallie, D. (ed.) *Resisting marginalisation: Unemployment experience and social policy in the EU*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004.

Geyer, R. *Exploring European Social Policy*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.

Guillen, A. and Palier, B. (2004) 'Does Europe matter? Accession to EU and social policy developments in recent and new member states', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 14:3, pp.203-209, and other articles in this special issue on *EU Enlargement, Europeanisation and Social Policy*.

Hantrais, L. *Social Policy in the EU*, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).

Kleinman, M. A European Welfare State: European Union Social Policy in context, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2002.

Mosher, J. and Trubek, D. (2003) 'Alternative approaches to governance in the EU: EU Social Policy and the European Employment Strategy', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 4:1, pp.63-88.

Van der Mei (2003) 'Freedom of movement for the unemployed and co-ordination of unemployment benefit schemes', *European Journal of Social Security*, 5:3, pp.214-229.

- 26.11.08. Seminar 3. Has European Union education policy to date been based upon the principle of harmonisation, mutual recognition or convergence? In future should it be more 'cosmopolitan' or more 'communitarian'?

Readings:

Borros, S. and Greve, B. (2004) The Open Method of Co-ordination in the European Union, special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11:2 (various articles of interest)

Guillen, A. and Palier, B. (2004) 'Does Europe matter? Accession to EU and social policy developments in recent and new member states', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 14:3, pp.203-209, and other articles in this special issue on *EU Enlargement, Europeanisation and Social Policy*.

Hantrais, L. *Social Policy in the EU*, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).

- 03.12.08. Seminar 4. Provide empirical evidence to suggest how E.U. immigration and asylum policy can best be theoretically characterised since the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

Readings:

- Borros, S. and Greve, B. (2004) The Open Method of Co-ordination in the European Union, special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11:2 (various articles of interest)
- Cunliffe, A. and Wilton, J. (2006) The Development of a European Asylum Policy in an Expanded European Union, *Migration Online*, May 2006
(www.migrationonline.cz/studies.shtml)
- Guillen, A. and Palier, B. (2004) 'Does Europe matter? Accession to EU and social policy developments in recent and new member states', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 14:3, pp.203-209, and other articles in this special issue on *EU Enlargement, Europeanisation and Social Policy*.
- Hantrais, L. *Social Policy in the EU*, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).
- Roberts, I. and Springer, B. *Social Policy in the European Union: Between Harmonisation and National Autonomy*, Boulder, Lynne Reiner, 2001.
- Schimmelfennig, F. and Sedelmeier, U.. (eds.) *The Europeanisation of Central and Eastern Europe*, Ithaca NY, Cornell University Press, 2005.
- Sinn, H-W and Ochel, W (2003) 'Social Union, convergence and migration', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 41, pp.869-96.
- Threlfall, M. (2003) 'European social integration: harmonization, convergence and the single social area', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 13, pp.121-140.
- Van der Mei (2003) 'Freedom of movement for the unemployed and co-ordination of unemployment benefit schemes', *European Journal of Social Security*, 5:3, pp.214-229.

- 10.12.08. Seminar 5(a) How does the 'gender dimension' of E.U. social policy impact politically upon other E.U. social policy areas? Provide empirical examples of this process.

Readings:

- Borros, S. and Greve, B. (2004) The Open Method of Co-ordination in the European Union, special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11:2 (various articles of interest)
- Castles, F. *The Future of the Welfare State*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Geyer, R. *Exploring European Social Policy*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.
- Guillen, A. and Palier, B. (2004) 'Does Europe matter? Accession to EU and social policy developments in recent and new member states', *Journal of European Social Policy*,

- 14:3, pp.203-209, and other articles in this special issue on *EU Enlargement, Europeanisation and Social Policy*.
- Hantrais, L. ***Social Policy in the EU***, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).
- Kleinman, M. A *European Welfare State: European Union Social Policy in context*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2002.
- Neilson, J. (1998) 'Equal opportunities for women in the European Union: success or failure?', ***Journal of European Social Policy***, 8, pp.64-79.
- Roberts, I. and Springer, B. ***Social Policy in the European Union: Between Harmonisation and National Autonomy***, Boulder, Lynne Reiner, 2001.
- Threlfall, M. (2003) 'European social integration: harmonization, convergence and the single social area', ***Journal of European Social Policy***, 13, pp.121-140.

10.12.08. Seminar 5(b) What are the political consequences for E.U. social policy of the 'demographic time bomb'?

Readings:

- Geyer, R. ***Exploring European Social Policy***, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.
- Guillen, A. and Palier, B. (2004) 'Does Europe matter? Accession to EU and social policy developments in recent and new member states', ***Journal of European Social Policy***, 14:3, pp.203-209, and other articles in this special issue on *EU Enlargement, Europeanisation and Social Policy*.
- Hantrais, L. ***Social Policy in the EU***, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).
- Kleinman, M. A *European Welfare State: European Union Social Policy in context*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2002.
- Mosher, J. and Trubek, D. (2003) 'Alternative approaches to governance in the EU: EU Social Policy and the European Employment Strategy', ***Journal of Common Market Studies***, 4:1, pp.63-88.
- Roberts, I. and Springer, B. ***Social Policy in the European Union: Between Harmonisation and National Autonomy***, Boulder, Lynne Reiner, 2001.
- Threlfall, M. (2003) 'European social integration: harmonization, convergence and the single social area', ***Journal of European Social Policy***, 13, pp.121-140.

