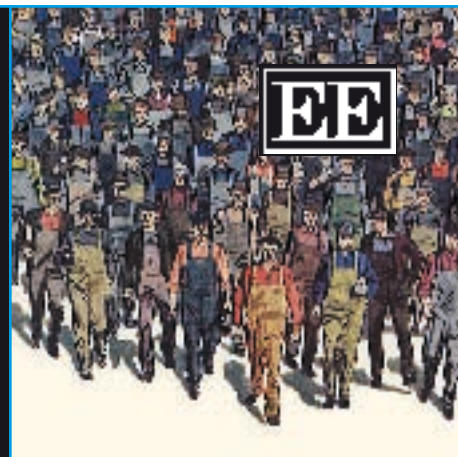


NEW TITLE

Social Policy, Employment and Family Change in Comparative Perspective



Edited by **Jonathan Bradshaw**, Professor of Social Policy and Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York, UK and **Aksel Hatland**, Research Director, NOVA, Oslo, Norway

This book is a comparative study of family change, parental employment and social policy in the five Nordic countries, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom. In all these countries family forms have been profoundly affected by lower fertility rates, lower marriage rates, increased cohabitation, higher risks of relationship breakdown and episodes of lone parenthood. These changes have also been linked to an increase in the proportion of mothers participating in the labour market.

The contributors to this book trace these social trends over the last twenty years and analyse how social policy has developed and evolved in response. They argue that while the Nordic countries pioneered efforts to recognise new family forms and reconcile work and family life, there is still considerable variation between them as well as some evidence that the non-Nordic countries are catching up.

Social Policy, Employment and Family Change in Comparative Perspective will strongly appeal to academics and researchers of social policy as well as policy makers looking to learn from the experiences of these countries.

Contents: 1. Introduction 2. Family Change 3. The Parental Employment Context 4. State Recognition of New Family Forms? 5. Parental Rights and Obligations 6. Family Benefit Packages 7. Childcare and Parental Leave 8. Fertility Rates in Europe: The Influence of Policy, Economy and Culture 9. First Births: A Comparative Study of the Patterns of Transition to Parenthood in Europe 10. Men and (their) Families: Comparative Perspectives on Men's Role and Attitudes Towards Family Formation 11. Education, Employment and Family Formation: Differing Patterns 12. Working their Way Out of Poverty? Lone Mothers in Policies and Labour Markets 13. Family Poverty in the European Union 14. Gender Equity and Time Use: How Do Mothers and Fathers Spend their Time? 15. Conclusions

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