

since he started work there has been much progress and that estimates of poverty while imperfect are generally “fit for purpose.”

Two of Atkinson’s collaborators provide ‘Afterwords’ on two of Atkinson’s particular concerns. Francois Bourguignon writes on the relationship between growth, inequality and poverty reduction. He concludes that the evidence now rejects the Kuznets hypothesis that development first leads to greater inequality and then to a reduction in inequality: “Today a consensus seems to have formed that there is no systematic relationship for developing countries between the level of development, as measured by GDP per capita, and the degree of inequality, as shown by available inequality measures.” The different question of how inequality may affect growth gets a more diverse answer: “The estimated effect of inequality on growth appeared significantly negative in some cases, nonsignificant in others, and even significantly positive in still others.” Thus, while the relationships are “too complex to yield uniform features across countries”, within countries pro-poor policies can reduce poverty and inequality; these latter policies include human capital accumulation, training and affirmative action to fight ethnic and gender discrimination – all firmly relying on social policies.

Nicholas Stern writes on poverty and climate change, having with Atkinson “talked through the issues and questions many times in the dozen or so years before he died.” In contrast to the diverse findings of Bourguignon, Stern presents a clear and unambiguous picture; he describes the intense effects of a 1°C rise in global surface temperature that has already occurred and the dangerous effects of a rise of over 2°C rise that is all too likely; a 4 or 5°C rise that would occur if nothing changes would have altogether devastating effects. All this matters for poverty because failure to manage climate change would hit the poorest earliest and hardest. Limiting global warming requires concerted global action, which requires political will. Stern concludes: “Tony did not believe that an absence of political will was something that just happens. He thought that political will can be strengthened by clear and rational analysis and argument. Whilst that task is often difficult, it is the duty of academics to take on the policy issues with great openness and rigour and engage in strong public debate.”

Stern’s final words are a fitting epitaph on Tony Atkinson’s career – “a shining example to future researchers of the duty to bring their work to the most important issues of their time, while showing them how it can be done.”

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Michael Egerer, Virve Marionneau and Janne Nikkinen (eds) (2018), *Gambling Policies in European Welfare States: Current Challenges and Future Prospects*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, £89.99, pp. 317, hbk.

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Gambling is now a well-recognised public health issue across the globe. However, the public health and policy literature related to gambling is still in its infancy. A new book, as part of the Work and Welfare in Europe series from Palgrave MacMillian, explores the complexities of gambling regulation in Europe. Three leading European gambling researchers Michael Egerer, Virve Marionneau, and Janne Nikkenen (eds), from the prestigious Centre for Research, Addiction, Control and Governance at the University of Helsinki, have drawn together an outstanding compilation of chapters from experts across Europe, and have used the book to build upon their Academy of Finland research grant ‘Gambling Policy in European Welfare

Regimes' (2014–2019). Nikkenen in particular is arguably one of the most respected gambling policy researchers in the world, and is well recognised for his thoughtful and forensic analysis of the gambling industry and the power structures that influence gambling policy.

The chapters cover a broad range of perspectives about gambling, including the history of gambling, the range of regulatory structures to address gambling, and the policy contexts across European countries. It is particularly refreshing to see a strong theoretical perspective throughout the book. The book is important because it moved beyond the individual causes of gambling addiction, to investigate the role of influential industries, harmful products, and the networks of power that influence policy and regulation. The editors state that the aim of the book is to reflect the societal and political debates surrounding gambling, and the use of gambling-related funds, and they have skilfully achieved this aim. For example, in their introductory chapter they expertly juxtapose the seductive messaging strategies from the gambling industry that gambling is important to boost economic jobs, provide jobs, and generate tax revenue to pay for critical community infrastructure, with the realities of the harms that gambling causes to individuals, their families, and communities.

