

Abstracts

Éva Orosz: Global and national public health challenges and health policy efforts at the beginning of the 21st century

The paper presents an overview of problems of health systems and strategies for tackling them – at global, European and national level. Inequalities in health and distribution of health systems' resources are deeper than that in GDP. No single region has had sufficient progress in implementing the Millennium Development Goals since 2000. Health reforms in high-income countries attempt to mitigate the tensions between the cost-increasing technological development, increasing expectation of the population and the constraints for the increase in public expenditures. A new global crisis has emerged in the health systems: the insufficiency of human resources. Even, high-income countries – by attracting physicians and nurses from abroad – have aggravated the shortage in several middle- and low-income countries. Hungary – meanwhile is facing all these challenges – has specific, grave problems. The gap between Hungary and the high-income countries has increased since the early 1990s – both in the levels of public spending on health and several indicators of the health status.

Carsten Jensen: Worlds of welfare services and transfers

The discussion on the existence and nature of the welfare regimes of Western democracies has been ongoing for more than 15 years, and many significant contributions have been made.

The scholarly work has, however, had a tendency to focus on the transfer component of welfare states, thereby losing sight of the welfare service component. This article argues two aspects. First, the transfer component and welfare service component are two distinct dimensions of welfare regimes. Second, great differences exist between health care and social care services; health care is characterized by very uniform levels of expenditure across countries, while expenditure on social care services conforms to the regime typology of Esping-Andersen. This is taken to indicate that the welfare service component consists of two different types of services distinguished by the importance of the two ideological dimensions of familiarism and statism during the formative years of these welfare service sectors.

Zsuzsa Blaskó: Birth cohort studies in Hungary and abroad – experiences and lessons

In this paper the research method of birth cohort study is introduced. We are looking at multidisciplinary surveys using this type of research design. These are typically concerned with various psychological, sociological, epidemiological etc. research problems. The British Millennium Cohort

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Study is described in detail as well as two Hungarian studies applying a similar design. Building on the experiences of these surveys typical research problems that can successfully be explored by this method are listed and most important methodological issues discussed. We conclude by drawing attention to three important elements of a successful birth cohort survey: picking the method to the research problem (not the other way around); ensuring long-term commitment of the partners involved and allocating enough resources for data-analysis.

Tamás Gyulavári: Employment relationship, self-employment and the grey zone in between

General agreement has been evolved at European level about the crisis of labour law, which is considered as a serious identity crisis. The substance of this crisis may be described by the failure of the former dichotomy of the employment relationship and self-employment, respectively the emerging grey zone of relatively new legal forms of work. This grey zone includes those persons, whose legal status may be described by a certain level of subordination and/or economic dependence, however they are deprived of the labour law protection. Since the traditional system of labour law has been challenged by a sequence of economic, social and international changes, thus there is a need for a renewed structure and definitions. This paper analyses the documents and studies published in the European Union in the last few years in order to describe the possible labour law answers and legal strategies for the above mentioned identity crises.

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