

## Welfare State Reforms Seen from Below

Bernhard Ebbinghaus • Elias Naumann  
Editors

# Welfare State Reforms Seen from Below

Comparing Public Attitudes and  
Organized Interests in Britain and  
Germany

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# Acknowledgements

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Claus Wendt had been co-applicant for the first phase, and Timo Weishaupt for the second period; both continue collaborating with project A6 since moving to professorships at University of Siegen (2009) and University of Göttingen (2015), respectively. With the move of Bernhard Ebbinghaus to a professorship at University of Oxford in early 2017, Katja Möhring takes over the project and will be main applicant for its

last (third) period of SFB funding. Elias Naumann has been part of the project since its first year, first as PhD student at the Mannheim Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences (GESS), thereafter working as postdoc in the project's second phase, also profiting from a research stay at the European University Institute in Florence during 2016.

This volume combines research that has been developed in the context of the SFB project, and it also builds on doctoral research of Elias Naumann (PhD 2014), Julia Klitzke (Dr. 2016), Christopher Buß (Dr. 2017), and Benedikt Bender (ongoing).

Several contributions have used the German Internet Panel (GIP), funded and run by the SFB 884 at University of Mannheim; a bi-monthly probability sample of the general population in Germany aged 16 to 75 ([http://reforms.uni-mannheim.de/internet\\_panel/home/](http://reforms.uni-mannheim.de/internet_panel/home/)). The project A6 had developed about thirty annual questions on reform issues in pension, healthcare, and labour market policies since 2012. We thank Annelies Blom and her GIP team for their professional work and collaborative support; many results of our research on German attitudes, particularly our survey experiments, would have been impossible without GIP.

We received valuable support preparing this edited volume. Empirical research from transcribing interviews to collecting data and helping analysing data had been assisted by many students working in the project at University of Mannheim. Our thanks go to Johannes Bähr, Licia Bobzien, Philipp Broniecki, Christopher Buß, Jasmin Classen, Christian Dristram, Anastasia Ershova, Katrin Grimm, Ekaterina Ivanova, Veronique Millim, Clara Riecke, and Eva Rutter. At the Chair of Macrosociology, Gundel Platz provided much appreciated secretarial support and English-language editing for all contributions.

This volume seeks to combine the major results from the project's ambitious research agenda of studying welfare state reforms from below, bringing together case-studies of organized interests as well as survey analysis of public attitudes. During the project, we received helpful feedback on single chapters and also the project as a whole from many colleagues. We are grateful for valuable comments on the project to Silja Häusermann, Carsten Jensen, Staffan Kumlin, Christian Albrekt Larsen, Paul Marx, Bart Meuleman, Katja Möhring, Marek Naczyk, Moira Nelson, and Wim van Oorschot. We thank Sharla Plant and Jack Redden

from Palgrave Macmillan for supporting this book project. All but two contributions are original, first publication of these results, though two articles by Elias Naumann have been included as they complement the research agenda, in particular, by using experimental or longitudinal designs to look at welfare reform attitudes.

Chapter 8 is a reprint of the article Elias Naumann (2017) ‘Do Increasing Reform Pressures Change Welfare State Preferences? An Experimental Study on Population Ageing, Pension Reform Preferences, Political Knowledge and Ideology’, *Ageing & Society*, 37, 2: 266–294. Permission to reuse this article granted by Cambridge University Press is gratefully acknowledged. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Chapter 10 is a reprint of the article Elias Naumann (2014) ‘Increasing conflict in times of retrenchment? Attitudes towards healthcare provision in Europe between 1996 and 2002’, *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 23: 276–286. Permission to reuse this article granted by John Wiley and Sons is gratefully acknowledged. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

We hope that we can further advance our research agenda in the future during a last, third phase of the SFB project. As pointed out in the Introduction and Conclusion, the contributions to this volume attest in myriad ways that it is worth bringing the two social science perspectives of interest organizations and public opinion together in a joint effort to understand welfare state reforms as seen from below, using Britain and Germany as main examples.

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