

Europeanization through Framing? : an Inquiry into the Influence of the open method of coordination on childcare policy in the Netherlands

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STELLINGEN

bij het proefschrift

Europeanization through Framing? An inquiry into the influence of the Open Method of Coordination on childcare policy in the Netherlands

van Elissaveta Radulova

1. Policy frame analysis is the most comprehensive methodology available to the constructivist scholar for the systematic examination of public policy discourses (this dissertation).
2. Since the introduction of the European Employment Strategy the childcare policy discourse of the European Union is dominated by competitiveness preoccupations rather than by gender inequality concerns (this dissertation).
3. The childcare policy of the European Union was not the driving force behind the development and the direction of Dutch childcare policy up to 2008 (this dissertation).
4. Public policy discourses are powerful structures that redistribute resources and shape political behaviour (this dissertation).
5. Social reality is constructed but this does not mean that it cannot be studied in a methodical and systematic way.
6. Discursive institutionalism provides the most convincing account to date of the relationship between public policy structures and agents.
7. Contemporary public policy processes in Western Europe leave behind large amounts of written material. Discourse analysis becomes therefore an essential tool for the policy scholar.
8. The rational selection of case studies in the social sciences is a rational myth.
9. Capitalism won the Cold war 20 years ago, but it is only now that it catches up on certain social service provision achievements of socialism. For example, only at the end of the first decade of the 21st century did the Netherlands provide the same level of quality and availability of childcare facilities as Bulgaria during the 1980s.
10. Achter de geraniums: this is where the majority of Dutch women will be once all budgetary cuts for childcare and culture planned by the current Dutch government are in place.