



Public Lecture Series Spring 2017

Crossing Borders – and Then?

—

Thursday, 6 April 2017

**Welfare Attitudes in Diverse Societies: Reflections on the
Diversity-Welfare Problematic with Some Empirical Illustrations**
Prof. Wim van Oorschot
Department of Sociology, Leuven University

16:30 – 18:00 h

University of Lausanne, Rue de la Mouline 28, 1022 Chavannes-près-Renens, Bâtiment IDHEAP, Aula

Abstract

From a global perspective, European countries have comprehensive welfare states and because of globalization processes populations of European welfare states become more “diverse”. Linking these two facts has led to a “diversity-welfare debate” in which diversity is seen as a problem for the welfare state. This problem would be higher in more diverse welfare states. In this lecture, I will discuss the academic background of this debate as stemming from “warnings from the US”, I will critically discuss the term “diversity” as it used in the debate, and then address a number of empirical questions about the effect of “diversity” on welfare attitudes concerning the social rights of migrants. The main conclusion that I suggest is that there are negative attitudes towards welfare rights for migrants in European societies – but this is not worse in more diverse societies, perhaps on the contrary.

Curriculum Vitae

Wim van Oorschot is Professor of Social Policy at the Department of Sociology of Leuven University (BE). His research and teaching regard the sociological and cultural analysis of welfare states and social policy. He is co-founder and honorary president of ESPAnet, the Network for European Social Policy Analysis, initiator and director of EDAC, the European Data Centre for Work and Welfare, Honorary Professor at the Centre for Comparative Welfare Research CCWS of Aalborg University, Denmark, and coordinator of the Welfare Attitudes module of the European Social Survey.

Wim van Oorschot published on social security, active labor market policies, poverty, welfare state legitimacy, solidarity and equity in social protection, and social capital and informal solidarity in European welfare states. At present, his research focuses on the relationships between culture and welfare, with specific attention paid to welfare deservingness attitudes among the general public.

Selected Publications

- Reeskens, T., and W. van Oorschot. “Immigrants’ Attitudes towards Welfare Redistribution. An Exploration of Role of Government Preferences among Immigrants and Natives across 18 European Welfare States”. *European Sociological Review* 31 (4) (2015): 433–445.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcv003>
- Roosma, F., W. van Oorschot, and J. Gelissen. “The Weakest Link in Welfare State Legitimacy: European Perceptions of Moral and Administrative Failure in the Targeting of Social Benefits”. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 55 (6) (2014): 489–508.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0020715214565932>
- Roosma, F., W. van Oorschot, and J. Gelissen. “The Preferred Role and Perceived Performance of the Welfare State: European Welfare Attitudes from a Multidimensional Perspective”. *Social Science Research* 44, March (2014): 200–210.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2013.12.005>
- Oorschot, W. van, M. Opielka and B. Pfau-Effinger (eds.) *Culture and Welfare State: Values and Social Policy in Comparative Perspective*. London: Edward Elgar, 2008.
- Oorschot, W. van. “Solidarity towards Immigrants in European Welfare States”. *International Journal of Social Welfare* 17 (1) (2008): 3–14.
[doi:10.1111/j.1468-2397.2007.00487.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2397.2007.00487.x)
- Oorschot, W. van, and W. Uunk. “Welfare Spending and the Public’s Concern for Immigrants: Multilevel Evidence for Eighteen European Countries”. *Journal of Comparative Politics* 40 (1) (2007): 63–82.
<https://doi.org/10.5129/001041507X12911361134433>
- Oorschot, W. van. “Making the Difference in Social Europe: Deservingness Perceptions among Citizens of European Welfare States”. *Journal of European Social Policy* 16 (1) (2006): 23–42.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0958928706059829>