



# Welfare Reform and Economic Citizenship: The Cultural Political Economy of Socio-Economic Governance in Europe

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Inclusion / Exclusion: The Social and Political Boundaries of Citizenship in Europe

# Cultural Political Economy

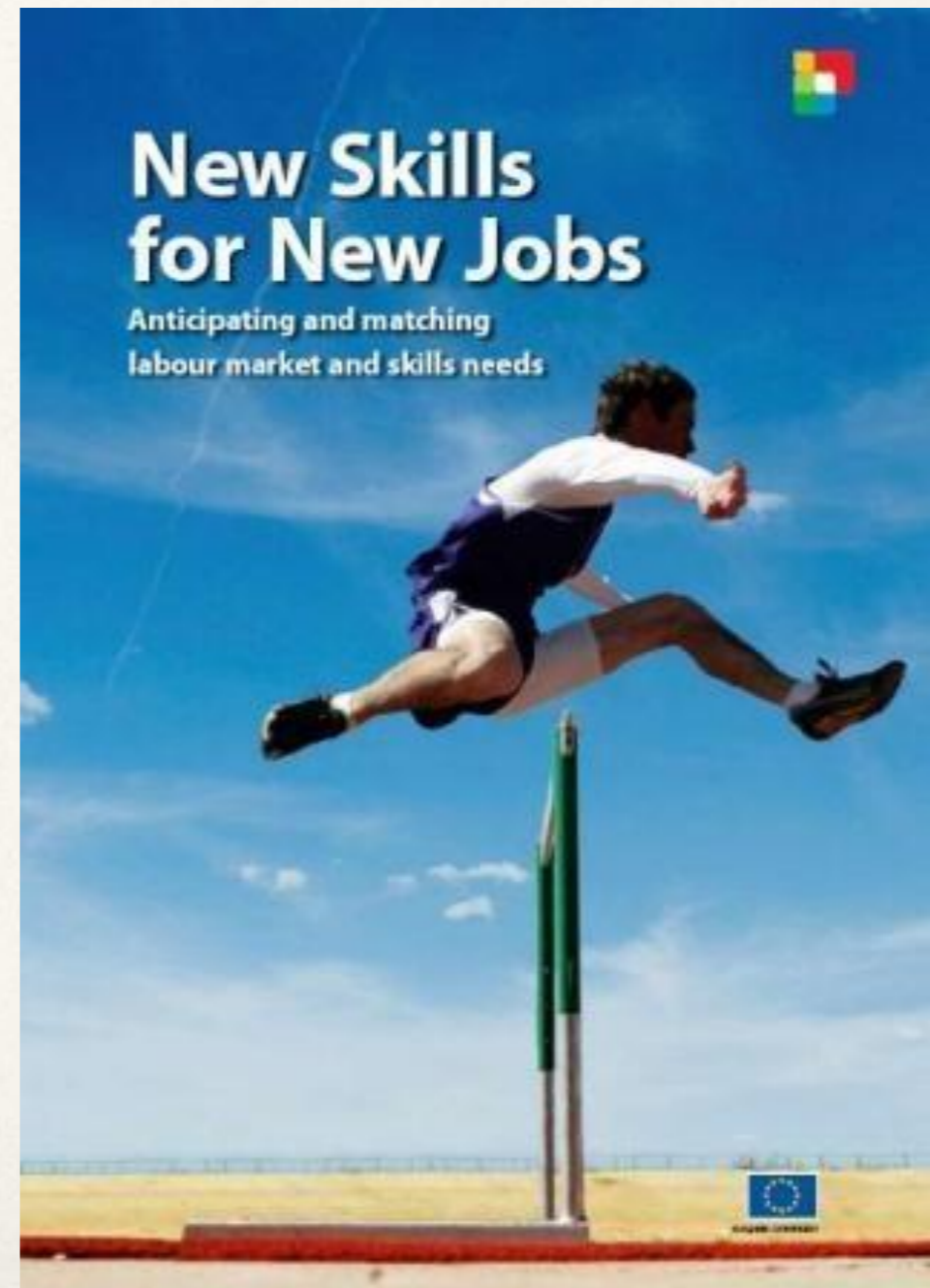
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- Combines (neo-)Foucauldian and (neo-)Gramscian insights
- “Asks not only how subjectivities and identities are constituted but also how ‘economic imaginaries’ are created, re-contextualized, and contested; and, equally importantly, who and what is involved in these twin processes” (Sum)
- Emphasis on the co-evolution of semiotic and material processes:
  - Continuing variation in discourses and practices
  - Selection of particular discourses for interpreting events, legitimizing actions, and representing social phenomena
  - Retention of some resonant discourses

