

Perspectives on the Nordic Model

Program for two inaugural lectures by adjunct Professors Pauli Kettunen and Olli Kangas

Date: 29th of September 2009 from 14.30-16.30

Location: U91, University of Southern Denmark

Organizers: Centre for Welfare State Research, University of Southern Denmark

Internationally, the Nordic countries have become known for their welfare model. Historically, this Nordic model is based on a trust in positive virtuous circles between democracy, equality and efficiency. Today, globalization processes lead to new circles and the question arise whether we can maintain or modify the Nordic welfare model so to continue topping international league tables on welfare. This is the scene set by two distinguished Finnish Professors in their inaugural lectures at the University of Southern Denmark. Everybody interested is welcome and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the event. Following the lectures the Centre will host a light reception.

14.30-14.45: Welcome by Professors Klaus Petersen and Jon Kvist, Centre for Welfare State Research, University of Southern Denmark

14.45-15.30: Inaugural lecture by Professor Pauli Kettunen on:

"The Confidence in Virtuous Circles in the Nordic Model"

A widely shared trust in a virtuous circle between economic growth, social equality and widening democracy played a crucial role in the making of the Nordic welfare states. Based on shared ties in the nation-state society, the confidence in the virtuous circle reshaped the notions of national 'us'. Since the 1980s, this mode of thought and action was eroded by the increased asymmetries of globalized capitalism that, at the same time, provided preconditions for new competitiveness-oriented modifications of nationalism and virtuous circle.

15.30-15.45: Short break

15.45-16.30: Inaugural lecture by Professor Olli Kangas on:

“International comparisons of welfare - a Nordic conspiracy?”

Measurement of welfare is an art in itself. However, using both objective and subjective measures makes Nordic countries top the international rankings. Objective measures include wealth aspects such as gross domestic product per capita and more relative measures like the UN developed Human Development Index and international poverty measures. Quality of life indices and subjective measures on happiness, satisfaction and fear also ranks Nordic countries high and begs the question why this is the case. Is there a Nordic conspiracy?

16.45-17.30: Reception

The Centre for Welfare State Research host a reception for the new honorary professors in the meeting room located at the Department of Political Science and Public Management.

These two inaugural lectures by adjunct professors Pauli Kettunen and Olli Kangas are the first in a series of similar events that relates to the recent appointment of five new adjunct professors at the Centre for Welfare State Research.