SOS2603 - Nordic welfare society - contemporary perspectives

Fall 2016

Preliminary revised syllabus March 31, 2016. (Final will be ready by April 4.)

Readings

[Key: @ – available online, * – compendium, § – added 2016]

Aug ?. Norden, Scandinavia, "Sonerweg", "model" – an introduction to the course (Mjøset)


Sept ?. Comparative European demography: Fertility woes and family changes I (Lyngstad)

@ Coleman, D. 2006. “Europe's demographic future: Determinants, Dimensions and Challenges”, Population and Development Review 32(S1): 52-95 (43p) [available online]


@ Hoem, J.M. 2005. “Why does Sweden have such high fertility?”, Demographic Research 13(22): 559-572. (13p) [available online]

@ Kiernan K. 2004. “Unmarried cohabitation and parenthood in Europe”, Law & Policy 26(1):33-55. (22p) [available online]


[New readings from Torkild Lyngstad on Monday April 4]

Sept ?. Comparative European demography: Fertility woes and family changes II

(See readings above.)

Sept ?. *Historical background and overview of the Nordic models of socio-economic development (Mjøset)*


Sept ? (Fall break no lectures)

Oct ?. *Welfare state typologies (Mjøset)*


Oct ?. Welfare states and gender segregation (Birkeland)

Oct ?. Family, Work and Gender Equality: Politicising Parenthood in Scandinavia (Ellingsæter)

Oct ?. Immigration and the Nordic welfare state. Citizenship policies in Scandinavia (Hagelund)

Nov ?. Educational systems in the Nordic area (Mjøset)


Nov 2012. Equality and power in working life (Hagen)


Nov 2013. Socioeconomic integration among immigrants and their descendents – empirical patterns and potential implications (Hermansen)

* Fangen, Katrine (2010) “Social Exclusion and Inclusion of Young Immigrants: Presentation of an Analytical Framework”, Nordic Journal of Youth Research, 18(2), 133-150 [23 pages] [Check if this one can be made available online, can then be dropped from compendium]


Total number of pages: 846
SOS2603 - The Scandinavian-Nordic welfare society - contemporary perspectives

Course content
This course gives an introduction to the Scandinavian-Nordic welfare state model focusing on work, family, immigration, labour relations, crime-economic policies, pensions, schooling and gender equality. Theoretically, the course is informed by comparative welfare state research and contemporary debates on the sustainability of these welfare state models in the context of early 21st century challenges such as ageing, flows of immigrants and asylum seekers, financial internationalization and integration in the EU single market.

What are the historical roots of the Nordic states, and how did their political systems develop in the 20th century? What social conflict lines, alliances and compromises created the post-war context of highly organized civil societies (centralized labour unions and employers associations, strong organizations of farmers and fishermen), linked to the state in patterns of democratic corporatism.

How is work and family life reconciled in the setting of the Nordic welfare state? What policy reforms have been decided/agreed on in order to respond to present challenges? Are the ambitions of gender equality and universalist welfare provisions sustainable in the future?

The course examines a wide range of policies (e.g. parental leave, daddy quotas, state-sponsored day care for children, working time regulations, integration measures, conditions applying to various types of immigrants, work life reforms, labour market regulations, economic regulations) and the outcomes of policies (e.g. fertility rates, fathers’ participation in child care, the work/care balance of lone parents, crime rates, stable economic development, integration and multiculturalism, membership in unions and organizations). The course literature highlights the similarities and differences between the Nordic countries through analyses of comparative statistical data and national case studies, and by contrasting the Scandinavian experience with that of other European countries.
Learning outcome

Knowledge
- Historically and theoretically based knowledge about the basic features of the Scandinavian/Nordic welfare state model
- Gender, family, integration and labour market perspectives
- Learn to assess the implications of this societal model for gender relations, economic development and social integration.

Skills
- Skills in using sociological concepts and theories to analyse cases within the Nordic welfare states
- The capacity to relate such cases to specific institutions and processes by means of comparative analysis
- Discuss and write such analyses, following the basic rules approaches of social scientific inquiry.

Competence
- Awareness of the highly complex relationship between empirical research and moral reasoning in these lines of inquiry.