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The political economy of immigration and welfare state reform: a collection of comparative political and economic essays on human mobility and social protection

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Propositions relating to the dissertation

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF IMMIGRATION AND WELFARE STATE REFORM

*A collection of comparative political and economic essays
on human mobility and social protection*

by Clare Elizabeth Fenwick

1. Welfare retrenchment is not an inevitable consequence of increasing immigration; rather, immigration may instead trigger compensatory political responses that expand welfare provision.
2. Higher stocks of foreign-born nationals are not associated with reductions in welfare state generosity, regardless of whether immigration is measured in levels, changes, or through an instrumental variable approach.
3. The type of migration matters for national-level welfare state responses and individual-level social policy preferences.
4. Labour migration from Central and Eastern Europe is more strongly associated with increased welfare state effort than labour migration from Western Europe.
5. Higher stocks of foreign-born nationals are associated with a greater likelihood of expressing support for redistribution.
6. Intra-EU labour mobility can elicit different redistribution preferences under varying political and economic conditions.
7. Feelings of job insecurity are not only influenced by traditional dimensions of globalisation, i.e. trade and capital openness, but also by increasing openness for labour mobility from Central and Eastern European countries.
8. Policymakers should take into account the greater perceived job insecurity that can accompany intra-EU labour mobility and respond to this through accessible and inclusive social policy design.

9. Rather than reducing benefit levels in response to intra-EU labour migration, European governments can pursue cooperative social policy harmonisation to promote solidarity and thus advance the EU's 'Social Europe' policy agenda.
10. There exists a critical threshold after which a PhD becomes a lifestyle choice rather than a research project.