Course Assessment

- a) **Attendance:** 80% attendance at lectures (at least 8) and at the seminars/workshops (at least 6) is a requirement to pass this course.
- b) **Seminar Presentation:** All students will be required to participate in a verbal seminar presentation in English as a requirement to pass the course. The seminar presentation can be made individually or as part of a group presentation.
- c) **Essay** (maximum 2000 words/6 sides of A4 paper)

Deadline: Monday 12 January 2009. To be submitted by email or through the Masaryk University Information System

Students will be required to submit an essay in answer to ***one*** of the questions shown below. The essay must be of a maximum of 2,000 words/6 sides of A4 paper, be typewritten, fully properly referenced, and include a full bibliography.

- (i) In ***at least two*** E.U. social policy areas compare and contrast empirically and theoretically the political impact within the E.U. integration project of E.U. social policy development.
- (ii) Can European Union social policy be described politically as both *Europeanised* and *regionalised*? Provide empirical examples of E.U. social policy to justify your arguments

Texts

Students are referred to a range of journal, book and internet texts. These include:

Books

Hantrais provides a useful introductory overview, and is useful for a range of E.U. social policy areas covered in the course. Kleinman addresses some broader issues concerning the role of social policy in the E.U. Kleinman (Ch.7) also examines the pressures created for EU social policy by rising levels of unemployment and changes in Labour Market policies. Richardson (Ch.3) examines 'Europeanisation', as well as Regions and the E.U. social policy process (Ch.13). Featherstone and Radaelli also examine the politics of 'Europeanisation'. Hantrais outlines EU strategies for promoting equal opportunities and gender policies in the social policy arena. Castles considers the importance of 'family friendly' policies, particularly useful for gender policy analysis.

Castles, F. ***The Future of the Welfare State***, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004.

Featherstone, K. and Radaelli, C. (eds.) ***The Politics of Europeanization***, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Gallie, D. (ed.) ***Resisting marginalisation: Unemployment experience and social policy in the EU***, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004.

Geyer, R. ***Exploring European Social Policy***, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.

Hantrais, L. ***Social Policy in the EU***, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 2007 (Third edition) (or Second edition, 2000).

- Jones, C. (ed.) *New Perspectives on the Welfare State in Europe*, London, Routledge, 1993 (especially Liebfried, S. 'Towards a European Welfare State?')
- Jordan, A. and Liefferink, D. (eds.) *Environmental Policy in Europe: The Europeanization of National Environmental Policy*, London, Routledge, 2004.
- Kleinman, M. *A European Welfare State: European Union Social Policy in context*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2002.
- McCormick, J. *Understanding the European Union* (Third Edition), Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2005.
- Richardson, J. (ed.) *European Union. Power and policy-making* (Third edition), Oxford, Routledge, 2006. (or Second Edition, 2001)
- Roberts, I. and Springer, B. *Social Policy in the European Union: Between Harmonisation and National Autonomy*, Boulder, Lynne Reiner, 2001.
- Rosamond, B. *Theories Of European Integration*, Basingstoke, Palgrave, 2000
- Salais, R. and Villeneuve, R. (eds.) *Europe and the politics of capabilities*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 2004
- Schimmelfennig, F. and Sedelmeier, U.. (eds.) *The Europeanisation of Central and Eastern Europe*, Ithaca NY, Cornell University Press, 2005.

Journal Articles

- Begg, I. and Nectoux, F. (1995) 'Social protection and economic union', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 5, pp.285-302.
- Borros, S. and Greve, B. (2004) The Open Method of Co-ordination in the European Union, special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11:2 (various articles of interest)
- Cunliffe, A. and Wilton, J. (2006) The Development of a European Asylum Policy in an Expanded European Union, *Migration Online*, May 2006 (www.migrationonline.cz/studies.shtml)
- Guillen, A. and Palier, B. (2004) 'Does Europe matter? Accession to EU and social policy developments in recent and new member states', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 14:3, pp.203-209, and other articles in this special issue on *EU Enlargement, Europeanisation and Social Policy*.
- Jepsen, M. and Pascual, A.S. (2005) 'The European Social Model: an exercise in deconstruction', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 15(3), pp.231-245.
- Mosher, J. and Trubek, D. (2003) 'Alternative approaches to governance in the EU: EU Social Policy and the European Employment Strategy', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 4:1, pp.63-88.
- Neilson, J. (1998) 'Equal opportunities for women in the European Union: success or failure?', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 8, pp.64-79.
- Sinn, H-W and Ochel, W (2003) 'Social Union, convergence and migration', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 41, pp.869-96.
- Threlfall, M. (2003) 'European social integration: harmonization, convergence and the single social area', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 13, pp.121-140.
- Van der Mei (2003) 'Freedom of movement for the unemployed and co-ordination of unemployment benefit schemes', *European Journal of Social Security*, 5:3, pp.214-229.
- Vobruba, G. (2003) 'The enlargement crisis of the European Union: limits of the dialectics of integration and expansion', *Journal of European Social Policy*, 13 (1), pp.35-48, and responses by M. Bach and M. Rhodes.

Journals

Environmental Politics

European Union Politics

European Political Science

Journal of Common Market Studies

Journal of European Social Policy (the 'European Briefing' section of this journal is very useful for up-to-date EU developments)

Journal of European Public Policy

Migration Online (www.migrationonline.cz/studies.shtml)

Internet

<http://www.cec.org.uk>

<http://www.ecsa.org>

<http://europa.eu.int>

<http://ibeurope.eu.int>

<http://www.ieep.org.uk>

<http://www.policylibrary.com>

John Wilton

01.09.08