

Chauvinist Trends in EU Legislation?

– Welfare: Inclusion & Solidarity –

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Welfare chauvinism

The systematic restriction of social citizenship rights (e.g. pension entitlements, access to unemployment benefits) to the native born, thereby discriminating against immigrants

(e.g. Andersen and Bjørklund 1990; Careja et al. 2016; Eger 2010)

Has EU legislation become more 'welfare chauvinist' over time

Background

- ▶ Early days of EU: Emphasis on creating common market, Four Freedoms, establishing principle of non-discrimination against EU-nationals

(Majone 1993)

- ▶ More recently: Cases where access to social protection was restricted for EU-nationals in response to perceived 'welfare tourism' (e.g. access to social assistance in DE); stricter interpretation of social rights for EU nationals by ECJ

(Mantu and Minderhoud 2016)

Can we find similar patterns in EU legislation?

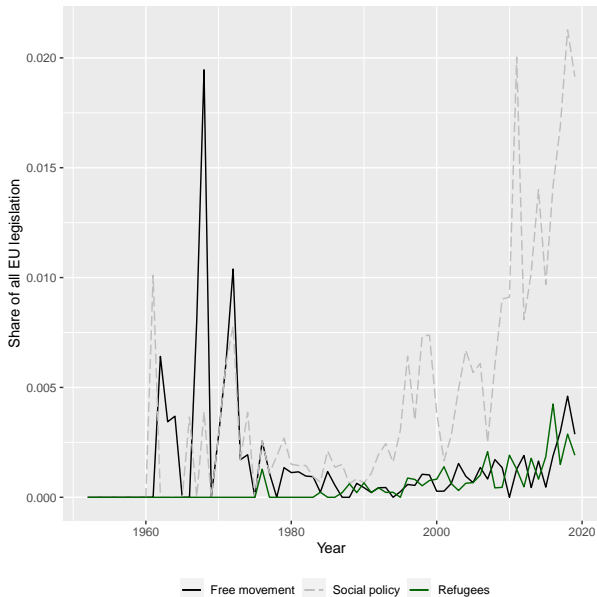
- ▶ If EU legislation has become more chauvinist, we would observe:
 1. Social-rights related EU legislation should emphasize 'non-discrimination'/'free movement' in first decades
 2. More recently greater emphasis on 'national sovereignty'/'budgetary burden' /....

CEPS-EurLex dataset (Borrett and Laurer 2020)

- ▶ 142.036 EU laws – almost the entire corpus of the EU's digitally available legal acts passed between 1952-2019.
- ▶ Encompasses the three types of legally binding acts passed by the EU institutions: 102.304 regulations, 4.070 directives, 35.798 decisions in English language.
- ▶ Coding of topics/keywords of legislative pieces

(see also: [Harvard Dataverse](#))

First cut through the data: Prominence of key topics



After pre-processing



Next steps

1. Identify legislation with explicit references to key articles of EU Treaties (e.g. TFEU Art. 48, TEC Art. 42,...)
2. Main method: Co-occurrence analysis & topic models

References

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