

Presentations and Discussion on Thematic Modules re: The Handbook on Social Policy for Households and Families

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I. Social Policy and Marriage: What Can Governments Do?.....	2
II. Care, Work, and Family Life.....	3
III. Incentives for Family Formation and Employment.....	5

I. Social Policy and Marriage: What Can Governments Do?

Federal Policy and Marriage: Past, Present and Speculation on the Future

Editor: Wade Horn

Marriage policy in the U.S. began with a focus on its absence: widows and orphans. These efforts were later expanded to also include a focus on non-custodial parents in the form of child support enforcement. Concern about unintended consequences eventually fueled an interest in finding ways to also support and encourage marriage itself, first by expanding services to married families, then by providing services designed to help couples form and sustain healthy marriages, and most recently by exploring ways to reduce marriage penalties. This presentation will provide an overview of marriage policy in the U.S. as well as the results of the limited research efforts that have sought to determine their effectiveness.

Encouraging Marriage: The Role of Earnings and Education

Editor: Mitch Pearlstein

It's helpful to conceive of non-marrying American young people as comprising two dramatically different populations. One is composed of a significant number of well-educated Millennial who not only are delaying marriage but other adult milestones such as buying houses. There is no one cause of this, but being weighed down - and/or acutely feeling weighed down - by student loan debt is a well-noted reason. For a second group of non-marrying young people there is no such thing as too much education-related debt since one of their biggest handicaps is far too little education in the first place.

Staying with this second group, a key question begged is what kind of education might work best for many of its school-age members, great numbers of whom live not only in poverty, but also with holes in their hearts where a parent, usually their father should be? As confirmed by research, often the best schools for filling such abysses are religiously animated ones. Or for our purposes, what social and governmental policies would enable many more children in need of such nourishment to receive it? The answer is the creation of many more school voucher, education tax credit, education savings account and other parental choice programs. If this came to be - focusing in this instance on boys and keeping in mind that many tend to become the very men women don't want to marry and for good reasons - a consequential number of boys likely would perform better academically, and in time acquire job skills and start careers. And by so doing (borrowing from William Julius Wilson) more likely grow into "marriageable men."

II. Care, Work and Family Life

Social Policies for child care and parental employment

Editor: Birgit Pfau-Effinger

1. Suggestion of a concept for the way in which this field could be integrated in the Handbook, as a specific volume or as a thematic field; concerning

- Societal context
- Contents of Policies
- Impact

Chapter Possibilities:

2. Change in cultural family ideals in the context of different development paths in Europe
3. The role of cultural change for change in work-family policies – theoretical framework and comparative case studies
4. Explaining cross-national differences in the effect of children on women's labor force participation rates in the context of Culture and Work-Family Policies

Changing care regimes in the era of global ageing and migration: Themes and challenges for the construction of a sustainable human society

Editor: Emiko Ochiai

1 Demographic changes and growing care needs

Population ageing and family change that occurred in Europe and North America in the 1970s expanded the needs for care and made the cost of human reproduction visible. This is why the welfare state changed its direction to develop social policies to share the responsibility for care and human reproduction that have been left out to the realm of the family in modern societies.

Population ageing is a global phenomenon but its speed is different by region. The differences in the degree of population ageing result in international migration. The international migration serves as another solution for care deficit not only by welcoming care workers and marriage migrants (mostly wives) but also by outsourcing the care cost of migrant workers in the production sector. However, such a solution for receiving countries would cause more problems for sending countries. The need for international social policy arises from here.

2 The case of Europe

3 The case of North America

4 The case of East Asia

5 Asianization of Europe and Europeanization of Asia?

6 Migration and global justice

7 Social policy and beyond

III. Incentives for Family Formation and Employment

Tax credits and the family

Editor: Bea Cantillon

The issue I want to raise is a) whether or not the incomes of family members (which ones ?) are taken into account in tax credits schemes in a selection of countries (US, Sweden, Belgium ...) ; b) the implications for costs, unemployment traps (of family members) and effectiveness

Minimum Income Benefits in OECD countries and the structure of household incentives

Editors: Peter Whiteford and Matthew Gray

The OECD Benefits and Wages database has model family calculations since 2000 on entitlements in social assistance schemes and other parts of the tax and transfer system for different household types including single people and couples without children, as well as lone parents and couples with children. From these figures it is possible to calculate the differences in disposable income associated with different household structures and so to identify whether there is a "marriage penalty" implicit in the taxation and benefit systems. It is also possible to take account of housing costs as well.