

# The institutional transformation of social transformation of social policy in East Central Europe : Poland and Hungary in comparative and historical perspective

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## Propositions accompanying the thesis:

# THE INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL POLICY IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE: POLAND AND HUNGARY IN COMPARATIVE AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Michał Polakowski

1. Reforms of public policy take place more often than social scientists assume. Social scientists often do not pay attention to them because they fail as often as they succeed. However, failed attempts to policy reform are important to study as they reveal actors' intentions, and the very fact of their attempt affects the development of institutions.
2. Introducing public policy changes takes time.
3. There is variety of Eastern European capitalisms.
4. There is no one single post-socialist welfare state regime
5. Unlike in physics, in public policy we cannot repeat the same type of empirical tests. Social and physical 'realities' are linked but they are qualitatively different.
6. During state-socialism not everything was social engineering, some social policy programs developed due to social needs.
7. If you look for the sources of institutional evolution, you might find them in a distant past, where few scholars often search.
8. Politicians think and promise that they make change happen, but such control over the institutional shape of public policies can be only illusory.
9. *Homo sovieticus* was not created during the domination of the Soviet Union. It was the collapse of communism and the triumph of market capitalism that created *homo sovieticus*.
10. The privatisation of social policy does not necessarily mean the introduction of cuts. It often means empowering the private sector at the expense of the public one.