

FEMINA POLITICA

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR FEMINISTISCHE POLITIKWISSENSCHAFT

Call for Papers

Issue 2/2017

Care, Social Investment and the Welfare State (Working title)

Many European societies and their respective welfare states, previously organised around modern breadwinner systems, can now be characterised as adult worker models with the assumption of two (full-time) workers. In response to globalised markets and international competitiveness, since the mid-1990s, a social investment approach to the welfare state maintenance has been evident. The core elements of a Social Investment approach include human capital activated as labour market actors across the life course. Welfare states policies underpinned by Social Investment models emphasise therefore the facilitation of employment by investing in early childhood education, extending childcare for those of under three years, all-day schools, activation of the unemployed, lifelong learning as well as prevention. Similarly, ('private') care for sick or elderly people and children is approached from this perspective: short parental leave with high replacement ratios or short-term care are favoured, with the goal of allowing for a quick job return. Combined with well-developed care infrastructure, incentives for having children shall remain if not increase, in particular for 'German' academics – triggering pictures of a welfare state lacking new generations.

A core assumption undergirding Social investment perspectives is the merit in increasing female labour market participation. Under this model, employment is considered a pathway to economic independence for women and for greater gender equality. To enable greater female labour force participation care work (previously the unpaid remit of women) has been increasingly marketized. This marketization of care work, however, still requires the unpaid care work of women and when commoditised, it remains poorly paid, with working conditions often precarious and partly assumed by female migrants. Under the Social Investment model, despite the marketization of care and state efforts to subsidize care, care work - paid and unpaid - remains a female-dominated terrain.

Nancy Fraser has called for the recognition and redistribution of care work as a prerequisite for a gender-equal society: a partial redistribution from private to public care work has to some extent taken place and in recent social policy measures (long-term

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care insurance and nursing care, parental leave and parental allowance, etc.) include some elements of recognition while maintaining a gendered division of labour in care. State approaches to care have not worked to fundamentally shift the requirement for a market income and the assumption of the careless worker in order maintain social status and security. In fact, policies towards care work are open to different motives, for example, the highly controversial debate around 'care allowances' can either be interpreted as a revolutionary reorientation (payment of private care) or as a conservative preservation of traditional family and gender stereotypes.

How, then, would a future welfare state that is both gender-friendly and socially just approach the issue of care work? What kinds of policies and approaches could reconcile the public and private dimensions shaping care? ? What are the possibilities for redistribution and recognition? We invite contributions that deal with the following topics and questions:

- How can care be theorised? Is private and public care work analytically the same? Can care only be traced and analysed in the context of gender relations? Shall/Should political science at all concern itself with care?
- How did the regulation of care in the welfare state change over time (Keynesian, neoliberal, social investment)? Can we speak of a change in care regimes, and if so, which (new) paradigms are apparent? Which concepts about gender and family can be identified in care policies? How can we trace changes in gender relations theoretically and empirically that speak to Fraser's concepts of redistribution and recognition?
- What is the relationship between work and care regarding social security, cultural recognition, etc.? How can (working) conditions of care work be improved and by whom?
- What are the effects of intersecting migration and gender relations in the care sector? What role do global care chains play in child care, and the care of sick people or those generally in need of care?
- Which national and international political processes for the regulation and safeguarding of care work and care workers exist and which aims are pursued? In particular, how did the EU influence (national) Social Investment Policy, expanding care facilities and the tightening of the activation paradigm? How did different member states interpret and elaborate these policies?

Abstracts and contact

Diana Auth and Clarissa Rudolph are the guest editors for this special issue and will be supported by *Femina Politica* co-editor Alexandra Scheele. Abstracts of one or two pages should be sent to diana.auth@fh-bielefeld.de and clarissa.ru-dolph@oth-regensburg.de by **November 30, 2016**. As a feminist journal promoting women inside and outside academia *Femina Politica* will prioritise qualified abstracts by women.

Submission Deadline for Contributions

The editors will select contributions from the abstracts and invite authors to submit full papers until **December 16, 2016**. The deadline for manuscripts between 35,000 and 40,000 characters (including spaces, notes, and bibliography), prepared for anonymous double-blind review, is **March 15, 2017**. Information concerning the au-

thor should only be given on the title page. All manuscripts are reviewed by external reviewers (double blind) and editors. The reviews will be returned by **May 15, 2017**. The final selection will be based on the full-length paper. The deadline for the final version is **July 15, 2017**.

Open Section *Forum*

In addition to the topic of (*Issue Title*), this issue of *Femina Politica* provides the opportunity to publish original manuscripts from the field of gender-sensitive political science in the journal's section *Forum*. Articles should be between 20,000 and 25,000 characters (including spaces, notes, and biography) and should either provide access to important research findings or be involved in contemporary debates in feminist research. Abstracts of one or two pages should be sent to redaktion@femina-politica.de. The final selection will be based on the full-length paper.

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