

**Professor Roberto Rizza**  
**SOCIOLOGY**

## **Inequality and the Welfare State**

These seminars offer a comprehensive overview of major approaches and current debates in the field of inequality and the welfare state. Through both theoretical frameworks and empirical findings, students will explore crucial topics including social stratification, gender imbalances and paradoxes, and the ecological and green transition.

Active participation is essential: students are expected to engage fully with the assigned readings and to take the lead in presenting and discussing at least two articles during the course, according to the seminar schedule. Each presentation should last about 20 minutes, followed by a 10–15 minute discussion. The final assessment will be based on the presentation and discussion of the assigned readings.

### **THEME 1: Welfare state and inequality 25/03/25 (15-17)**

Welfare state, inequality, and redistribution: an overview

### **THEME 2: Welfare state, inequality and stratification 01/04/25 (15-17)**

Esping-Andersen, G., Myles, J. (2011). Economic Inequality and the Welfare State. In Nolan, B., Salverda W., Smeeding, T.M. (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality*. Oxford  
Doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199606061.013.0025

Palme, J. (2006), Welfare states and inequality: Institutional designs and distributive outcome. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 24 (4), 387-403.  
Doi: 10.1016/j.rssm.2006.10.004.

Esping-Andersen, G. (2015). Welfare regimes and social stratification. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25(1), 124–134.

[Doi: 10.1177/0958928714556976](https://doi.org/10.1177/0958928714556976)

Oesch, D. (2015). Welfare regimes and change in the employment structure: Britain, Denmark and Germany since 1990. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25(1), 94–110.

Doi: 10.1177/0958928714556972

### **THEME 3: Welfare state and gender inequalities 08/04/25 (15-17)**

Orloff A. (1993), Gender and the social rights of citizenship: the comparative analysis of gender relations and welfare states. *American Sociological Review*, 58 (3), 303-328.

Doi: 10.2307/2095903

Lewis, J. (1992). Gender and the Development of Welfare Regimes. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 2(3), 159–173.

[doi:10.1177/095892879200200301](https://doi.org/10.1177/095892879200200301)

### **THEME 4: The Welfare State Paradox and Beyond 15/04/25 (15-17)**

Mandel H., Semyonov M. (2006), A welfare state paradox: state interventions and women's employment opportunities in 22 countries. *American Journal of Sociology*, 111 (6). 1910-1949.

Doi: 10.1086/499912

Korpi W. et al. (2013), Women's opportunities under different family policies constellations: gender, class, and equality tradeoffs in western countries re-examined. *Social Politics*, 20 (1)1–40.  
Doi: 10.1093/sp/jxs028

Scherer, S., & Pavolini, E. (2023). Equalizing or not? Public childcare and women's labour market participation. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 0(0).  
Doi:10.1177/09589287231183169

### **THEME 5: Climate change and welfare state 17/04/25 (11-13)**

Gough, I. (2013). Carbon Mitigation Policies, Distributional Dilemmas and Social Policies. *Journal of Social Policy*, 42(2), 191-213.  
Doi:10.1017/S0047279412001018

Hasanaj, V. (2023). The shift towards an eco-welfare state: Growing stronger together. *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*, 39(1), 42-63.  
Doi: 10.1017/ics.2023.2

Parth, A.-M., & Vlandas, T. (2022). The welfare state and support for environmental action in Europe. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 32(5), 531–547.  
Doi:10.1177/09589287221115657

## **Presentation Assignments: (P) Presenters and (D) Discussants**

### **THEME 2: Welfare state, inequality and stratification (01/04/25)**

- P: Francesca Carimando: Esping-Andersen & Myles (2011) D: Ferdinando Lombardi Vallauri
- P: Diana Planida: Palme (2006) D: Alberto La Malfa
- P: Insaf Dimassi: Esping-Andersen (2015) D: Lorenzo Eaco
- P: Lorenzo Eaco: Oesch (2015) D: Francesca Carimando

### **THEME 3: Welfare state and gender inequalities (08/04/25)**

- P: Alberto La Malfa: Orloff (1993) D: Diana Planida
- P: Ferdinando Lombardi Vallauri: Lewis (1992) D: Insaf Dimassi

### **THEME 4: The Welfare State Paradox and Beyond (15/04/25)**

- P: Francesca Carimando: Mandel & Semyonov (2006) D: Lorenzo Eaco
- P: Diana Planida: Korpi et al. (2013) D: Ferdinando Lombardi Vallauri
- P: Insaf Dimassi: Scherer & Pavolini (2023) D: Alberto La Malfa

### **THEME 5: Climate change and welfare state (17/04/25)**

- P: Lorenzo Eaco: Gough (2013) D: Insaf Dimassi
- P: Alberto La Malfa: Hasanaj (2023) D: Francesca Carimando
- P: Ferdinando Lombardi Vallauri: Parth & Vlandas (2022) D: Diana Planida

## General Aspects to Stress

For Presentations:

1. Key Arguments & Findings
    - What is the main argument or research question?
    - What methodology is used?
    - What are the main findings and conclusions?
  2. Theoretical Framework
    - Which theories or models are applied (e.g., welfare regime theory, gender stratification theory)?
    - How do they contribute to understanding the topic?
  3. Comparative & Historical Perspectives
    - How do findings relate to different countries, periods, or policy contexts?
  4. Strengths & Limitations
    - Are there methodological weaknesses or biases?
    - Are the arguments well-supported by evidence?
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For Discussions:

1. Critical Reflection & Debates
  - Do you agree or disagree with the authors' arguments? Why?
  - Are there alternative explanations or theories that could apply?
2. Policy & Real-World Implications
  - How do these findings relate to current welfare policies?
  - Can we apply these insights to ongoing social issues ?
3. Interdisciplinary Links
  - How do these arguments connect to other disciplines (political science and comparative politics, economics and labour economics, social history, international relations, environmental studies)?