

Pau Mari-Klose and Marga Mari-Klose

Is the South still so different? Family solidarity and welfare provision for Spanish youth

It is widely accepted that the Spanish welfare regime relies heavily on family solidarity between generations. According to this view, the family-oriented culture has been a key factor in preventing the worst consequences of lasting employment shortage and the scarce availability of welfare provision for youth. Our paper revises some of the assumptions often made by studies that emphasize the particularity of the Southern family model. Against views that celebrate the enduring strength of family-oriented culture, we conclude that, in a context of rapid transformations, family solidarity is largely ineffective in addressing some of the most pressing needs of youth and is increasingly being perceived as less desirable than the public provision of welfare services. Particular attention is given to dramatic family changes that are likely to push the Spanish welfare regime down new tracks.

Marga Mari-Klose

London School of Economics, UK

Pau Mari-Klose

CIIMU – Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

e-mail : pau@uchicago.edu