

The Politics of Flexicurity in Europe and the 'Crisis'

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Paolo R. Graziano
Department of Institutional Analysis and Public Management
Bocconi University, Milano
Center for European Studies, SciencesPo Paris

A RECOWE research task

- Main focus: the comparative politics of flexicurity in Europe
- Country cases: Greece, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland
- Task coordinators: Daniel Clegg (Edinburgh University), Paolo R. Graziano (Bocconi University), Matteo Jessoula (University of Milano)
- Research status: ongoing (expected publications between 2010 and 2012)

A three step research design

- Tracking the employment security mix
- The politics of flexicurity (i.e. explaining the employment security mix)
- Flexicurity and the 'crisis'

Tracking the employment security mix

- *Job security* – employment protection legislation (EPL data, usage rates of different contractual forms, etc.)
- *Employment security* – unemployment benefits and related income support schemes (overall benefit expenditure per person unemployed and per benefit, replacement rates, etc.)
- *Income security* – active employment policies and activation strategies (overall ALMP expenditure, expenditure per type of measure, etc.)

Explaining the development of the employment security mix

- Main explanatory factors:
 - **interests** (actors' preferences, logic of membership, coalitional dynamics)
 - **employment policy legacy**
 - **employment policy governance setting**

Flexicurity and the crisis

- Has (and if so, how and why) the employment security mix changed due to the ‘crisis’?
- Three possible scenarios (to be explained using the previously mentioned explanatory factors):
 - continuity
 - limited change
 - paradigmatic change

Project publications (forthcoming and expected)

- Case studies
 - Jessoula, Graziano and Madama, “Selective flexicurity in segmented labour markets: the case of Italian mid-siders”, *Journal of Social Policy*, Vol. 39, Issue 3, 2010
 - others in the pipeline (2011-2012)
- Comparative studies
 - Clegg, Graziano and Jessoula (eds.), “The Politics of Flexicurity in Europe”, book proposal to be soon submitted to a leading social policy/political science publisher (2011-2012)
 - Comparative articles in the pipeline (2011-2012)