The book is divided into four sections, each of which covers a specific theme. The first section focuses on case studies in which the majority of gambling revenue is used to fund state based welfare. This section focuses on France, Italy, Australia and Spain. The introduction to Chapter Two by Vivre Marionneau and Sebastien Berret provides a powerful reminder of how dependent governments may become on taxation revenue from gambling. They show that in 2015, France had a Gross Gambling Revenue of 9.6 billion Euros, with over half of this (5.4 billion Euros) levied by the state government in taxes. Key informant interviews with 17 beneficiaries, providers and regulators of gambling in France demonstrate the wide range of opinions about the collection and use of gambling taxation revenue, with some describing the state as having key conflicts of interest as beneficiary, provider and regulator of gambling, and others stating that the collection of taxation revenue from gambling to be redistributed by the state to communities was a positive measure. The authors conclude by arguing for further research to examine the beneficiaries of gambling. Chapter Three's examination of gambling regulation in Italy (Rolando and Scavada) provides an insightful discussion about the rationale for the liberalisation of gambling (the need to increase tax revenue, and limiting illegal gambling) and arguments that refute this rationale. Chapter Four (Bereiter and Storr) uses a case study of Austria to examine the topical issues of consumer protection, and responsible advertising. In the final chapter of this section, Becona and Becona, provide a historical look at gambling in Spain with an interesting focus on the regulation of different types of gambling products.

The second section of the book provides case studies of gambling for designated purposes, with chapters exploring Germany, Slovenia, State Lotteries, and Bingo. Donal Casey from the Kent Law School, University of Kent, was the highlight of this section, and provided a fascinating and innovative chapter on the 'DNA of Bingo'. There is very limited discussion of Bingo in the academic literature, and this chapter provides important empirical evidence from interviews with 40 online bingo stakeholders, as well as participant observation at industry conferences and events. Even for those outside of gambling, the chapter provides a robust case study for the growing Commercial Determinants of Health Literature, and provides methods that could be replicated in other countries and with other products.

Section three focuses on regulation and legislation in Norway, Sweden, and Poland. The chapter on Poland (by Wieczorek and Bujalski) is perhaps the highlight of the book, and a must read for any gambling researcher in understanding the influence of the gambling industry on politicians. The chapter describes a scandal focused on anti-corruption actions against ruling party politicians for being involved "in unofficial lobbying and serving the vested

interests of the gambling industry” (p. 218), and the subsequent media attention and policy action that ensued.

Section four provides a much needed focus on theoretical perspectives, including about whether it is ethical for gambling revenue to be used for state based welfare. This section provides contributions from two of the leading critical gambling scholars in the world – Jim Orford from the United Kingdom and Pekka Sulkunen from Finland, both of whose works have made significant contributions to the reframing of gambling from one of individual responsibility, to a public health issue driven by industry behaviours and ineffective regulatory structures. In Chapter 13, Professor Orford provides an examination of the liberalisation of gambling in Britain, the role of the gambling industry in creating a discourse of ‘harmless fun’ and that gambling was an ‘ordinary business’ just like any other in the UK. The penultimate chapter of the book by Pekka Sulkunen investigated the public interest approach to gambling policy and research. These two chapters should be compulsory reading for all new students of gambling.

The editors conclude by outlining the contradictions between gambling and European states, arguing that gambling policy must take into consideration gambling from a broader perspective, including moving beyond a sole focus on ‘problem gambling’ towards an acknowledgement of the broader range of health and social harms that are linked to gambling. While the authors state that this book will be of interest to students and scholars, the book will also be of great interest to policy makers and regulators in Europe and across the globe, and anyone who is interested in the impacts of powerful vested interests on public policy.

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Stefán Ólafsson, Mary Daly, Olli Kangas and Joakim Palme (eds) (2019), *Welfare and Great Recession: A Comparative Study*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, £65.00, pp. 352, hbk.
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This fact-filled and insightful volume provides a systematic assessment of the welfare consequences of the economic crisis of 2007–09 in Europe. As the editors note at the very outset, the Great Recession was the biggest contraction of the world economy since the Great Depression of the 1930s, yet it did not have nearly as serious a set of economic, social and political consequences as its great predecessor and the postwar expansion of the welfare state is surely one, if not the most important, reason why history did not repeat itself. With the Great Depression lurking in the background as a historical reference point, the volume shows how public welfare provisions as well as fiscal policies cushioned the impact of the recent crisis on income growth and financial hardship across the income distribution. Framed by comparative chapters that present quantitative data for no fewer than thirty countries, the core of the volume consists of case studies analyzing crisis dynamics and their welfare consequences in nine countries: Greece, Spain, Ireland, Iceland, Finland, the UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

One of the volume’s many important contributions is to present a novel measure of financial hardship. Generated by the methodology of latent class analysis, this measure draws on three indicators from the European Union’s Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Individuals are said to experience financial hardship when (a) their household