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Economic Effects of Social Protection

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Citation

Cammeraat, E. (2019, October 1). *Economic Effects of Social Protection*. *Meijers-reeks*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/78947>

Version: Publisher's Version

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Title: Economic Effects of Social Protection

Issue Date: 2019-10-01

Propositions relating to the dissertation

ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

by Emile Cammeraat

1. Mandatory activation programs for young welfare recipients do not contribute to employment or to enrollment in education during an economic downturn, but are harmful to income protection.
2. The unemployment shock of a male partner has a large and persistent effect on household income; only 2-5% of this income loss is compensated by increases in female partner's earnings from work.
3. The limited employment effects of activation programs and the limited importance of intra-household insurance leave an important role for income protection.
4. The business cycle has a strong impact on the effectiveness of social policies. Therefore the phase of the business cycle should be taken into account more systematically in the design of structural policies and in the timing of their implementation.
5. Constitutional rights to social security are most effective in protecting the unemployed, which is a group that is perceived as less deserving by the public opinion compared to the elderly or disabled.
6. Social expenditure reduces poverty and inequality without being harmful for GDP growth.
7. Targeted schemes are most effective in reducing poverty, while social expenditure types with a universal character are more effective in reducing inequality.
8. The discipline of Law and Economics shows how crucial legal institutions are in shaping the behavior of economic actors under scarcity.
9. Behavioral economics has enriched the field of economics, but more can still be done to incorporate insights from psychology and sociology into the economic discipline to gain a better understanding of human behavior.

10. With leading institutes as the IMF and the OECD arguing that increasing inequality endangers future growth, it has become mainstream economics that there is no trade-off between equity and efficiency at a macro-level.
11. If the starting position between parties is too unequal, the power imbalance may in some cases even make transactions in which everybody benefits (Pareto-improvements) unethical.
12. The debate on the impact of artificial intelligence and automation on the labor market is too polarized. The impact should not be underestimated, but the doom scenarios seem to be exaggerated.
13. As with many things in life, the more experience, the better things get. This also holds for doing research, with a side note that some diversification within the topic helps as well.
14. The cost of playing table tennis with colleagues is twenty minutes of opportunity costs, but the benefit is an increase in working pleasure of at least twenty percent.