

## **Esping-Andersen travels South: Some Critical Remarks on the Deficits of the Comparative Research on Welfare Regimes**

*Until recently, the comparative study of welfare regimes has been mainly confined to a handful of countries in the North. Research on welfare regimes in the South, however, is a rather new field. The following article presents a critical summary of major advances and short-comings of recent studies on welfare regimes in the South, focussing mainly on Latin American examples. Despite efforts to de-center the comparative research agenda, analyses of welfare regimes outside the OECD-world still suffer from a euro-centric bias. In the context of a proliferation of typologies based on varieties of Esping-Andersen's three worlds of welfare capitalism, central aspects concerning the political reproduction of social inequality, i.e. power and authority relations have been neglected so far. Discussing central characteristics of exclusive and fragmented welfare regimes in Latin America, some suggestions are made in order to intensify the dialogue between welfare and post-transitional studies re-focussing the research agenda on the central topic of redistribution.*