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41
42
43

EMERGING TRENDS IN SOCIAL POLICY FROM THE SOUTH

Challenges and Innovations in Emerging Economies

Edited by
Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch and Kelly Stetter



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Contents

1			
2			
3			
4	Series Editors' Preface		vii
5	List of Figures and Tables		ix
6	Notes on Contributors		x
7			
8	Introduction: New Social Policy Trends and Innovations		1
9	<i>Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch and Kelly Stetter</i>		
10	1 The Globalizing Dynamics of Social Policy: A Transnational		20
11	Analytics Of and For Southern Social Policy		
12	<i>Nicola Yeates</i>		
13	2 Institutional–Evolutionary Analysis and Industry-Based		41
14	Methods in Social Policy		
15	<i>Smita Srinivas</i>		
16	3 Incorporating Informal Workers in Twenty-First-Century		63
17	Social Contracts		
18	<i>Rina Agarwala</i>		
19	4 Universal Welfare Design in a New Age: Equality versus Equity		85
20	in the Debate about Universal Basic Income Policies and		
21	Health in Society		
22	<i>Louise Haagh</i>		
23	5 The South African Mining Sector: Exploring the Dynamics		114
24	of the Social, Economic and Environmental Policy Nexus		
25	<i>Sophie Plagerson and Lauren Stuart</i>		
26	6 The Rights-Based Approach to Social Policy in India:		137
27	Innovations, Advances and Setbacks		
28	<i>Sanjay Ruparelia</i>		
29	7 Incorporating Informal Workers into Social Insurance		161
30	in Tanzania		
31	<i>Roosa Lambin and Milla Nyysölä</i>		
32	8 Economic Growth, Youth Unemployment and Political and		186
33	Social Instability: A Study of Policies and Outcomes in		
34	Post-Arab Spring Egypt, Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia		
35	<i>Heath J. Prince, Amna Khan and Yara A. Halasa-Rappel</i>		
36	9 Global Development Actors and Country Ownership in		209
37	Indonesian Social Policy Making		
38	<i>Alexandra Kaasch and Brooke Wilmsen</i>		
39	10 New Actors and New Systems in Aged Care Services		230
40	in China		
41	<i>Bingqin Li, Lijie Fang, Bo Hu and Jing Wang</i>		
42			
43			

1	11	NGOs in the Context of the Reform of Social Services	248
2		in Russia	
3		<i>Linda J. Cook and Elena Iarskaia-Smirnova</i>	
4		Conclusion: Toward New Social Policies for Transformation	268
5		<i>Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch and Kelly Stetter</i>	
6			
7	Index		275
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
31			
32			
33			
34			
35			
36			
37			
38			
39			
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41			
42			
43			

Series Editors' Preface

Heejung Chung (University of Kent, UK)

Alexandra Kaasch (University of Bielefeld, Germany)

Stefan Kühner (Lingnan University, Hong Kong)

In a world that is rapidly changing, increasingly connected and uncertain, there is a need to develop a shared applied policy analysis of welfare regimes around the globe. *Research in Comparative and Global Social Policy* is a series of books that addresses broad questions around how nation states and transnational policy actors manage globally shared challenges. In so doing, the book series includes a wide array of contributions, which discuss comparative social policy history, development and reform within a broad international context. The book series invites innovative research by leading experts on all world-regions and global social policy actors and aims to fulfil the following objectives: it encourages cross-disciplinary approaches that develop theoretical frameworks reaching across individual world-regions and global actors; it seeks to provide evidence-based good practice examples that cross the bridge between academic research and practice; not least, it aims to provide a platform in which a wide range of innovative methodological approaches, may it be national case studies, larger-N comparative studies, or global social policy studies can be introduced to aid the evaluation, design and implementation of future social policies.

