Paper presentation

Abstract title: Health Care Provision and Partisan Politics: Health Care Determinants in Comparative Perspective

Submitting Author: Ingalill Montanari
Position: Researcher
Affiliation: Swedish Institute of Social Research
Institute address: Stockholm University, Universitetsvägen 10 F, 106 91 Stockholm, Sweden
E-mail address: ingalill.montanari@sofi.su.se
Country: Sweden

Other authors: Kenneth Nelson
Swedish Institute for Social Research

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Abstract:
Abstract: Health care systems differ substantially across countries in terms of service provision, which is of direct relevance for the quality and distribution of health care citizenship rights. Whereas the driving forces for the expansion and subsequent decline of social cash benefits have received great scholarly interest in comparative research, the determinant for health care provision is largely unexplored. In this paper we assess the role of partisan politics for health care provision in 18 OECD countries 1980-2005. Contrary to the development of many other social citizenship rights over this period, the area of health care provision is one of expansion rather than decline. Based on OECD Health data we propose a new strategy for measuring social citizenship rights in the area of health care policy that is based on institutional organization rather than expenditure levels. Regression analyses show that left wing government is positively related to the expansion of health care provision. Likewise, confessional parties generally have a stronger positive impact than secular center-right cabinets.