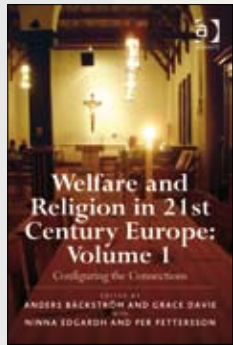




Welfare and Religion in 21st Century Europe Volume 1: Configuring the Connections



Edited by **Anders Bäckström**, Uppsala University, Sweden and **Grace Davie**, University of Exeter, UK, **Ninna Edgardh** and **Per Pettersson**, Uppsala University, Sweden.

'... the contributors ably show how questions of religious identity and belonging are central in understanding the welfare-religion relationship. ... The researchers forecast a greater role for religious groups in welfare provision, not

only because of financial strains in most systems and aging populations, but also because of the more personal approach and cultivation of 'local knowledge' that characterize these groups. Yet, at the same time, the secularization well advanced in most of these countries means that churches are struggling to sustain their core functions, and that welfare recipients may not be very receptive to a faith-based approach.'

Religion Watch

Historically, European churches have played a large part in the provision of welfare. Responsibility, however, has gradually shifted to the state – a shift that forms an integral part of the process of secularization and one that has been readily accepted by European populations. But what happens when the state itself begins to recede – a process that is occurring in most, if not all, European societies for a wide variety of reasons? The implications for welfare are considerable, not least for the role of the churches which begin to resume the responsibilities previously shed but in new and different ways. This book looks at the connections between religion and welfare in Europe, exploring in detail eight European societies – Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, England, France, Italy and Greece. The different theological traditions, different church-state relationships and different welfare regimes are all examined. The analysis is based on first hand empirical research which examines not only the changing situation on the ground, but attitudes towards this within a range of different constituencies – the churches, local government and the general public. Particular attention is paid to the significance of gender in both the process of change and in attitudes towards this. *Welfare and Religion in 21st century Europe Volume 1* represents comparative research at its best and highlights key policy implications for the future.

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Volume 2: Gendered, Religious and Social Change



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This book considers the
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ask new questions about the religious and the secular and the
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women predominate so noticeably in both religion and welfare
at least in the delivery of service. With regard to theological
discourse, they explore the ways in which religious belief
operates as an independent variable in the construction of
welfare systems.

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