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Social Policy and International Interventions in South East Europe



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Edited by **Bob Deacon**, Professor of International Social Policy, University of Sheffield, UK and **Paul Stubbs**, Senior Research Fellow, The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia

'This is a remarkably rich and thought-provoking collection. Its substantial case studies make it a vital resource for studying social policy in South East Europe. Its focus on the flows of international actors, agencies, ideas and resources poses critical questions about how the emergence of social policy, the emergence of new forms of governance and the creation of new "spaces of welfare" are connected. The implications of this concern with emergent forms and directions reach far beyond the region itself.'

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'A brilliant book that shows conclusively that transnational actors have taken their place alongside states in setting social policy in Europe. Through careful and comprehensive case studies of a wide range of South East European countries, this volume systematically presents a wealth of new data on transnational actor interventions. It helps to shape an emerging debate on the relative power of transnational and domestic actors and makes a unique empirical contribution to the discussion. The authors have done an amazing job of coordinated digging and produced some impressive results.'

– Mitchell Orenstein, Johns Hopkins University, US

This engaging book investigates the role of international actors in the making of social policy in South East Europe.

Introductory chapters on transnationalism and Europeanisation are followed by a series of nine linked case studies depicting research undertaken within this region. The book charts the variable influence that international actors such as formal organisations, non-governmental organisations, consulting companies and individual transnational policy entrepreneurs have on key policy issues, including pensions, social protection, labour markets and health. The authors conclude that welfare settlements are a complex product of historical and institutional legacies, the neo-liberal interventions of the World Bank, the emerging impact of the EU, and the crowded international arena resulting from war and post-war reconstruction agendas.

Written by leading researchers in the field, *Social Policy and International Interventions in South East Europe* will be of great interest to researchers and students of social policy, policy studies and regional studies, as well as policy makers within international and governmental organisations.

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