

**Welfare regimes in the era of activation:
Old wine in new bottles or path-breaking
change?**

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Why this paper?

- Theoretical framework for analysing the effects of activation on different levels: welfare culture – welfare institutions – social stratification
- “Blueprint” for identifying new and/or ambiguous trends (more nuanced perspective)
- Linking cultural and institutional changes with their likely socio-structural effects → how are the life chances of citizens affected in the long run?

The framework (A): welfare regimes

- Welfare-cultural traditions:

focus on images of ‘man’ and the state,
in religion and state-building processes
century);

roots
(16th

- Welfare-institutional traditions:

focus on state’s role and instruments in “harmonizing
societal relations”
(19th century)

Four welfare-cultural traditions

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE	Alliance of church and state (religion fosters state expansion)	Friction between church and state (religion constrains state expansion)	
Protestantism strong	Nordic Europe	Anglo-Saxon world	<i>The citizen as an individual</i> <i>The neutral state</i>
Catholicism strong	Continental Europe	Southern Europe	<i>The citizen as a family member</i> <i>The partisan state</i>
	<i>State as active, trans- formative societal force</i> <i>Welfare as solidarity</i>	<i>State as passive, reactionary societal force</i> <i>Welfare as charity</i>	WELFARE CULTURE

Four welfare-institutional traditions

WELFARE CULTURE	Solidarism (the active state)	Residualism (the passive state)	
Liberalism (the active citizen)	Nordic Europe	Anglo-Saxon world	<i>Universal protection (social assistance)</i> <i>Separation of public & private welfare provision</i>
Conservatism (the passive citizen)	Continental Europe	Southern Europe	<i>Selective protection (social insurance)</i> <i>Concertation of public & private welfare provision</i>
	<i>Strong welfare state</i> → <i>welfare monopoly</i> <i>High redistribution</i>	<i>Weak welfare state</i> → <i>welfare dualism</i> <i>Low redistribution</i>	WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

Social stratification effects

STRATIFICATION EFFECTS	Economically transformative (reduction of economic inequality)	Economically conservative (preservation of economic inequality)	
Socially transformative (reduction of social exclusion)	Nordic Europe	Anglo-Saxon world	<i>Liberalism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on individual / Universal protection ▪ Neutral state / Public-private separation
Socially conservative (preservation of social exclusion)	Continental Europe	Southern Europe	<i>Conservatism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on family / Selective protection ▪ Partisan state / Public-private concertation
	<i>Solidarism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong welfare state / Welfare monopoly ▪ Welfare as solidarity / High redistribution 	<i>Residualism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weak welfare state / Welfare dualism ▪ Welfare as charity / Low redistribution 	WELFARE CULTURE – WELFARE INSTITUTIONS NEXUS

Enter activation...

- What type of activation would we expect in different welfare regimes?
- Which socio-structural effects would ensue when de-facto activation strategies depart from this blueprint?

The framework (B): activation regimes

STRATIFICATION EFFECTS	Economically transformative (reduction of economic inequality)	Economically conservative (preservation of economic inequality)	
Socially transformative (reduction of social exclusion)	Nordic Europe	Anglo-Saxon world	<i>Liberalism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activation-prone (focus on individual) ▪ Universal activation ▪ Hierarchical steering
Socially conservative (preservation of social exclusion)	Continental Europe	Southern Europe	<i>Conservatism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activation-averse (focus on social groups) ▪ Selective activation ▪ Network steering
	<i>Solidarism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activation-prone (proactive state) ▪ Activation as human investment ▪ State dominance 	<i>Residualism:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activation-averse (passive state) ▪ Activation as 'workfare' ▪ Public-private dualism 	ACTIVATION REGIME

Conclusions

- Inherent elements of activation as a ‘policy paradigm’: liberal tendencies (focus on individual), conservative tendencies (paternalistic state)
- Human investment / workfare approaches as potentially yielding subversive social stratification effects
- Implementation as crucial factor (local level)!



Thank you
for your attention!