

Press release

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has appointed Anton Hemerijck (1958), professor of Institutional Policy Analysis at VU University Amsterdam (the Netherlands) to the position of Centennial Professor in the Department of Social Policy. Hemerijck has been nominated to the Centennial Chair on account of his outstanding contribution to the comparative study of social policy with particular reference to his important contributions to theorizing changing (European) welfare states in times of intrusive social and economic restructuring. He will join the Department of Social Policy in January 2014 and will stay until December 2016 on the basis of a quarter full time equivalent position.

Professor David Lewis, Head of the Department, Social Policy says: “Anton Hemerijck is one of the world-leading academic authorities in the tradition of comparative institutional analysis of the welfare state, that strongly underlines the importance of institutions, both constraining and capacitating policy actors and citizens to pursue normative and interest-based objectives and aspirations. In his recent monograph *Changing Welfare States*, published earlier this year with Oxford University Press, Hemerijck broke new theoretical grounds for the multidimensional and dynamic analysis of social reform across the member state of the European Union (EU). Over the past decade, he has also been at the intellectual forefront to bringing a ‘social investment’ perspective to the debate over the future of the welfare state. In terms of policy advocacy, his innovative perspective on welfare recalibration, positively renders today’s decision-makers a practicable perspective for pursuing realistic adjustments in existing socio-economic policy repertoires and thus to improve socio-economic resilience in the wake of the global financial crisis.”

Research

Hemerijck does state-of-the-art comparative research on the welfare state across rich European democracies. His latest study *Changing Welfare States* presents a powerful counterforce to the functionalist globalization rationale of unilateral welfare state retrenchment cum labour market deregulation in response the rising pressures of economic liberalisation, financial volatility and post-industrial demographic and gender change. With his explicit focus on middle-range mechanisms of institutional change and continuity, Anton Hemerijck has been able to successfully steer comparative welfare state studies away from the cul-de-sac of welfare regime over-determination in mainstream political institutional analysis, distinguishing too rigidly between ‘liberal’, ‘social democratic’ and ‘conservative’ welfare regimes and their alleged self-equilibrating and perpetuating policy feedback effects. The leading question in his research is: can distinctive varieties of welfare regimes that abide by explicit and widely shared normative commitments to balancing economic progress and social justice, continue to make headway by way of proactive institutional re-engineering in an increasingly interdependent and competitive global economy? The notion of ‘capacitating institutions’ is central to his academic understanding and more normative position on issues of “new social risks”, social investment welfare reform, the future of social Europe and the institutional viability of European economic integration through the Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union.

Curriculum Vitae

Anton Hemerijck is Dean of the Faculty of the Social Sciences and Vice Rector for Internationalization at the Free University (VU University) of Amsterdam. In February 2014 he will return to research and teaching on a full-time basis, combining his position in Amsterdam with a short-term stay at the Collegio Carlo Alberto of the University of Turin with his Centennial Professorship of Social Policy at LSE. Trained as an economist and political scientist, he obtained his doctorate in political science from Oxford University in 1993. Between 2001 and 2009, he directed the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR), the principle think tank in the Netherlands, while holding professorships in Comparative European Social Policy at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and the University of Antwerp. Before that he served as a senior researcher at the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne for about five years. On a more intermittent basis he also held visiting fellowship positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the European University Institute (EUI). Over the past two decades he advised the European Commission and several EU Presidencies on European social policy developments. Currently, he is a member of Social Investment Package Expert Group of the European Commission. He has written extensively on the welfare state, comparative political economy, policy transformation and institutional change. He is involved in a number of international research projects, such as the NEUJOBS project funded by the EU under FP7 and the GAK project on Balancing the New Welfare State. Important book publications include *'A Dutch Miracle'* with Jelle Visser (Amsterdam University Press, 1997), *'The Future of Social Europe'* with Maurizio Ferrera and Martin Rhodes (CELTA Press Lisbon, 2000), *'Why We Need a New Welfare State'* with Gosta Esping-Andersen, Duncan Gallie and John Myles (Oxford University Press, 2002), and *'Aftershocks. Economic Crisis and Institutional Choice'*, co-edited with Ben Knapen and Ellen van Doorne (Amsterdam University Press, 2009). His latest monograph is *Changing Welfare States* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Hemerijck is founder the Free University interdisciplinary Talma Institute for the Study of Work, Care and Welfare. Together with his colleague Jonathan Zeitlin he recently established ACCESS EUROPE, a joint research and graduate teaching center on contemporary Europe of the Free University (VU) of Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam (UvA).