



# Advanced Introduction to Social Policy (Elgar Advanced Introductions series)

By Daniel Béland, Rianne Mahon

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*Advanced Introduction to Social Policy* offers a concise overview of the field that takes newer realities into account, without rejecting the insights found in the traditional social policy canon. Daniel Beland and Rianne Mahon draw on both classic and contemporary theories to illuminate the broad processes that are putting pressure on existing social policy arrangements and raising new research questions. This enlightening book enriches social policy research by moving beyond the methodological nationalism that has traditionally marked the field to include the role of transnational actors. Key features include:

- a concise yet advanced introduction to social policy research
- a close examination of changing gender relations and the increasing salience of ethnic diversity
- a focus on both the advanced industrial world and the growing importance of the Global South as a site of social policy innovation
- stressing the role of ideas in social policy
- a global perspective on social policy that features systematic attention to transnational actors.

In this lucid and accessible book, the authors offer a thorough overview of the field of social policy. The *Advanced Introduction to Social Policy* is essential reading for students, academics and policymakers alike.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

*'This book delivers a superb introduction to social policy. With a wonderful flow and a truly global perspective, it draws from the finest of the classics and contemporary research to address the ideas and societal transformations that have deeply changed the face of social policy. Millions of people on the move, the travel of ideas, intense statecraft, critical feminist voices across the globe, all make their way into the novel contribution Beland and Mahon make to the teaching of social policy. This book is a must have on social policy courses in Latin America and the global South.'* --Juliana Martinez Franzoni, Universidad de Costa Rica

*'Written in a refreshing and accessible style, Daniel Beland and Rianne Mahon's Advanced Introduction to Social Policy is a tour de force bringing together a critical reading of key theoretical contributions to social policy research and the role of ideas in animating policy, while engaging with many "new" and emerging issues in an increasingly globalized world. From changing gender norms and family structures and growing ethnic/racial diversity, to the limits of methodological nationalism and the enhanced spread of transnational policy learning, this volume is a testament to the vibrancy of the social policy field and a must-read for both students and researchers.'* --Shahra Razavi, UN Women

*'An admirably succinct, clear yet comprehensive social policy text, perfect for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The authors manage to combine classic social policy concepts with debates that are relevant for contemporary times. At the same time they show how political, social and economic contexts influence shifts in thinking. The book references an impressive range of countries and regions of the world without losing any coherence. It will appeal to a wide international audience.'* --Fiona Williams, University of Leeds, UK

### **About the Author**

**Daniel Béland**, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and **Rianne Mahon**, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada

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