

## **The best of two worlds: Theorising about the interaction of welfare states and green states**

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Comparative welfare state research has taught us that across Europe and beyond, diverse welfare systems exist. They have developed along different historical paths and differ with regard to their underlying social justice principles, their institutional arrangements, and the associated political interest constellations. By contrast, research on green states has demonstrated that also approaches to climate change differ across nations for a number of reasons. In recent years, scholars have started to explore the link between welfare states and green states. Are specific welfare state configurations potentially more or less ecologically friendly, e.g. as they are more or less growth dependent? Which welfare states are in the best position to handle the transition to a more ecologically sustainable political economy, and for what reasons? What are the path-dependent rationales of transition trajectories in the direction of eco-welfare states?

In some of the scholarship that has addressed some of these questions, it has been repeatedly suggested that coordinated market economies and social democratic welfare states should be better at reconciling social and ecological concerns. Particularly compared with liberal welfare states, social democratic welfare states should have a greater ability of cushioning the social consequences of environmental risks themselves or social risks stemming from climate change mitigation efforts. Yet the theoretical basis of these assumptions has not been fully developed in the literature. We miss concrete propositions about more specific, theoretically grounded, underlying mechanisms that can be operationalised and examined empirically in analyses of single cases as well in comparative cross-country investigations.

Against this background, with the proposed paper, we aim to contribute to the further development of this research agenda. We will do so by discussing the existing scholarly contributions on the link on welfare states and green states, unearth different analytical perspectives and empirical approaches (e.g. indicators, databases etc.) in the existing literature, and develop specific analytical hypotheses on the interaction between welfare states and green states to be tested by future empirical work.