

The Politics of Local Welfare

How local political arenas shape decentralised social policies

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Propositions

1. Budget considerations and regional agreements hamper the adaptation of decentralised regulations to the local political context (*this dissertation*).
2. Decentralisation in order to align social policy with local circumstances and needs only makes sense if the financial resources to do so are sufficient (*this dissertation*).
3. Despite the decentralisation of policy discretion to the local political arena, local party branches' policy proposals largely mirror those of their national mother party (*this dissertation*).
4. Multilevel institutional pressures lead to a limited degree of variation in the final policy design of the Participation Act in particular (*this dissertation*).
5. Although allegedly diametrically opposed, institutional isomorphism theory and contingency theory simultaneously explain the shape of local social policies (*this dissertation*).
6. The expectations of national politicians about the potential results of policy decentralisation in terms of local policy variation are too high.
7. If the goal of the 2015 decentralisation was to cut spending, that goal has been achieved.
8. Research into local policy development can benefit from combining insights from sociology and political science in addition to insights from public administration.
9. The focus on statistical significant results in social science hinders theoretical progress.
10. Hierarchy hampers good quality communication.
11. Stating that 'more research is required in the future' is meaningless use of your word count.