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Between Welfare and Farewell

de Jong , Petra

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

Between Welfare and Farewell: The Role of the Welfare system in Intra-European Migration Decisions

by Petra de Jong

1. Because welfare rights of EU migrants – like those of natives – are dependent on individuals' length of residence in a country and/or paid contributions, the abolishment of border restrictions in the enlarged EU did not increase pressure on generous welfare systems (Chapter 2).
2. Instead of treating welfare systems as homogenous packages, it is crucial to differentiate between welfare domains and consider the eligibility criteria that grant access to them (Chapter 2&3).
3. Welfare state arrangements appear most important to families with children and elderly, whereas most EU migrants move in life stages when they are least reliant on the welfare system (Chapter 3&4).
4. Contemporary intra-European migration decisions must be understood as embedded in the societal context (of both the places of origin and destination) and a migrant's life course (Chapter 4).
5. Generous welfare provisions in the country of residence can discourage migration and stimulate settlement (Chapter 4&5).
6. Welfare systems are important to migration decisions as they protect against risks and uncertainty associated with international migration (Chapter 5).
7. The welfare system as experienced in the country of residence is more important to migration decisions than the welfare system abroad prior to migration.
8. With freedom of movement as one of the fundamental principles of the EU, measures that restrict EU migrants' welfare access are contrasting the aims of the European Commission.
9. Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts (William Bruce Cameron, 1963).