

Welfare Attitudes in a Changing Europe

Presentation of HumVIB
program, Dublin, 2 Oct 2008

Team (PIs)

- Stefan Svallfors, Department of Sociology, Umeå University (PL, PI1)
- Helena Blomberg, Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki (PI2)
- Olli Kangas, Social Insurance Institution of Finland (PI2)
- Clem Brooks, Department of Sociology, Indiana University (PI3)
- Steffen Mau, Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bremen (PI4)
- Luis Moreno, Centre of Human and Social Sciences, Spanish National Research Council (PI5)
- Wim van Oorschot, Department of Sociology, Tilburg University (PI6)
- Ruud Luijkx, Department of Sociology, Tilburg University (PI6)
- Christian Staerklé, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne, (PI7)

Team composition

- Different disciplines
- European variety and beyond
- Mixture of senior scholars, PostDocs and PhD students (11+4+3)

Objectives/Aims

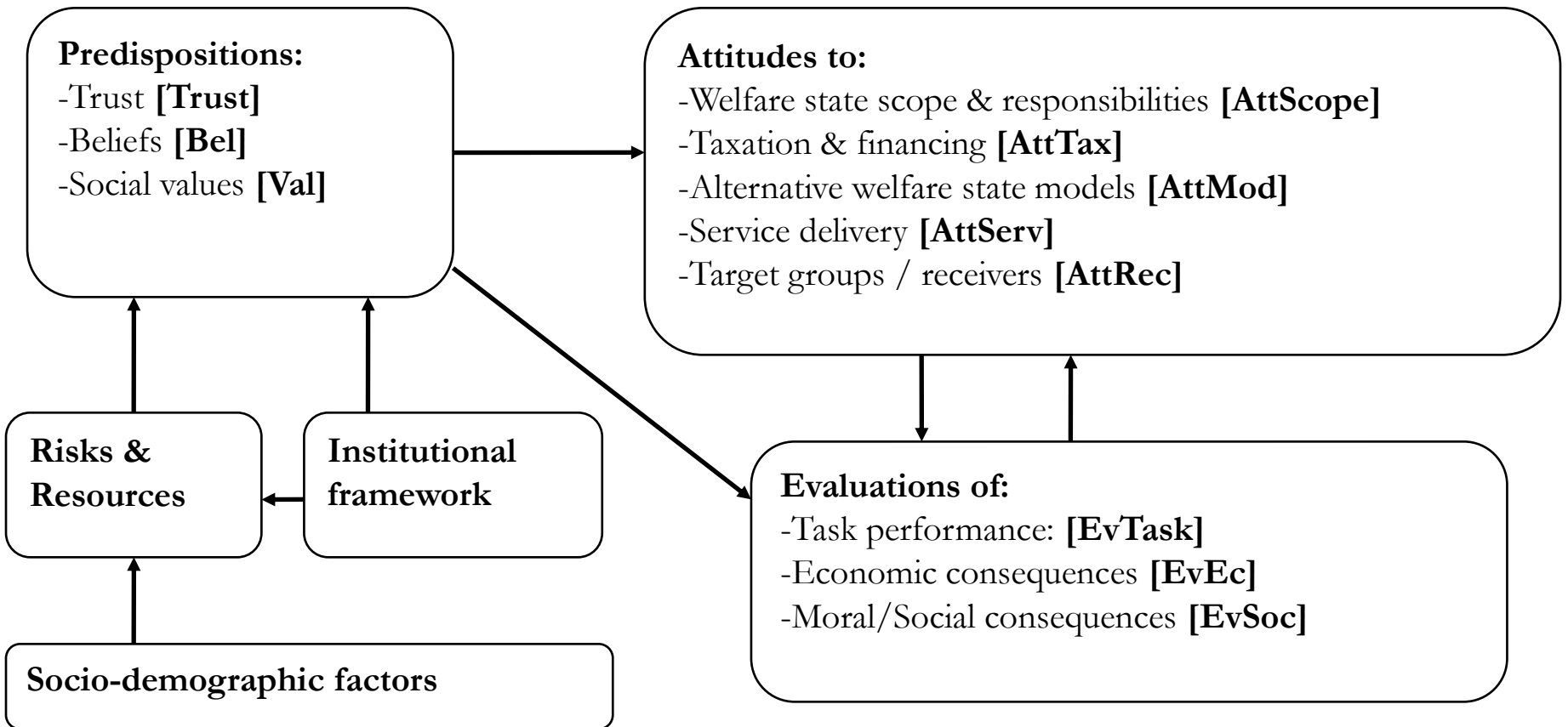
- A comprehensive research programme on citizens' attitudes towards welfare policies across European countries
- Focus on the interactions between individual welfare attitudes and behaviour, institutional contexts and structural variables
- Input to the interdisciplinary field of comparative studies of welfare state attitudes
- Critical insights for the public legitimacy of welfare state reform
- The effects of different forms of diversity: ethnic, social, institutional

What is added?

Analyses that...

- combine individual-level attitudinal data with country-level data on the institutional set-up of welfare policies;
- are more firmly based in welfare state theory;
- more clearly specify the relevant dependent variables that may reveal variations between different institutional and cultural environments;
- use data that are comparable across a larger number of countries.

