



The Development of Early Childhood Education in Europe and North America Historical and Comparative Perspectives

Edited by Harry Willekens, Kirsten Scheiwe, Kristen Nawrotzki

Hardcover 9781137441973 £65.00 / \$100.00

In recent decades policies aiming at work-family reconciliation, at social integration and at the development of children's human capital have strongly influenced the expansion of early childhood education and care throughout much of the Western world. There are, however, striking differences between national regimes regarding the extent of these services, their organisation and their position within the welfare state and educational system. Many of these differences cannot be satisfactorily explained by reference to recent policy decisions, but must be understood in the context of the historical background of provisions for children below school age. This book focuses on long-term developments in early childhood education and public child care, to the extent that it was institutionally intertwined with early childhood education, starting with the first initiatives in the early nineteenth century. Its comparative overview demonstrates that salient features of present-day national regimes have their roots in critical historical junctures, times at which societal conflicts were settled – at least temporarily – by new policy arrangements. These arrangements then directed development down a path which it could only leave given a new crisis.

Harry Willekens is Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Hildesheim, Germany and University of Hannover, Germany. He has published extensively on the sociology and history of family and succession law, law and gender relations, and early childhood education.

Kirsten Scheiwe is Professor of Law at the University of Hildesheim, Germany. She works mainly in the areas of family law, social law, legal comparison, law in context and gender studies. Her approach is historical, comparative and interdisciplinary. Her latest research focuses on the regulation of domestic work and on institutional change in early childhood education.

Kristen Nawrotzki teaches at the University of Education (Pädagogische Hochschule) in Heidelberg, Germany. She has authored numerous works on the history of early childhood education and related social policy in England and the USA. She is co-editor with Jack Dougherty of *Writing History in the Digital Age*.

palgrave
macmillan

Available from all good booksellers or online at www.palgrave.com

To order in the USA or Canada: T: 888-330-8477
If you are in Australia or New Zealand: E: palgrave@macmillan.com.au
To order in UK or rest of world: T: +44 (0)1256 302866, E:
orders@palgrave.com

