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Feminist Political Economy

A Global Perspective



Pluralist Economics
Certificate Project

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Chapter 8

Welfare Regimes



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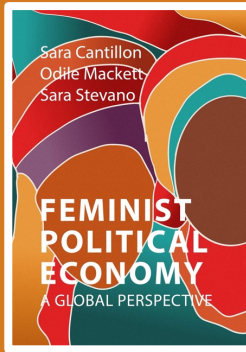
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PART I

What is a welfare regime?

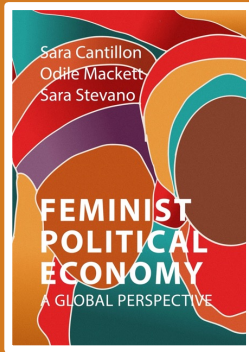
Welfare regimes

- The welfare regime: how the family (or household), market, state, and other actors work together
- The welfare mix: the extent to which various parties are involved in providing different services/good
- What does this mean for daily decision making?



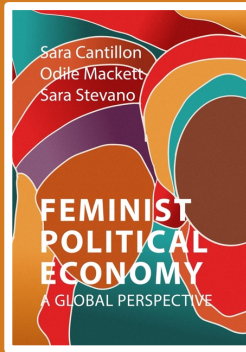
What does welfare look like?

- Social security, social assistance and social protection
- Who provides what in the welfare regime?
- Do people need to contribute to it to benefit? Or can they receive these benefits without contribution?



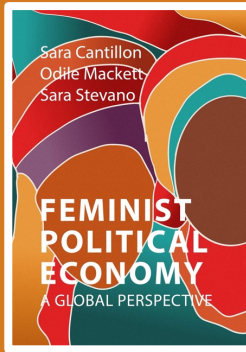
Why do feminist political economists care about this?

- If people need to work to access benefits, inequalities in the labour market would be a key concern.
- Who is deserving and not deserving of receiving welfare benefits?
- This is a political process with important economic implications



Some differences between the North & the South

- Categories of states have been attempted in the literature.
- Global north categories do not necessarily fit neatly for the Global South, yet the north categories are predominant in the literature
- States have differing degrees of capacity to deliver on welfare





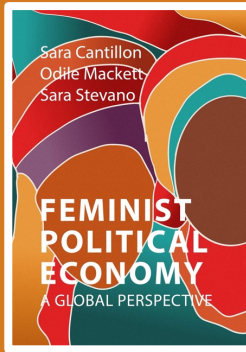
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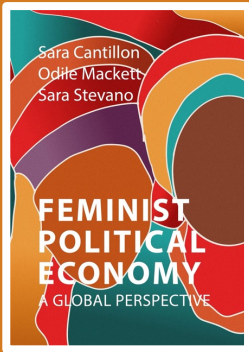
PART II

The successful welfare regime and state

Fraser's *bare minimum* framework

- Based on 5 principles:
 - Anti-poverty
 - Anti-exploitation
 - Equity principles (income equality, equality in leisure time, equality of respect)
 - Anti-marginalisation
 - Anti-androcentrism





What about gender equality?

Should men and women be treated **differently** or the **same**?

Equality approach

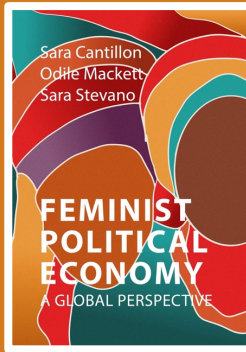
Difference approach



Welfare state paradox

...state activities, while facilitating women's entrance into the labor market, do not facilitate their entry into high-authority and elite positions. Rather, the very same characteristics—generous family policies and a large public service sector—seem to reproduce the gendered division of labor and, in effect, decrease women's chances of joining desirable occupational positions.

Mandel and Semyonov (2006, p. 1913)





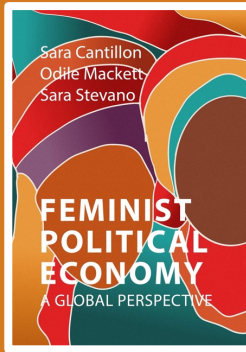
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PART III

Rethinking the role of the state

A social provisioning state

- Marilyn Power's social provisioning framework
 - Considering care work
 - Human well-being as a central outcome
 - Encouraging human agency
 - Interrogating ethical judgements
 - Taking an intersectional approach



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Thanks for watching! 😊



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