

Welfare, Populism and Welfare Chauvinism (Greve, 2019).

Extremely-well approached, this book critically argues the position of welfare rights and welfare acceptance within a changing democracy - vilified through the rise of chauvinist and populist voices that have come to the political/public fore. This book significantly builds upon the work of academics exploring; welfare, deserving and undeserving conditionality, rights and citizenship. But the book also pertains to wider social sciences interests in; migration, identity, in/out groups and the political implications of populism.

Split into five significant sections, this title aims to initially explicate its position on key terminology; populism and welfare chauvinism. In doing so, this first section fosters an understanding of deservingness through a comprehensive exploration of legitimacy in citizenship. In setting the scene, the book is perceptive within a topic that is at the heart of understanding the significance of populist voices since the Great Recession and recent increases in migration. Further, the book thus continues to clarify why these are of importance. Significant, the role of inequality is argued to be damaging to social cohesiveness, as inequality becomes praxis within a chauvinistic society depicted using quantitative measures - the Gini Coefficient. As is characteristic, both populism and chauvinism find a home within rising inequality, a position that breeds scapegoating, fascism and the possible eventuality of totalitarianism. The second section of this book draws very well on this position and highlights to the reader that this situation is never far from view, especially within the precarious hollowed-out labour market (and associated welfare support system). A key facet that is excellently explored is the issue of financing welfare states; recognising the rise of populist ideologies, especially where they meet Right-Wing politics - indicative of maintaining low-tax thresholds; recognising the limits therein of welfare chauvinism, limited in both provisioning and availability.

The proceeding chapters are littered with anecdotal representations of identity dispossession. This is evidently so of the (white) working-class identity and draws on evidence from both the

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USA and the UK. Mirroring these with identities that have latched onto populist voices that 'recognise' those that feel dispossessed by traditional working-class political parties; UKIP (UK Independence Party) and the EDL (English Defence league) writ-large. As obvious with demagogues, political populism speaks directly to (and for) the dispossessed, with echoes of 'Making America Great Again'; telling the electorate that a populist will 'Drain the Swamp'; or even that to 'Get Brexit Done' means a vote to leave the EU allows us to 'Take Back Control'. The qualitative evidence shared within this book allows the reader to connect the dots so obvious in political populist demagoguery that it emphasises the rise in welfare chauvinism and the attitudes that reside within.

A significant proportion of understanding throughout this book is contestation of the European Union and the free movement of people under the Schengen Agreement and what this signifies for welfare chauvinism. Yet, (geographically) wider issues of hostility towards immigration are also argued to be constant within discussions of populism and welfare chauvinism. Accompanied by an underlying fear-mongering centring on attitudes towards; immigration, asylum seeking refugee's and the inevitable question of terrorism, the final stage of this book is an exploration of attitudes. Nicely bringing together the earlier chapter's thoughts on key concepts (especially as a deserving/undeserving portrayal), the final section of this book poses a significant theoretical question over; legitimacy, citizenship and welfare - verses attitudes of immigration, hostility towards asylum and welfare chauvinism. Logically pointing towards a recognition of validity over the rise of populist parties, the book re-asks the central question over this hostility and the provision of welfare – finally agreeing that welfare chauvinism is likely to be a reason for the support of populist parties.

This book is significantly referenced within and has made significant impact upon a core module that I teach upon. This book is already placed as a core text on my reading list for an optional module; Citizenship and Welfare.