# Discourse of Employability

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- ☞ Privileges paid employment as the sole mechanism to achieve social integration and cohesion
  - ☞ “The best safeguard against social exclusion is a job”
- ☞ Explicitly rejects de-commodification measures as a viable objective of social policy
  - ☞ “work towards the removal of obstacles to temporary work agencies ... [and] obstacles to part-time work”



# Fracturing Non-Elite Solidarity

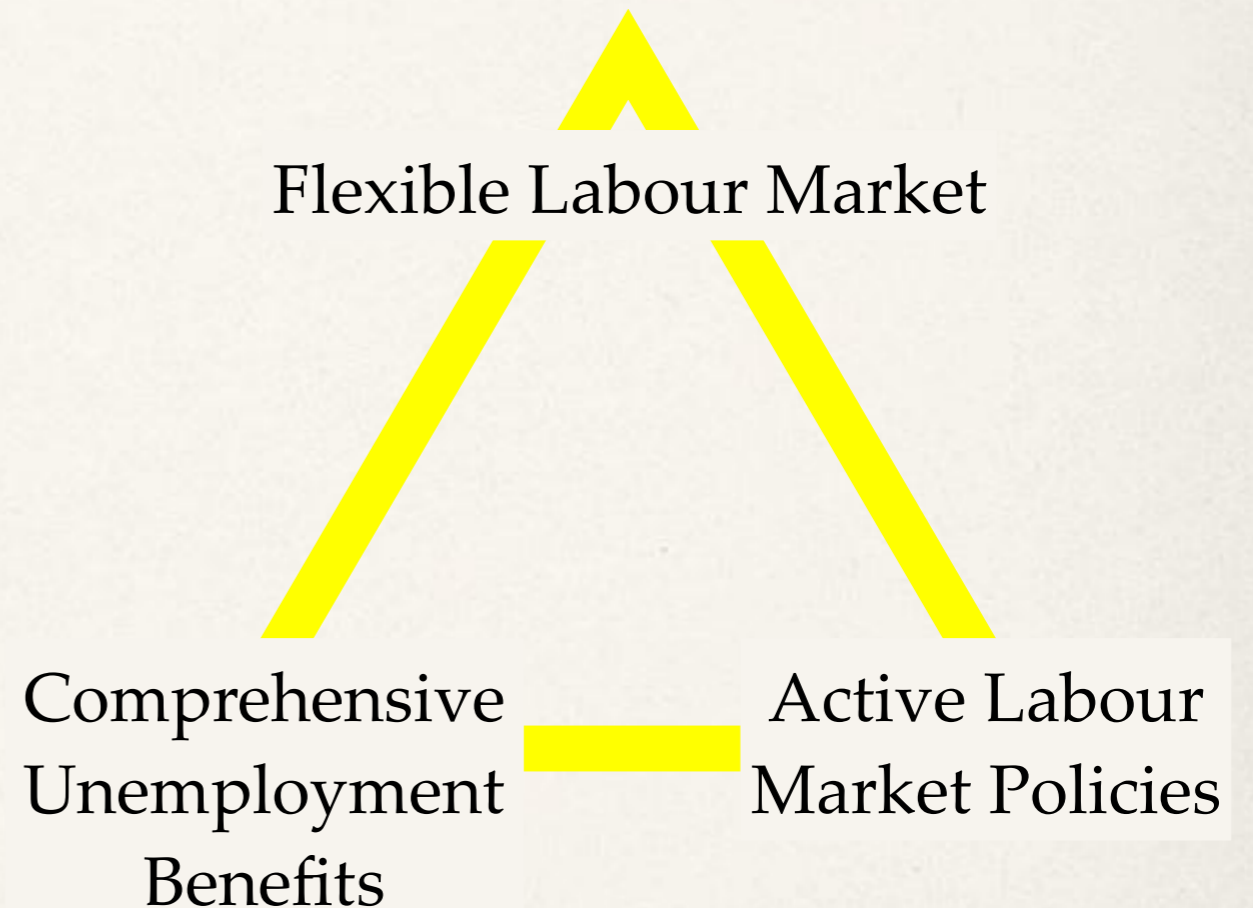
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- ☞ Institutionalized separation of social partners and civil society organizations
  - ☞ Governance within the EU is very “business oriented, with only employers and trade unions as active participants,” and other non-governmental organizations [NGOs] only included “as observers and not participants”
- ☞ Strong Insider/ Outsider distinction made between Social Partners and other NGOs operating at the European level:
  - ☞ “Some trade unions block other NGOs from participating in order to avoid diluting their influence”

# Limits of Flexicurity

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- As a means to adapt welfare regimes to the challenges of globalization, flexicurity has been proposed to ensure that flexible labor markets includes some level of protection for workers
- Shift from the Danish 'Golden Triangle' to the four "Common Principles"



# Limits of Flexicurity

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- Flexible and reliable contractual arrangements
- Effective active labour market policies
- Comprehensive lifelong learning strategies
- Modern social security systems

