

# Den nordiska välfärdsmodellen under förändring

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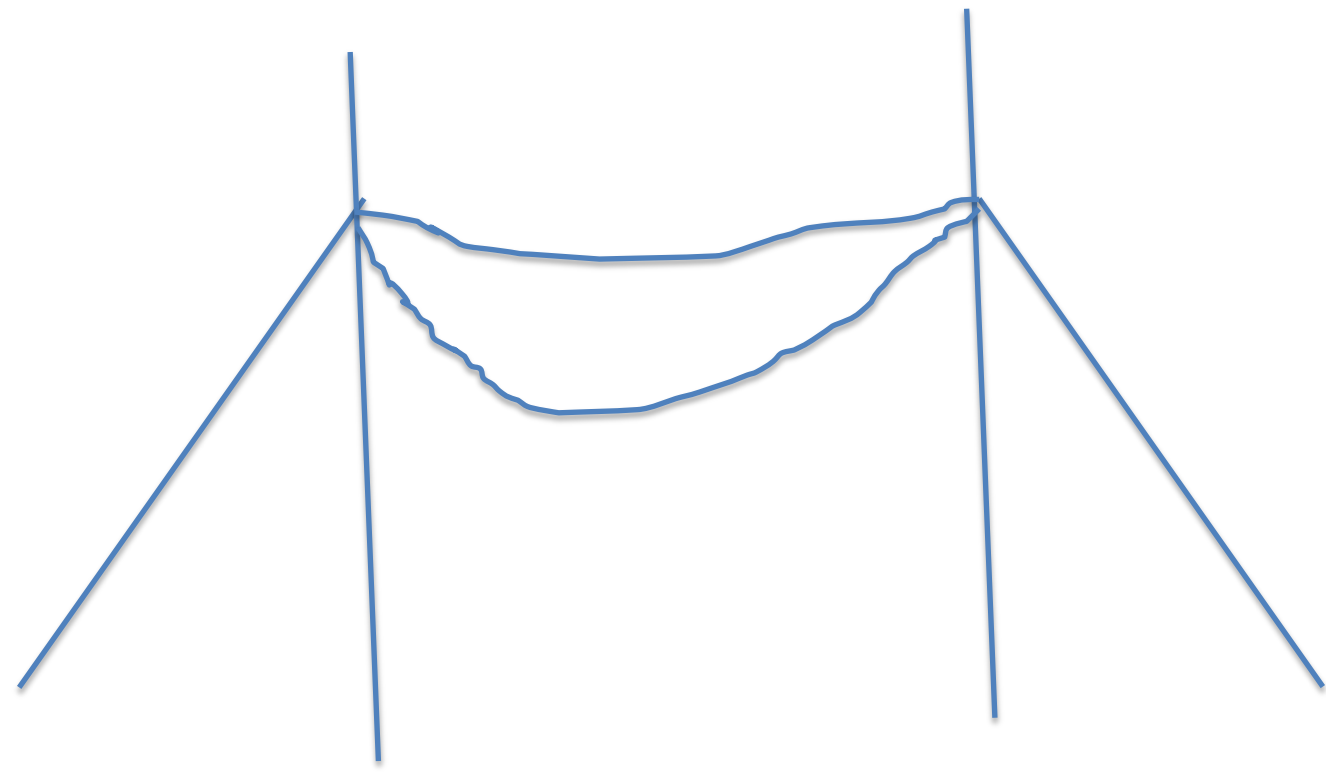
Centre for Welfare State Research  
University of Southern Denmark

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# Today's talk

- Changing equality
- Features of the Nordic welfare model
- Changing policies
- (Changing outcomes)
- Is our welfare model still Nordic?

Social investments Insurance

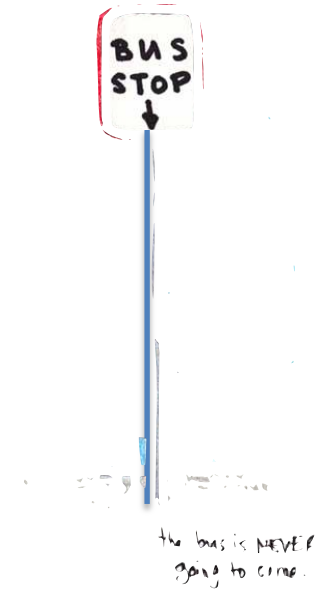


Security

Distribution



# The welfare bus



Vision: To enable all to maximise their human potential

Result: A more equal society than elsewhere

# The Nordic welfare model anno 1990

- Goals of equality
  - Men and women
  - Rich and poor
  - Privileged and less privileged
  - End results vs. possibilities
- Policies
  - Encompassing
  - Universal
  - High quality and generosity
- Outcomes
  - Health
  - Labour market participation
  - Income

**BUUT**

# Bumps in the road

- Demographic changes
- Social change
- Globalisation and economic crisis

# Selected results

- Support:
  - No sign of welfare backlash in light of immigration
  - But (high) unemployment among immigrants may result in less support and more poverty
- Social safety net:
  - Few claimants, generous benefits, low poverty
  - More claimants, less generous benefits, higher poverty
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# General trend

- Less generous benefit systems are becoming part of the Nordic governments' attempts to improve incentives to work and to hasten the inflow of potential workers into or back to employment
- Doing better than most other countries with smaller income inequalities, low poverty rates and formal child care (except NL for poverty reduction)
- But less distinct today than earlier (in part because of Europeanisation of the Nordic countries and in part because of a Nordification of non-Nordic countries)

# Is our welfare model still Nordic?

- Goals intact: motivating and helping individuals to find work, form families and excel in society
- Instruments: mix of policies more ambiguous (sticks vs. carrots) and employment increasingly rewarded
- If continued the Nordic welfare model will become a welfare model where 'some are more equal than others'

# The Nordic welfare model

Anno 2011

- Goals of equality
  - Men and women
  - Rich and poor
  - Priviledged and less priveledged
  - End results vs. possibilities
- Policies
  - Encompassing
  - Universal
  - High quality and generosity

New social division of welfare: Ethnicity

Less so

The New Nordic Welfare Model is less egalitarian than the old ones