Model of welfare attitudes



IPs

- *Age and Class – Competing Cleavages in an Ageing Europe? (PI Stefan Svallfors)*
- *Popular and street level bureaucrats' attitudes to welfare policies (PIs Helena Blomberg & Olli Kangas)*
- *U.S. Welfare attitudes in cross-national perspective (PI Clem Brooks)*
- *Ethnic Diversity and Welfare State Solidarity (PI Steffen Mau)*
- *Multi-level governance and attitudes to the welfare state in Europe (PI Luis Moreno)*
- *The evaluation of welfare state performance by the European public (PIs Wim van Oorschot & Ruud Luijkx)*
- *Welfare attitudes as responses to perceived risks and threats (PI Christian Staerklé)*

IPs

- *Age and Class – Competing Cleavages in an Ageing Europe? (PI Stefan Svallfors)*
 - development over time of age and class differences in welfare attitudes
 - variation across countries in the age-attitudes and the class-attitudes nexus
 - what macro-factors explain variations?
- *Popular and street level bureaucrats' attitudes to welfare policies (PIs Helena Blomberg & Olli Kangas)*
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- *Popular and street level bureaucrats' attitudes to welfare policies (PIs Helena Blomberg & Olli Kangas)*
 - what affects/explains attitudes among and towards 'high risk groups'?*
 - how and why do attitudes among welfare state professionals vary across countries – and differ from the general population?*
- *U.S. Welfare attitudes in cross-national perspective (PI Clem Brooks)*
- *Ethnic Diversity and Welfare State Solidarity (PI Steffen Mau)*
- *Multi-level governance and attitudes to the welfare state in Europe (PI Luis Moreno)*
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- *Popular and street level bureaucrats' attitudes to welfare policies (PIs Helena Blomberg & Olli Kangas)*
- *U.S. Welfare attitudes in cross-national perspective (PI Clem Brooks)*
 - how and why are welfare attitudes in the US different from Europe?*
 - what effects do framing and sponsorship have on welfare attitudes?*
- *Ethnic Diversity and Welfare State Solidarity (PI Steffen Mau)*
- *Multi-level governance and attitudes to the welfare state in Europe (PI Luis Moreno)*
- *The evaluation of welfare state performance by the European public (PIs Wim van Oorschot & Ruud Luijkx)*
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- *U.S. Welfare attitudes in cross-national perspective (PI Clem Brooks)*
- *Ethnic Diversity and Welfare State Solidarity (PI Steffen Mau)*
 - how do attitudes towards the integration of immigrants into the welfare state vary across policy regimes?*
 - what macro-factors explain variations?*
- *Multi-level governance and attitudes to the welfare state in Europe (PI Luis Moreno)*
- *The evaluation of welfare state performance by the European public (PIs Wim van Oorschot & Ruud Luijkx)*
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- *Ethnic Diversity and Welfare State Solidarity (PI Steffen Mau)*
- *Multi-level governance and attitudes to the welfare state in Europe (PI Luis Moreno)*
 - how does attitudes to welfare provisions at different levels of government vary across Europe?
 - how does regional/local location affect attitudes towards welfare arrangements in different policy regimes?
- *The evaluation of welfare state performance by the European public (PIs Wim van Oorschot & Ruud Luijkx)*
- *Welfare attitudes as responses to perceived risks and threats (PI Christian Staerklé)*

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- *Multi-level governance and attitudes to the welfare state in Europe (PI Luis Moreno)*
- *The evaluation of welfare state performance by the European public (PIs Wim van Oorschot & Ruud Luijkx)*
 - how do people's evaluation of the effects and task performance of the welfare state vary across European countries?*
 - what individual and contextual factors explain variations in welfare state evaluations?*
- *Welfare attitudes as responses to perceived risks and threats (PI Christian Staerklé)*

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- *Welfare attitudes as responses to perceived risks and threats (PI Christian Staerklé)*
 - to what extent are welfare attitudes a response to perceived risks and threats?
 - what macro-level factors explain national variations in the relationship risk/threat – attitudes?
 - what is the relation between welfare attitudes and attitudes towards disciplinary government?

Data bases

- ESS2008 (fielded Sep 2008-Jan 2009)
- Extension of ESS2008 to the US (fielded 2009) – including comparative framing/sponsorship experiments
- Comparative study of welfare state professionals (fielded 2009)
- ISSP 1990, 1996, 2006
- National surveys of welfare attitudes
- *European Data Centre for Work and Welfare* (EDAC) – macrodata

Methods

- Various versions of multi-level models (HLM)
- Not all substantive eggs in the same methodological basket

Target outcomes

- A joint booklength volume
 - a standard work for the field
 - state-of-the-art analyses
 - based on ESS2008
 - joint object/focus
- 3 PhD theses
- About 25 papers for publication

Timetable/Milestones

- (Jun 2007 – Aug 2008 Construction, pre-test and translation of the new welfare module of ESS4)
- (April 2008 EDAC data bank website operational)
- Sep 2008 – Feb 2009 Data collection ESS4
- **1 Jan 2009 Start of WAE Project**
- Mar 2009 – Jun 2009 Preliminary data analyses
- Sep 2009 Official ESS data release
- Dec 2009 Methodological and thematic workshops
- June 2010 Workshop to present drafts for forthcoming joint volume
- Spring 2011 Conference with invited commentators
- Fall 2011 Final version of joint volume
- 31 Dec 2011 Closing of WAE project

Teaming arrangements

- 8 meetings
- Many of them focused on the joint volume
- Interim meetings to discuss other papers
- WAE kick-off meeting, Tilburg, 26-27 January – including multi-level analysis seminar

