

The Politics of the 'New' Labour and Social Policies

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- 1) What is new in labour and social policies
- 2) How do we interpret change
- 3) How do we account for change
- 4) Some remarks

1) What is 'New' in labour and social policies

A. *Development of new functions and policies (from income protection to work promotion)*

- Pushing non-working people into employment
- Providing income support for working poors
- Reconciling work and family life
- Active ageing and new services for older people
- Investing in human capital
- improvement of social protection for a-typical workers

1) What is 'New' in labour and social policies?

B. Retrenchment

- Pensions and Unemployment benefits;

C. Labour market deregulation at the margin

- non-standard employment as a form of selective deregulation
- standard employment not much touched

D. Stronger integration between social, employment, fiscal and education policies

- more crowded policymaking process

2) How do we interpret change

- a. Social Investment Perspective
- b. Labour Market (and welfare)
Dualisation(s)/Segmentation/Polarization
- c. Austerity finally begun (after the Great Recession)

3) How do we account for change

- **Policy changes beyond Path-dependency**

- Transformative changes

- **Changing Context beyond Permanent Austerity**
- **Socio-economic**
- **Permanent**

- new risks, new role for employment and social policy

3) How do we account for change

1. The Role of Ideas beyond neo-liberalism

- social investment
- flexicurity
- activation

2. Solidarity boundaries transformation

- Territorial boundaries (EU integration)
- Risk groups (insiders/outsideers)
- New map of categories

3) How do we account for change

1. Multidimensionality of the reform agenda

- benefits level
- coverage and redistribution
- employment-friendly measures

2. Room for ...

- Political Exchange
- Modernising compromises
- Affordable credit claiming
- Divide et impera

4. Some Remarks....

1. Labour and social policies have changed

2. This not just cost-constraintment

3. Overall redefinition of solidarity boundaries, new inequalities

4. Issues of uncertainty, precariousness, socio-political (un)sustainability