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*From Children's Services to Children's Spaces: Public Policy,
Children, and Childhood.* Peter Moss & Patt Petrie

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social policy. It also examines their role as targets of social policy. The various chapters discuss transnational fatherhood issues and policies centered on the obligations and rights of fathers. The book also provides a comparative analysis of state policies affecting fatherhood. It offers an interesting discussion of policies in the United States that compel work in exchange for welfare and thereby almost completely excluding consideration of parental capacity to care for children. These policies are compared to social democratic welfare approaches in Sweden and the Netherlands, where paternal-child relationships are defined as both cash-and-care focused.

This book is a 'must-read' for social policy scholars and their students and for policy makers who are focused on the issues of child welfare, family issues and anti-poverty studies. It provides important insights into social policy in Europe, North America and other Western nations. By discussing contrasting definitions and the historical formation of the role of fatherhood, the causation of abdication of the paternal role, and state response to fallout caused by this abdication, it covers a large terrain. Perhaps the only weakness is a lack of focus on other societies outside the Western World, where fatherhood takes on different meanings and faces different challenges. Nevertheless, this is an interesting and informative book which provides effective insights into men, masculinity, and paternal-child relationships in the Western societies.

Peter Moss and Pat Petrie, *From Children's Services to Children's Spaces: Public Policy, Children and Childhood*. New York: RoutledgeFalmer, 2002. \$25.95 papercover.

There has been a spate of new literature on children's rights, childhood sociology and changing childhood conditions. Writing in this genre, Moss and Petrie offer a critical analysis of the political, economic, and historic factors that have produced modern notions of childhood in many English-speaking countries. Further, they make a unique contribution by explaining just how we've arrived at the often fragmented, insufficiently staffed, yet highly regulated institutions that shape the lives of children today. In addition to the usual calls for increased intergovernmental

coordination, the authors offer up the refreshing possibility of an alternative discourse and praxis based on political and ethical choice.

The authors begin by illustrating the dominant discourse about children and their relationships with parents and society through policy analysis and comparative case study. Donning the theoretical lenses of social constructionism and Foucauldian interpretations of knowledge and power, the authors next provide a critical analysis of the philosophy and practice of children's institutions including schools. By way of contrast, the authors provide vibrant accounts of early childhood programs in the much-lauded Italian region of Reggio Emilia and dedicate a chapter to the case of Sweden to exemplify alternative possibilities that might emerge in the postmodern era. Foregrounding the child as a citizen, a member of a social group with rights, a child 'rich in potential, strong, powerful, and competent' centered in politically and ethically grounded 'children's spaces,' they elucidate their own discourse based on the notion of children's spaces.

They contend that children's spaces, "the physical, social, cultural, and discursive spaces where children and adults might contest understandings, values, practices and knowledges," require a new theory and practice of work with children. Borrowing from continental Europe's long established theory of pedagogy, they propose a holistic approach of social responsibility for children, with the pedagogue as the nexus for education and social welfare in daily practice with children. Resigned to market capitalism and fated to a multiplicity of systems wrought by the hands of modernism, the authors' reticence to prescribe wholesale solutions may leave some readers feeling dissatisfied. However, the authors, attribute their intentional uncertainty to a resistance of modernist inclinations to end with firm conclusions. On the other hand, this resistance can also be interpreted and appreciated as the stark realism with which concerned interventionists are confronted. Their goal, rather, is to instigate a 'crisis of thinking' about children's services. By freeing readers from the dominant discourse, their intention is to create space for novel and experimental ideas. To this end, they achieve their goal. Bridging the fields of sociology, educational studies, and social welfare,

their ability to connect theory to practice should appeal to a wide range of analysts and interventionists. It is hoped that those concerned about children in the 21st century will consider the relevance of the author's ideas for professional work and personal practice.

Bo Rothstein and Sven Steinmo (Eds.), *Restructuring the Welfare State: Political Institutions and Policy Change*. New York: Palgrave, 2002. \$ 75.00 hardcover, \$ 24.95 papercover.

There has been a good deal of discussion in the international social policy literature about the future of the 'welfare state'. Welfare states, it is said, have been severely damaged over the last twenty years as a result of the political ascendancy of the radical right and by budgetary retrenchments and privatization. In addition, it is widely believed that the forces of globalization are compelling governments of all political persuasions to reduce social expenditures and re-evaluate their commitment to welfare state ideals. This discussion has been accompanied by normative proposals for restructuring the welfare state in ways that are humane and that perpetuate the ideals of the welfare state's founders.

The title of this book, and its introductory section suggests that a rethinking of the welfare state is badly needed. Accordingly, the reader's interests are whetted by the prospect of a substantive analysis of the ways in which welfare states can indeed be overhauled so that they meet the needs of their citizens through judicious and appropriate state intervention. Although the existing literature on the subject is quite extensive, there is a need for a thorough review of the various normative proposals that have been proposed for addressing the challenge posed by politics of the radical right and by globalization.

Unfortunately, the book does not in fact grapple with these issues at any length and amounts instead to an eclectic and discursive account by political scientists on diverse issues affecting social policy today. The topics covered by these contributors include discussions of the role of political trust in the creation of welfare states, the reasons for American exceptionalism, the contribution of privatization and devolution in welfare state thinking, the role of racial politics in social policy, policies for including 'foreigners'