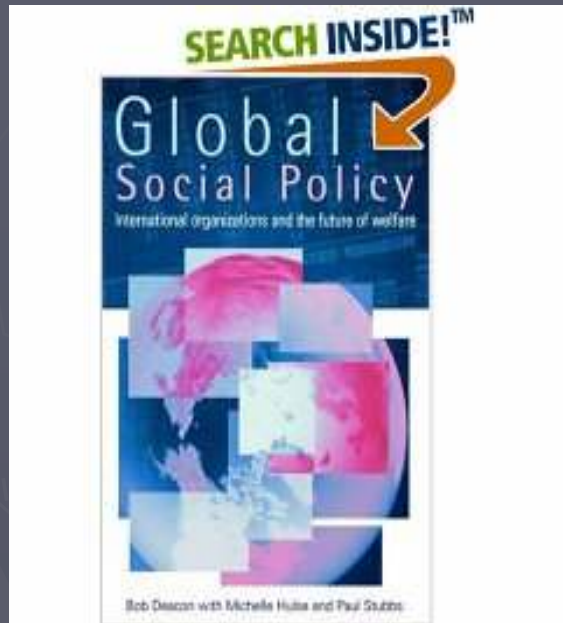


# The Antinomies of *Global Social Policy:* theories, methods, politics

Dr. Paul Stubbs  
University of Kassel  
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[pstubbs@eizg.hr](mailto:pstubbs@eizg.hr)

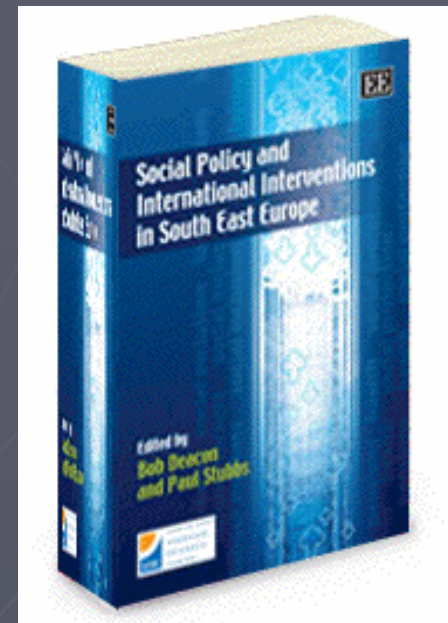
# *Mea culpa !*



**1997**



**GOSPP**  
Globalism and Social Policy Programme



**2007**

# *Deviant heresies*

Stubbs, P. (2002) Globalization, Memory and Welfare Regimes in Transition: towards an anthropology of transnational policy transfers



Lendvai, N. and Stubbs, P. (2007) Post-Colonial Dialogue or His Masters Voice? translating the periphery in 'Global Social Policy' studies



# Theoretical problems

1. Insufficient attention to the difference between **international, transnational** and **global** processes
2. Notions of clear, hierarchical levels at odds with complexities of space and scale
3. 'Presentist realism' plays down colonial and post-colonial relations
4. Grew out of, and tends to amplify, the problems of Northern and Western welfare regime theory

# Methodological problems

1. Objectivist, realist and essentialist concepts and methods dominate
2. Lack of reflexivity leads to a failure to question the positionality of the researcher(s) – pretending “a perspective from above or nowhere”
3. Focused on policy transfer rather than translation
4. Confused on relationships between agents, structures, institutions and discourses

# Political problems

1. Naive advocacy of 'global Fabianism'/global social democracy
2. Finds 'neo-liberal globalisation' everywhere
3. Idealistic conception of 'global civil society'
4. Insufficient attention to non-Western social movements and discourses
5. Legitimizes global knowledge and policy claims

# Beyond antinomies: 'new' research areas

1. Critical, reflexive, multi-sited, multi-level, ethnography
2. Studying transnational expertise institutions/global assemblages
3. Decentre Northern/Western conceptions of social policy
4. Re-connect with other disciplines and researchers including anthropology, sociology and development studies



# Thank-you

Paul Stubbs

[pstubbs@eizg.hr](mailto:pstubbs@eizg.hr)

[www.eizg.hr](http://www.eizg.hr)