The edited collection by Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch and Kelly Stetter makes an excellent contribution to our series. It sheds light on innovative solutions, new approaches and novel experiences in the Global South – while posing the question what it means to be *novel* or *transformative*. More specifically, this book asks where to look for new inspiration in social policy making, and what actors or factors to study. The selection of case studies reflects an encompassing take on social problems and global crises to which social policies respond using a wide range of different countries in different world-regions that are not frequently explored in the study of social policy. Taken together, these case studies, as well as the more conceptual chapters, allow for a truly new and global perspective on what can be studied and learned from countries of the Global South that goes way beyond “South-to-South” learning and exchange.

The researchers and authors involved in this volume are heterogeneous and spread across the globe. They are all renowned social policy scholars and experts on various aspects of social policy development and they bring unique insights in their specific country cases. In highlighting six specific

1 trends, the contributors to this volume seek out innovative approaches by
2 not just looking for and commenting on common categories in social policy
3 research, but looking at countries of the Global South with interest and
4 curiosity in what new phenomena can be and must be observed, especially
5 when we go beyond the traditional Western-centric approaches of the welfare
6 state analysis. Through such perspectives the key roles of non-state actors,
7 the meanings of supranational social policies, and the active roles of informal
8 workers in shaping social policies, among other findings, are revealed. There
9 is also a close connection between public policies, development policies
10 and social policies explored in some of the chapters that give an idea about
11 alternative ways of studying and understanding contemporary social policies.

12 Another speciality of this book is how it connects the worlds of
13 international organizations with those of university researchers. In that
14 way, the contextualization and questions provided in this volume are
15 closely connected to the agendas of international social and development
16 policies, while drawing also on the conceptual and theoretical knowledge
17 of researchers from academia. On that basis, the conclusions drawn here are
18 also able to connect issues of promising social policy reform (connected to
19 policy advice) with more nuanced ways to do research on social policies in
20 a global context. Finally, this book contributes to one of our book series'
21 goals of decolonizing academia by going beyond the stories and perspectives
22 of the Global North and Western European countries. This edition provides
23 more evidence to show how providing space and elevating diverse voices and
24 cases in the study of social policy allows us a better understanding of global
25 challenges and potential solutions, enhancing academic knowledge overall.

26 We are very pleased to have this book in our series, and we hope you
27 enjoy reading it.
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38
39
40
41
42
43

List of Figures and Tables

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

Figures

2.1	The modified triad with spatial–institutional–evolutionary features	52
3.1	Informal workers' movements across employment relationships	78
4.1	Basic income, equality and health equality—the 'problem'	93
4.2	Political security of well-being, the state and human economy	95
4.3	Dimensions of human development states: early neoliberal globalization	96
4.4	Dimensions of human development states: late neoliberal globalization	97
5.1	Public policy and mining legislation documents	117
7.1	Main legislative reforms and formal insurance arrangements (1995 onwards)	172
8.1	Real wage growth: 2000–2015	200
11.1	Number registered in Russia's state databank of children left without parental care 2006–2016 (thousands)	262

Tables

1.1	Regional social policy instruments and examples from five continents	32
2.1	A triad framework of institutional bases of labour entitlements	47
4A.1	Structure of cooperative public finance: public revenue scores and levels	106
4A.2	Public spending on human development	108
7.1	Examples of social insurance arrangements for the informal sector in sub-Saharan Africa	166
7.2	Social insurance schemes in Tanzania as of 2021	174
8.1	Secondary and tertiary school completion rates: 2003–2016	190
8.2	Youth labour force participation rates in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia: 1990–2019	191
8.3	GDP per capita in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia: 1991, 2000, 2010 and 2014 in USD	191
8.4	New labour market entrants, new postsecondary graduates and approximate jobs added 2014	194
8.5	Select obstacles to firm growth: percentage of employers indicating obstacle, 2013	201
8.6	Labour market panel survey of youth, percentage indicating reason for unemployment	202
11.1	Socially oriented non-commercial organizations (SONPOs) in the Russian Federation and selected regions 2015–2016	254

Notes on Contributors

1
2
3
4
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6
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