

# The Theoretical Foundation of Welfare State Research

Ph.D. Seminar

## REGISTRATION

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Einar Overbye, NOVA, Norge

Venue: Aalborg University, Fibigerstræde 1, room 37

Time: 14 October

Organiser: Christian Albrekt Larsen, AAU, [albrekt@dps.aau.dk](mailto:albrekt@dps.aau.dk)

Registration and abstract (for participating with paper): Not later than 28 September  
If presentation a paper, please send abstract to [kbm@socsci.aau.dk](mailto:kbm@socsci.aau.dk) not later than 28 September

Paper: send paper to [kbm@socsci.aau.dk](mailto:kbm@socsci.aau.dk) not later than 6 October

Language: The language will be English. The Ph.D. presentation can both be based on a paper (maximum 20 pages) or an oral presentation; depending on the stage of the Ph.D. project. The Ph.D. presentation should be prepared in English.

ECTS: With a paper presentation the seminar give 1 ECTS points. With a oral presentation, the seminar gives 3 ECTS points

OBS! Maximum five students can present paper. No maximum of participating without.

In this Ph.D. seminar, the theoretical foundation of welfare state research will be presented and discussed. The idea is take a "step back" and look at some of the main theoretical questions that are at the core of welfare state research. Why do we care for each other? Why do we create a state-solutions instead of market-solutions to cover risks? How do sociologists, economists, political scientists, social administrators etc. study the welfare state?

The aim of the seminar is to help Ph.D. students within welfare state research to understand the background and context for their specific projects. Establishing a link to "the big questions" often increases the quality of the project, research motivation and outsiders interest in the project.

The Ph.D. school is proud to present Professor Einar Øverbye as the leader of this seminar.

Programme:

- 09.00 – 09.05: Welcome. Christian Albrekt Larsen, Professor at Centre for Comparative Welfare Studies
- 09.05 - 10.30: The enigma of why we care for each other at all - theoretical answers to an old Kuhnian puzzle. Einar Øverbye  
*Literature:*  
Nowak Martin A. 2006. Five rules for the evolution of cooperation. *Science* vol 314, 1560-531

[www.sciencemag.org/content/314/5805/1560.short](http://www.sciencemag.org/content/314/5805/1560.short)

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Mohtashemi Mojdeh and Lik Mui. 2003. Evolution of indirect reciprocity by social information: the role of trust and reputation in evolution of altruism. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 2003 (223), 523-31 (p

523-525 plus discussion p 530-1 is sufficient).

[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022519303001437](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022519303001437)

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*Recommended:*

Nowak Martin A and Karl Sigmund: Evolution of indirect reciprocity. *Nature* 2005 vol 437 p 1291-1298

Øverbye Einar. 1994. Making a case for the rational, self-regarding, "ethical" voter...and solving the "Paradox of Not Voting" in the process. *European Journal of Political Research* 1995, 27: 369-396.

Alexander Richard D. 1987. The biology of moral systems. Aldine de Gruyter, New York. Alexander introduced the concept of indirect reciprocity, hereby emphasising the importance of asymmetric information, reputation-building and signalling.

11.00 - 12.30:

Understanding stability and change in the welfare state - a synthesis between Barr (market imperfections in insurance markets) and Baldwin (historical analyses of conflicts between high and low social risks). Einar Øverbye  
*Literature:*

Barr Nicholas. 1992. Economic theory and the welfare state: A survey and interpretation. *Journal of Economic literature* vol 30,2, p 741-803

[www.jstor.org/stable/2727702](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2727702)

*Recommended:*

Baldwin Peter. 1992. The Politics of Social Solidarity: Class Bases of the European Welfare State, 1875-1975. Cambridge University Press, 1992

Øverbye Einar. 1995. Explaining Welfare Spending. *Public Choice* 83:313-335

12.30 – 13.30:

Lunch

13.30 - 15.00:

Disciplinary perspectives on the welfare state; on the lookout for core academic debates related to the welfare state in sociology, economics, political science, social policy, social administration, social work and legal studies. Einar Øverbye  
*Literature:*

Øverbye, Einar. 2010. Disciplinary perspectives. In Francis G. Castles, Stephan Leibfried, Jane Lewis, Herbert Obinger, and Christopher Pierson (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare*

15.30 - 17.00      *State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
Ph.D. presentations

#### About Einar Øverbye

Einar Øverbye is professor in political science at Oslo University College. His doctoral dissertation "Risk and welfare" (1998) analysed social security policies with a particular focus on Scandinavian and Australasian countries. Overbye was research director at NOVA's (Norwegian social research) social policy group 1995-1999 and has been a visiting fellow at University of California at Berkeley, Australian National University, Massey University (New Zealand) and European University Institute (Florence). He has been a consultant on projects initiated by the Norwegian Foreign Office and Norwegian Departments of Finance and Social affairs, and consultant on book or research projects by ILO, ISSA and the Council of Europe. Øverbye participates in several Nordic and European research networks, and has published approx 100 Journal articles, books, reports and working papers.